FINDINGS OF FACT AND STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance

SCH No. 2014051016

Lead Agency:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
Contact: Jay Lee, AICP
Phone No. (213) 974-6476

Preparer:

DUDEK
605 Third Street
Encinitas, California 92024

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Attachment

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) hereby certifies and finds that the Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR), State Clearinghouse Number 2014051016, has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq., CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Cal. Code Regs. Section 15000 et seq., CEQA Guidelines). The Final EIR consists of the February 2015 Draft EIR, as revised, and several additional sections:

- ***Preface.*** This chapter summarizes the contents of the Final EIR and summarizes changes that occurred pertaining to the proposed project subsequent to the release of the Draft EIR.
- ***Chapter 1–Chapter 8.*** These chapters consist of the Draft EIR as a whole with changes shown in strikeout and underline text.
- ***Chapter 9.*** This chapter provides the mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) for the proposed project.
- ***Chapter 10.*** This chapter addresses written and oral comments on the Draft EIR that were raised during the 45-day public review period. This chapter also summarizes several late letters that were received.

The Board hereby certifies that it received, reviewed, and considered the information contained in the following: (i) the Final EIR; (ii) the proposed project (amendments to Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code); (iii) all hearings and submissions of testimony from County of Los Angeles (County) officials and departments, the public, other public agencies, community groups, and organizations; and (iv) the items listed in Section 1.3. Concurrently with the adoption of these findings, the Board adopts a Statement of Overriding Considerations (see Section 5, below) and an MMRP, attached hereto as Attachment A.

Having received, reviewed and considered the foregoing information, as well as any and all information in the administrative record and the record of proceedings, the Board hereby makes the findings described in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this document pursuant to and in accordance with CEQA Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091.

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Project Location

The proposed amendments to Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code (Zoning Code amendments; or, proposed project) would apply to the unincorporated areas of the County. The County encompasses 88 incorporated cities and the unincorporated areas. The incorporated

cities account for approximately 1,500 square miles of the County's total 4,083-square-mile jurisdiction, while unincorporated areas account for approximately 2,656 square miles of the County. The unincorporated areas of the County are primarily located in the northern half of the County, with discontinuous pockets situated throughout the southern portion, also known as the "unincorporated urban islands." The unincorporated areas consist of the project area.

1.1.2 Project Description

The proposed project would involve an ordinance amending Los Angeles County Code Title 22 (Zoning Code) to establish regulations for the development of small-scale renewable energy systems, utility-scale renewable energy facilities, and temporary meteorological (MET) towers. The proposed project would provide a set of procedures and standards for review and permitting of solar and wind energy systems and facilities. Generally, the proposed project is intended to accomplish the following:

1. Amend Title 22, Planning and Zoning, Chapter 22.08, Definitions, to add definitions related to renewable energy systems and facilities (e.g., decommissioning, small-scale solar energy systems, small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, utility-scale structure-mounted renewable energy facilities, and temporary MET towers);
2. Amend Title 22, Planning and Zoning, to establish the permitting process for each type of renewable energy system in each zone; and
3. Revise Part 15 of the Zoning Code to create a Renewable Energy section that would establish regulations for:
    a. Small-scale solar energy systems;
    b. Utility-scale renewable energy facilities (i.e., utility-scale ground-mounted and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities); and
4. Revise Part 15 of the Zoning Code to add bird and bat protection measures to the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems.

The proposed Zoning Code amendments do not apply to renewable energy systems and facilities that were legally established or permitted prior to the effective date of the Zoning Code. Additionally, the provisions of Part 15 do not apply where preempted by regulation under the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission or preempted by other applicable law. However, any subsequent modification or alteration to increase the physical size, height, footprint, or change in the type of equipment of previously legally established or permitted renewable energy systems or facilities would need to comply with the proposed Zoning Code amendments. Additionally, any modification that would convert a project generating energy primarily for on-site use into a project generating energy primarily for off-site use or a project generating energy

primarily for off-site use into a project generating energy primarily for on-site use would also need to comply with the proposed Zoning Code amendments.

1.1.3 Project Objectives

The County recognizes that significant efforts are currently underway on both the federal and state levels to increase the production of energy from renewable sources. The purpose of the proposed project is to establish regulations and permit requirements that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy systems, utility-scale renewable energy facilities, and temporary MET towers in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare and minimizes significant environmental impacts. Additionally, the proposed project would facilitate the development of renewable energy facilities in an effort to help meet the current and future federal, state, and local goals for renewable energy production. Specific objectives for the proposed project are as follows:

1. Facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County pursuant to existing and future statewide goals.
2. Assist the County in furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
3. Reduce the potential for energy shortages and outages by facilitating local energy supply.
4. Clarify the approval process for the development and operation of solar and wind energy systems and facilities.
5. Minimize the potential for land use conflicts and environmental impacts that may arise through the development of renewable energy systems and facilities.
6. Encourage the development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities through a streamlined and standardized permit review process.
7. Allow temporary MET towers with a Minor Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PROCESS

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15050, the County is the lead agency responsible for preparing the EIR for the proposed project. The County determined that preparation of an EIR was required for the proposed project after conducting preliminary review and preparing an Initial Study for the proposed project, dated April 30, 2014, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 and 15063. In compliance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) was issued on May 5, 2014 to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, and interested parties for the required 30-day review and comment period. Additionally, the County conducted two public scoping meetings during the NOP public scoping period. The first meeting was held on May 20, 2014, in Antelope Valley. The second meeting was held on May 22, 2014, in downtown Los

Angeles. The purpose of these meetings was to provide a public forum for information dissemination and dialogue regarding the components of the proposed project, the overall process, and the EIR. All NOP comments relating to the EIR were reviewed and the issues raised in those comments were considered in the preparation of the EIR. The NOP including the Initial Study are contained in Appendix B of the Final EIR and the NOP public review comment letters received by the County are contained in Appendix C of the Final EIR.

The Initial Study determined the project would result in a less than significant impact or no impact to Energy. Potentially significant environmental impacts addressed in the Draft EIR included Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Public Services, Recreation, Traffic and Circulation, and Utilities and Service Systems. The Draft EIR analyzed project-level, program-level, and cumulative effects of the proposed project on these topics and identified a variety of mitigation measures to avoid or substantially lessen significant impacts of the proposed project.

The Draft EIR also analyzed three potential alternatives to the proposed project: 1) No Project Alternative; 2) Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative; and 3) Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative. Potential environmental impacts of each of these alternatives were discussed at the CEQA-prescribed level of detail and comparisons were made to the proposed project.

Following the County's internal departmental review and analysis of the proposed project through the screencheck process (which included review by the Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, Fire, Parks and Recreation, and Public Health), the Draft EIR was submitted to the State Clearinghouse/Governor's Office of Planning and Research and circulated for a 45-day public review period as required by CEQA Guidelines Section 15105 beginning February 20, 2015 and ending on April 6, 2015. The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR and the Notice of Public Hearing were published in the Los Angeles Times (full run) on February 16, 2015, Acton Agua Dulce Weekly News and Glendale News-Press on February 18, 2015, and Los Angeles Daily Journal, Antelope Valley Press, La Opinion, and The Signal Newspaper on February 19, 2015. The Draft EIR was posted on the County's website: http://planning.lacounty.gov/energy, and copies were made available at the Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) main office (320 West Temple Street, Room 1354, Los Angeles, California, 90012). Electronic copies were made available at the field office locations listed at the following link: http://planning.lacounty.gov/locations, as well as at the following County libraries.

1. Acton Agua Dulce Library
   33792 Crown Valley Road
   Acton, California 92510

2. Aguora Hills Library
   29901 Ladyface Court
   Agoura Hills, California 91301
3. Avalon Library
   215 Summer Avenue
   Avalon, California 90704
4. Florence Library
   1610 E Florence Avenue
   Los Angeles, California 90001
5. La Crescenta Library
   2809 Foothill Blvd
   La Crescenta, California 91214
6. Lancaster Regional Library
   601 W Lancaster Blvd
   Lancaster, California 93534
7. Lennox Library
   4359 Lennox Blvd
   Lennox, California 90304
8. Littlerock Library
   35119 80th Street East
   Littlerock, California 93543
9. Rowland Heights Library
   1850 Nogales Street
   Rowland Heights, California 91748
10. South Whittier Library
    14433 Leffingwell Road
    Whittier, California 90604
11. Temple City Library
    5939 Golden West Avenue
    Temple City, California 91780
12. Quartz Hill Library
    42018 N 50th Street West
    Quartz Hill, California 93536

13. Valencia Library
    23743 W Valencia Blvd
    Santa Clarita, California 91355
14. View Park Library
    3854 W 54th Street
    Los Angeles, California 90043

A public hearing was held before the County Regional Planning Commission (Commission) on Wednesday March 18, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., at the Antelope Valley Transit Authority headquarters, 42210 6th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534 to take public testimony on the Draft EIR and the proposed Zoning Code amendments. At this hearing, 13 members of the public testified regarding the project. After public testimony, the Commission continued the hearing to April 8, 2015. At the April 8, 2015, Commission hearing, two members of the public testified regarding the project. After public testimony, the Commission continued the hearing to April 22, 2015. At the April 22, 2015 hearing, 11 members of the public testified regarding the project. After discussion and deliberation by the Commission, the Commission voted 4-0-1 (absent) to recommend approval of the proposed Zoning Code amendments to the Board.

During the Draft EIR public review period, the County received comment letters from three state agencies, two regional agencies, three community planning groups, five organizations, and 13 individual community members. The July 2015 Final EIR, which contains written responses to these letters and written responses to oral testimony received at the March 18, 2015 Commission hearing, was completed and distributed on July 3, 2015. Distribution of the Final EIR entailed providing copies of the Final EIR to public agencies and organizations that received and/or commented on the Draft EIR, and notifying individuals who commented on the Draft EIR of the Final EIR availability. The Final EIR was made available to the public on the County's website, at the Regional Planning offices, and the Board Hearing Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. The Final EIR was prepared and distributed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), which requires that written responses be provided to commenting agencies at least 10 days prior to certifying an environmental impact report.

1.3 RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

For the purposes of CEQA, and the Findings herein set forth, the record of proceedings for the project consists of those items listed in CEQA Section 21167.6(e). The record of proceedings for the County's decision on the proposed project consists of the following documents, at a minimum, which are incorporated by reference and made part of the record supporting these findings:

- The Initial Study, Notice of Preparation, Notice of Availability, and all other public notices issued by the County in conjunction with the proposed project;

- The Draft EIR for the proposed project and all technical appendices and documents relied upon or incorporated by reference;
- All written and oral comments submitted by agencies, organizations, or members of the public during the 45-day comment period on the Draft EIR; the County's responses to those comments; minutes of the March 18 and April 8 Regional Planning Commission public hearings;
- The Final EIR for the proposed project;
- The MMRP for the proposed project;
- All reports, studies, memoranda, maps, staff reports, or other planning documents relating to the proposed project prepared by the County or consultants to the County with respect to the County's compliance with the requirements of CEQA and with respect to the County's action on the proposed project;
- All documents submitted to the County by other public agencies or members of the public in connection with the proposed project, up through the close of the public hearing for the Regional Planning Commission hearing on April 8, 2013 and the close of the public hearing for the Board of Supervisors on July 14, 2015;
- Any minutes and/or verbatim transcripts of all information sessions, public meetings, and public hearings held by the County in connection with the proposed project;
- Any documentary or other evidence submitted to the County at such information sessions, public meetings and public hearings;
- All resolutions adopted by the County regarding the proposed project, and all staff reports, analyses, and summaries related to the adoption of those resolutions;
- The County's General Plan and all updates and related environmental analyses;
- Matters of common knowledge to the County, including, but not limited to Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;
- Any documents expressly cited in these findings, in addition to those cited above; and any other materials required for the record of proceedings by CEQA Section 21167.6(e).

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Findings made by the County, pursuant to CEQA Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091, upon consideration of the proposed Zoning Code amendments which would apply to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, California are presented below. All significant impacts of the proposed project identified in the Final EIR are included herein and are organized according to the resources (environmental topics) affected.

The Findings in this document are for the proposed amendments to Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code and are supported by information and analysis from the July 2015 Final EIR, which includes the Draft EIR, responses to comments on the Draft EIR, the MMRP, and other evidence in the administrative record. For each significant and unavoidable impact, a Finding has been made as to one or more of the following, in accordance with CEQA Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091:

1. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.
2. Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.
3. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the final EIR.

A narrative of supporting facts follows each Finding. Whenever a Finding pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(3) is made, the County has determined there will be a significant unavoidable impact due to the proposed project and that mitigation measures and alternatives are not feasible to reduce the impact to a less than significant level. The Statement of Overriding Considerations applies to all such significant unavoidable impacts, as required by CEQA Section 21081 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15092 and 15093.

CHAPTER 2
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE

2.1 AESTHETICS

Impact AES-1 Impacts related to the effects of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities on scenic vistas.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in a significant adverse impact to a scenic vista since future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed Zoning Code amendments could obstruct or degrade a scenic vista. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The General Plan recognizes scenic highways, corridors, hillsides, and ridgelines as valuable scenic resources but does not designate specific areas or views as scenic. However, community or area plans within the unincorporated County may designate specific routes, areas, or viewsheds as being scenic. For example, the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan Update designates over 50 roads and highways within the Antelope Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains as scenic drives. Where views of mountains or the ocean can be experienced over the tops of existing structures from public vantage points, the addition of solar energy equipment to the tops of such existing structures could alter, block, or otherwise compromise the view of scenic vistas that can be observed over the tops of structures from public viewpoints. Although small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may not block a scenic vista in the way a structure-mounted system might, such facilities would have the potential to affect a scenic resource that contributes to a scenic vista, as they could be built on a hillside or within a desertscape that can be observed from a public viewpoints. The proposed Zoning Code amendments include development standards such as setbacks and height restrictions that would reduce potential obstruction, interruption, or detraction of scenic vistas from small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, but not to a level below significant.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to scenic vistas, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on scenic vistas (i.e., additional height and size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the

following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1)(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-2 Impacts related to the effects of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and temporary MET towers on scenic vistas.

Impact AES-3 Impacts related to the effects of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities on scenic vistas.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in a potentially significant adverse impact to a scenic vista since future small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed Zoning Code amendments could obstruct or degrade a scenic vista. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The General Plan recognizes scenic highways, corridors, hillsides, and ridgelines as valuable scenic resources but does not designate specific areas or views as scenic. However, community or area plans within the unincorporated County may designate specific routes, areas, or viewsheds as being scenic. For example, the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan Update designates over 50 roads and highways within the Antelope Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains as scenic drives. Small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would have the potential to be located within the viewshed of a scenic vista and could also result in taller vertical elements near or within the viewshed of a scenic vista. The existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code contains a number of regulations that would continue to apply to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that would reduce potential effects to scenic vistas. Under the proposed project, these provisions would remain in place. Similarly, the proposed Zoning Code amendments include development standards such as setbacks and height restrictions for utility-scale facilities that would reduce the effect of such projects on scenic vistas. However, impacts to scenic vistas would not be reduced to a level below significant.

Wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code and the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce impacts to scenic vistas, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended more stringent height limits for utility-scale ground-mounted solar energy facilities. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to effects on scenic vistas (i.e., height and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and

structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, relative to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1)(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-4 Impacts related to the visual effects of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities on public trails.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in potentially significant adverse visual effects to public trails from the placement of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities since these may be visible from public trails. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Solar panels would display largely horizontal forms and lines, and the introduction of these features could potentially substantially obstruct, interrupt, or detract from existing available views from trails. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may also be visible from trails. The addition of solar panels and the effects of vegetation removal and ground disturbance would be apparent; solar panels would potentially break the existing

horizon line and at times, the new horizon line would appear as a serrated edge that contrasts with the existing flowing line created by the merging of vegetated land and sky. Where projects would be permitted without discretionary or design review (in most zones), small-scale and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy systems developed pursuant to the proposed project could have a significant effect on public trails.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant visual impacts to public trails, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on views from public trails (i.e., additional height and size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has

determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-5 Impacts related to the visual effects of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and temporary MET towers on public trails.

Impact AES-6 Impacts related to the visual effects of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities on public trails.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in potentially significant adverse visual effects to public trails from the placement of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities since these may be visible from public trails. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would have the potential to be located within the viewshed of a public trail and could result in taller vertical elements near or within the viewshed of a public trail. The existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code contains a number of regulations that would continue to apply to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that would reduce potential effects to public trails. Under the proposed project, these provisions would remain in place. Additionally, the proposed Zoning Code amendments include development standards such as setbacks and height restrictions for utility-scale facilities that would reduce the effect of such projects on scenic vistas. Small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would require discretionary approval and would therefore be subject to separate project-level environmental review in accordance with CEQA. However, it is not known at this time where future wind and renewable energy systems or facilities will be located and as there is no guarantee on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to public trails.

Wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be

applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code and the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant visual impacts to public trails, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended more stringent height limits for utility-scale ground-mounted solar energy facilities. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to effects on views from public trails (i.e., height and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, relative to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section

15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-7 Impacts related to small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities that would potentially substantially obstruct, interrupt, or detract from existing available views from a state scenic highway.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in a potentially significant impact to views from a state scenic highway from the placement of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities since these may be visible from a state scenic highway. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. There is the potential for the development of small-scale solar energy systems adjacent to a state scenic highway or in the line of sight of travelers along a state scenic highway. These future projects would introduce a new element that would not be subject to environmental or design review. Solar panels would display largely horizontal forms and lines, and the introduction of these features would potentially substantially obstruct, interrupt, or detract from existing available views from a state scenic highway; impacts would be significant.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to existing available views from a state scenic highway, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on views from state scenic highways (i.e., additional height and size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable

energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. For example, scenic drives have been designated within the Antelope Valley in the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan Update, and the plan sets forth policies for the protection of the viewsheds of these drives. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-8 Impacts related to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities that would potentially substantially obstruct, interrupt, or detract from existing available views from a state scenic highway.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in a potentially significant impact to views from a state scenic highway from the placement of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities since these may be visible from a state scenic highway. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The proposed Zoning Code amendments include a variety of provisions to reduce the effect of utility-scale ground-mounted facilities on visual resources. These provisions include required setbacks, undergrounding of transmission lines, and height requirements for wind turbines. Although such provisions would reduce the effect of utility-scale ground-mounted facilities on state scenic highways, the potential size, height, and location of such facilities in visually rich areas, such as the desert or hillside areas, could lead to significant effects to state scenic highways.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to existing available views from a state scenic highway, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended more stringent height limits for utility-scale ground-mounted solar energy facilities. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to effects on views from state scenic highways (i.e., height and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. For example, scenic drives have been designated within the Antelope Valley in the 2015 Antelope Valley Area Plan Update, and the plan sets forth policies for the protection of the viewsheds of these drives. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section

15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-9 Impacts related to small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities that would potentially substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings from the placement of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future projects would introduce a new element that would not typically be subject to environmental or design review. Solar panels would display largely horizontal forms and lines, and the introduction of these features could potentially substantially obstruct, interrupt, or detract from existing available views. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems could require site clearing and could involve the addition of photovoltaic (PV) panels to a site, resulting in the potential for substantial alteration of the visual character of that site. Small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project would have the potential to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings. Thus, impacts would be significant.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on visual quality or quality (i.e., additional height and size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process.

Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-10 Impacts related to small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and temporary MET towers that would potentially substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings.

Impact AES-11 Impacts related to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities that would potentially substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of future project sites and their surroundings from the placement of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would have the potential to degrade the visual character of a site. Small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would require discretionary approval and would therefore be subject to separate project-level environmental review in accordance with CEQA. However, it is not known at this time where future wind energy systems or facilities will be located and as there is no guarantee on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, the proposed project may result in potentially significant impacts related to visual character.

Wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code and the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to visual character or quality, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended more stringent height limits for utility-scale ground-mounted solar energy facilities. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to effects on existing visual character or quality (i.e., height and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate

provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, relative to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-12 Impacts related to small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities that could produce glare that would affect daytime views in the areas nearby future project sites.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may produce glare that would affect daytime views in the areas nearby future project sites from the placement of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would have the potential to generate glare, primarily produced from the solar panels, which reflect a small portion of the sun's image back to the viewer. Glare intensity is directly related to the angle of incidence of the sun striking the panel, and may account for a wide range of results depending on whether the solar panels are static or moving throughout the day. Due to the potential for PV panels to produce glare, future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities could produce glare that would have a significant effect on daytime views in the areas near future project sites.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts related to glare, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters indicated that glare from solar energy projects should not be allowed. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects relative to glare (such as prohibiting production of glare) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AES-13 Impacts related to utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities that could affect nighttime views due to lighting.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may nighttime views in the areas nearby future project sites from the placement of utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.1.4, Aesthetics, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The proposed Zoning Code amendments prohibit lighting on wind towers except for a safety light to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards, to meet other aviation agency requirements, or as required by the County. Although the proposed Zoning Code amendments contain numerous requirements to reduce any contributions that future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would have to light pollution, the required FAA safety light for wind turbines could produce nighttime lighting that could be visible to residences in the general area due to a lack of existing nighttime lighting in areas that would generally be developed with utility-scale wind energy facilities. The height of wind turbines and the repetitive flashing of FAA-required obstruction lighting may result in a strong, constant source of highly visible light, and nighttime views for area residents may be affected. Therefore, the long-term effects on nighttime views resulting from future utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities could be significant.

Utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to nighttime views, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters recommended more stringent height limits and additional lighting restrictions for utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. First, specified types of lighting would be required on wind towers of certain heights by the FAA, and the County cannot impose restrictions on safety lights required by the FAA. Furthermore, mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to effects on nighttime views (i.e., height and lighting restrictions) would decrease the extent to which wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering

federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Impact AGR-1 Impacts related to conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use from development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.2.4, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. In the event that future utility-scale renewable energy facilities are proposed on lands designated as Farmland by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), they would convert the land to a non-agricultural use. Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater

than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Mitigation measures that have been proposed for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities within the County include mitigating the net acreage of lost Farmland at a 1:1 ratio through purchase of agricultural conservation easements, purchase of credits from an established agricultural farmland mitigation bank, contribution of agricultural land or equivalent funding to an organization that provides for the preservation of Farmland in California, or participation in an agricultural land mitigation program adopted by the County. Other mitigation options could include avoidance of agricultural resources and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural use. However, as there is no guarantee at this time that project-specific mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities may result in significant impacts related to conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM AGR-1 When impacts relative to Farmland, agricultural zoning, Agricultural Opportunity Areas / Agricultural Resource Areas, or Williamson Act contracts are determined to be significant during the environmental review process for future Conditional Use Permits for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, all feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures include avoidance of agricultural resources, preservation of agriculture, and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural uses.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to conversion of Farmland, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects related to conversion of Farmland would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to Farmland conversion

(i.e., stricter limitations in location and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AGR-2 Impacts related to agricultural zoning, Agricultural Opportunity Areas (AOAs), or Williamson Act contract lands from development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to agricultural zoning, AOAs, or Williamson Act contract lands from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.2.4, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. All lands under Williamson Act contracts within the County are located on Santa Catalina Island, are held by the Catalina Island Conservancy, and have been set aside by that organization for open space and recreational purposes. Therefore, it is unlikely that future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would be developed on Williamson Act contract

lands. However, future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would be allowed within the A-2 and A-2-H zones upon obtaining a CUP. In the event that future utility-scale facilities are proposed on these designated lands, they would likely preclude the agricultural use of that land. Additionally, future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities could also be proposed within areas designated to preserve and encourage agriculture in the General Plan or in the Antelope Valley Area Plan, such as Agricultural Resources Areas. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities may result in significant impacts related to agricultural zoning or areas that have been designated to encourage and preserve agriculture.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM AGR-1 When impacts relative to Farmland, agricultural zoning, Agricultural Opportunity Areas / Agricultural Resource Areas, or Williamson Act contracts are determined to be significant during the environmental review process for future Conditional Use Permits for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, all feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures include avoidance of agricultural resources, preservation of agriculture, and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural uses.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to agricultural designations, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects related to agricultural designations would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to Farmland conversion (i.e., stricter limitations in location and size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy

Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AGR-3 Impacts related to indirect effects from conversion of Farmland from development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to indirect effects from conversion of Farmland from development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.2.4, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would involve ground disturbance that could potentially occur on or adjacent to Farmland. Therefore, future ground-mounted facilities could result in a significant impact relative to indirect effects on Farmland resulting in conversion of use.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM AGR-1 When impacts relative to Farmland, agricultural zoning, Agricultural Opportunity Areas / Agricultural Resource Areas, or Williamson Act contracts are determined to be significant during the environmental review process for future Conditional Use Permits for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, all feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures include avoidance of agricultural resources, preservation of agriculture, and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural uses.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to indirect conversion of Farmland, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects related to indirect conversion of Farmland would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to Farmland conversion (i.e., stricter limitations in location and size and increased setbacks) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a

level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.3 AIR QUALITY

Impact AQ-1 Impacts related to the violation of an air quality standard from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may violate an air quality standard from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.3.4, Air Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Emissions associated with utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could include $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, NO_x, CO, and VOCs from construction activities. Construction emissions would be generated from three principal sources: (1) engine exhaust of construction equipment and vehicles; (2) particulate emissions from soil disturbance due to grading, earthmoving, and vehicle activity on unpaved roads and work areas; and (3) VOCs from paints and architectural coatings. Construction activities for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could generate a significant amount of traffic on project-area roadways. Additionally, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities require substantial earthmoving activities. The County's CUP discretionary review process would require all future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to be evaluated under CEQA and would require measures to minimize impacts to air quality, as necessary. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significance, the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to the violation of an air quality standard during construction.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM AQ-1 During the environmental review process for future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, an air quality technical report that includes project construction phasing, timing, and operational details shall be prepared using the current air quality model available from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Project emissions shall be modeled and then evaluated based on current SCAQMD and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) thresholds. The technical analysis shall be prepared to analyze construction and operational emissions.

If air quality impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated to reduce impacts. Examples of standard construction mitigation measures include the following:

Consistent with SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403, it is required that fugitive dust generated by construction activities be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site, by following the dust control measures listed below:

a. During clearing, ground disturbance, grading, earthmoving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease.

b. During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement and construction work areas damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas later in the morning, after work is completed for the day, and whenever winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph).

c. Soil stockpiled for more than 2 days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with nontoxic soil binders to prevent dust generation.

d. Speeds on unpaved roads shall be reduced to less than 15 mph.

e. All ground disturbance, grading, and excavation operations shall be halted when wind speeds exceed 25 mph.

f. Dirt and debris spilled onto paved surfaces at the project site and on the adjacent roadways shall be swept, vacuumed, and/or washed at the end of each workday.

g. If import/export of soil materials would be required, all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered and/or a minimum 2 feet of freeboard shall be maintained.

h. At a minimum, at each vehicle egress from the project site to a paved public road, a pad consisting of washed gravel (minimum size: 1 inch) shall be installed and maintained in clean condition to a depth of at least 6 inches and extending at least 30 feet wide and at least 50 feet long (or as otherwise directed by the SCAQMD or AVAQMD).If a washed gravel pad is not desired, a wheel-washing system shall be installed and used to remove bulk material from tires and vehicle undercarriages before vehicles exit the site.

i. Any additional requirements of SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403 shall be reviewed and complied with.

The following measures shall be adhered to during project grading / ground disturbance and construction to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) from construction equipment:

a. Heavy-duty diesel-powered construction equipment rated at greater than 50 horsepower shall be equipped with Tier 4 or better diesel engines.

b. The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum size.

c. The amount of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest amount of equipment is operating at any one time.

d. Construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.

e. Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment over 50 horsepower.

f. Electric equipment shall be used in lieu of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible.

g. Construction equipment shall be prohibited from idling in excess of 5 minutes.

h. Zero-VOC-content architectural coatings during project construction/ application of paints and other architectural coatings to reduce ozone (O_3) precursors shall be used. If zero-VOC paint cannot be used, the developer shall avoid application of architectural coatings during the peak smog season: July, August, and September. The developer shall procure architectural coatings from a supplier in compliance with the requirements of SCAQMD's Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings).

MM AQ-2 Pursuant to a Los Angeles County (County) Board Motion of May 14, 2013, Agenda Item No. 79-B, project-specific mitigation measures and/or other project-related conditions of approval for all discretionary renewable energy projects shall include the following measures related to fugitive dust control during both construction and operation. The County Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, and Public Health shall work jointly to refine and implement these measures respective of their individual authorities to ensure fugitive dust from renewable energy projects is controlled appropriately.

a. Continue to require a fugitive dust control plan for review and approval by the AVAQMD.

b. Require a dust plume response plan including weather stations and monitors with wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and humidity sensors.

c. Establish full or partial perimeter vegetation for both visual screening and limiting the off-site movement of dust.

d. Require reestablishment of vegetative ground cover to the greatest extent feasible throughout the array areas for the life of the subject permit.

e. Continue to require decommissioning plans to include restoration of disturbed areas with native vegetation at the end of the life of the project.

f. Require additional mitigation monitoring and inspections during the first 2 years to ensure compliance with dust mitigation measures and other conditions of project approval.

g. When appropriate, require a dedicated on-site compliance monitor during construction to independently monitor and report project compliance.

h. When appropriate, require installation of mechanical dust-monitoring devices at each project site to identify locations on site that require dust control treatment. The dust sensors will also clarify whether the project is a dust source during a wind event.

i. Require use of green-screen fencing cover during construction and use of tarps over dirt in trucks to limit off-site movement of dust and limit visual impacts during construction.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-

specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts related to violation of an air quality standard during construction, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measures listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to air quality effects (i.e., stricter limitations in location and size of projects and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact AQ-2 Impacts related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.3.4, Air Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction activities for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could generate a significant amount of traffic on project-area roadways, which would be attributed to equipment deliveries and construction worker vehicles and construction equipment traveling to and from future project sites. The construction of these facilities may involve grading, trenching, construction, paving, and architectural coating phases. Construction equipment for these phases could include but would not be limited to graders, excavators, tractors/loaders/backhoes, rubber-tired dozers, forklifts, cranes, welders, bore/drill rigs, cement and mortar mixers, paving equipment, and air compressors. Relative to dust control, Valley Fever is also a potential issue particularly in areas of Antelope Valley where ground-mounted utility-scale renewable energy projects would more likely occur. Since there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that implementation of the measures previously described and any future mitigation measures deemed necessary through the CUP discretionary review process will reduce impacts to a level below significance, the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM AQ-1 During the environmental review process for future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, an air quality technical report that includes project construction phasing, timing, and operational details shall be prepared using the current air quality model available from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Project emissions shall be modeled and then evaluated based on current SCAQMD and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) thresholds. The technical analysis shall be prepared to analyze construction and operational emissions.

If air quality impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated to reduce impacts. Examples of standard construction mitigation measures include the following:

Consistent with SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403, it is required that fugitive dust generated by construction activities be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site, by following the dust control measures listed below:

a. During clearing, ground disturbance, grading, earthmoving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease.

b. During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement and construction work areas damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas later in the morning, after work is completed for the day, and whenever winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph).

c. Soil stockpiled for more than 2 days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with nontoxic soil binders to prevent dust generation.

d. Speeds on unpaved roads shall be reduced to less than 15 mph.

e. All ground disturbance, grading, and excavation operations shall be halted when wind speeds exceed 25 mph.

f. Dirt and debris spilled onto paved surfaces at the project site and on the adjacent roadways shall be swept, vacuumed, and/or washed at the end of each workday.

g. If import/export of soil materials would be required, all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered and/or a minimum 2 feet of freeboard shall be maintained.

h. At a minimum, at each vehicle egress from the project site to a paved public road, a pad consisting of washed gravel (minimum size: 1 inch) shall be installed and maintained in clean condition to a depth of at least 6 inches and extending at least 30 feet wide and at least 50 feet long (or as otherwise directed by the SCAQMD or AVAQMD).If a washed gravel pad is not desired, a wheel-washing system shall be installed and used to remove bulk material from tires and vehicle undercarriages before vehicles exit the site.

i. Any additional requirements of SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403 shall be reviewed and complied with.

The following measures shall be adhered to during project grading / ground disturbance and construction to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) from construction equipment:

a. Heavy-duty diesel-powered construction equipment rated at greater than 50 horsepower shall be equipped with Tier 4 or better diesel engines.

b. The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum size.

c. The amount of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest amount of equipment is operating at any one time.

d. Construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.

e. Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment over 50 horsepower.

f. Electric equipment shall be used in lieu of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible.

g. Construction equipment shall be prohibited from idling in excess of 5 minutes.

h. Zero-VOC-content architectural coatings during project construction/ application of paints and other architectural coatings to reduce ozone (O_3) precursors shall be used. If zero-VOC paint cannot be used, the developer shall avoid application of architectural coatings during the peak smog season: July, August, and September. The developer shall procure architectural coatings from a supplier in compliance with the requirements of SCAQMD's Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings).

MM AQ-2 Pursuant to a Los Angeles County (County) Board Motion of May 14, 2013, Agenda Item No. 79-B, project-specific mitigation measures and/or other project-related conditions of approval for all discretionary renewable energy projects shall include the following measures related to fugitive dust control during both construction and operation. The County Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, and Public Health shall work jointly to refine and implement these measures respective of their individual authorities to ensure fugitive dust from renewable energy projects is controlled appropriately.

a. Continue to require a fugitive dust control plan for review and approval by the AVAQMD.

b. Require a dust plume response plan including weather stations and monitors with wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and humidity sensors.

c. Establish full or partial perimeter vegetation for both visual screening and limiting the off-site movement of dust.

d. Require reestablishment of vegetative ground cover to the greatest extent feasible throughout the array areas for the life of the subject permit.

e. Continue to require decommissioning plans to include restoration of disturbed areas with native vegetation at the end of the life of the project.

f. Require additional mitigation monitoring and inspections during the first 2 years to ensure compliance with dust mitigation measures and other conditions of project approval.

g. When appropriate, require a dedicated on-site compliance monitor during construction to independently monitor and report project compliance.

h. When appropriate, require installation of mechanical dust-monitoring devices at each project site to identify locations on site that require dust control treatment. The dust sensors will also clarify whether the project is a dust source during a wind event.

i. Require use of green-screen fencing cover during construction and use of tarps over dirt in trucks to limit off-site movement of dust and limit visual impacts during construction.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants during construction, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measures listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to air quality effects (i.e., stricter limitations in location and size of projects and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these

objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact BIO-1 Impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The County supports habitat for federally and state-listed endangered or threatened species, as well as numerous other special-status species and plant communities. Future small-scale solar energy systems may be located in areas that would impact a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. Small-scale solar energy systems may either be ground mounted or affixed to a

structure. In addition to the potential for the loss of special-status species and their habitat, reflection and refraction of light from solar panels and mirrors can appear as a water body and may act to attract wildlife, especially water birds. This has been referred to as the "lake effect" and it has the potential to result in bird collision, especially where projects are sited near existing water bodies like playas, reservoirs, and sedimentation basins. Bird collisions may occur as a result of larger structure-mounted installations or where multiple solar energy systems are operated adjacent to one another. The development of small-scale solar energy systems would also have the potential to impact special-status species and their habitat through indirect effects associated with system construction and/or operation through dust and dust suppression effects and introduction of invasive plant species. Increased human presence due to construction and operation of the small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar facilities, especially in rural areas in the Santa Clarita Valley and Antelope Valley Planning Areas, has the potential to result in indirect effects to special-status species and their habitat through increased potential for vehicle collisions, spread of disease, and wildlife behavioral avoidance. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems would require further discretionary review in the O-S and W zones and would be limited in size to 2.5 acres of 25% of the parcel size, whichever is lesser. However, despite the requirements that would be incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments, direct and indirect impacts to special-status species and their habitat through both structure-mounted and ground-mounted small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar facilities would constitute significant impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities.

The mitigation measures below, which were identified as being feasible in the Final EIR, would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance. MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-2 would apply to projects subject to further discretionary review, such as small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems proposed in the O-S or W zones. MM BIO-3 would apply to small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems that are approved with a ministerial permit.

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-

site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.

- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

MM BIO-3 Ministerial permits for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems will include a notice to the permittee explicitly stating that additional state and federal regulations may apply to the construction and operation of the small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system including, but not limited to, U.S. Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to candidate, sensitive, or

special-status species or sensitive natural communities, no feasible mitigation measures exist beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. MM BIO-3 was added as part of the Final EIR in response to concerns that permittees may not be aware of other laws protecting biological resources that could affect the siting and design of their small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system. However, certain recommendations were rejected as being infeasible, such as further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems and requiring discretionary review for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems in all zones, since further restrictions would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-2 Impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Per the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, a single small wind turbine has a rated capacity of 50 kilowatts or less. Based on this capacity size, a worst-case footprint would entail a foundation size of approximately 441 square feet and excavation of roughly 61 cubic yards. Multiple small turbines or temporary MET towers are potentially allowable on eligible properties (however, properties must be at least 0.5 acres in size). Two small wind turbines would amount to approximately 882 square feet of ground disturbance and roughly 122 cubic yards of excavation. In addition to ground disturbance resulting in habitat impacts, wind turbines of any size can potentially result in collisions with sensitive bat species and avian species, sometimes called bird and bat strikes. Lighting on wind turbines and MET towers, potentially required for aviation safety in certain locations, has the potential to attract birds. Small wind turbines are generally not tall enough to be within migratory wildlife flight paths; however, the siting of these systems relative to existing topography and landforms would influence the degree of impact from small turbines on migratory wildlife. Migrating and resident raptors, including golden eagle, conserve energy by using deflective updrafts or thermals to go long periods without flapping their wings. Because these species are adapted to use even the smallest and weakest of thermals, they can migrate at elevations low to the ground. They may also fly low to the ground when weather conditions are poor or while they are foraging. Therefore, significant impacts to these types of avian species, including golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, California horned lark, and burrowing owl may still occur. Bat species would also have the potential to be impacted through collision with wind turbines. Although the proposed Zoning Code amendments include provisions to avoid and minimize biological impacts from small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that these provisions will reduce impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities. The existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code contains a number of regulations that would continue to apply to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that would reduce potential effects to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities. Under the proposed project, these provisions would remain in place. The proposed project

would include additional setbacks and buffers to reduce the effects of such projects on bird and bat species. However, impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities would not be reduced to a level below significant.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the “lake effect”), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is

considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended further limitations in the areas of the County where such projects would be allowed. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on special-status species and sensitive natural communities (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which and small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's

renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-3 Impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact BIO-4 Impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Temporary impacts to native vegetation communities and special-status species habitats could potentially result from the construction of transmission line and poles, overhead and underground collector lines, new and existing roadways, temporary parking areas, temporary batch plants, or temporary staging areas associated with utility-scale ground-mounted facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Permanent impacts to native vegetation communities and special-status species habitats could potentially result from the construction of solar panels and wind turbines, support facilities, and access roads. Vegetation management around project facilities is also considered a permanent impact to vegetation communities. Wildlife could potentially be displaced within the construction areas. Site clearing, access roads, transmission lines, and arrays of turbine towers may displace some species or fragment continuous habitat areas into smaller, isolated tracts. Habitat fragmentation is of particular concern for species that require large expanses of habitat for activities such as breeding, foraging, and sheltering, including golden eagle, Nelson's bighorn sheep, desert tortoise, and Mohave ground squirrel. The operation of utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind facilities poses risks to resident and migrating avian and bat species from collision and electrocution. The operation of utility-scale ground-mounted solar facilities can result in lake effect collisions due to reflection and refraction of light from solar panels and mirrors and electrocution from associated transmission lines. The operation of utility-scale ground-mounted wind facilities can result in bird or bat collision with turbines and electrocution from associated transmission lines. Indirect impacts to avian species include reduced nesting and breeding densities and the social ramifications of those reductions, loss or modification of foraging habitat, loss of population vigor and overall population density, increased isolation between habitat patches, loss of habitat refugia, attraction to modified habitats, effects on behavior, physiological disturbance, and habitat unsuitability. The proposed project could also result in indirect impacts to sensitive species due to construction activities. Although the proposed Zoning Code amendments include provisions to avoid and minimize biological impacts from utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, direct and indirect impacts to special-status species and their habitat would still constitute significant impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special-status species or sensitive natural communities.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.

- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary

review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended increased setbacks between utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities and sensitive biological resources. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to effects on special-status species and sensitive natural communities (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in

Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-5 Impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project may introduce new structures or vertical elements or may result in ground disturbance that could interfere with wildlife movement or impede the use of nursery sites. The proposed project would allow for small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities that may have the potential to impact birds and bats that travel within the County. Therefore, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may result in significant impacts associated with interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-

mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.

- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

MM BIO-3 Ministerial permits for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems will include a notice to the permittee explicitly stating that additional state and federal regulations may apply to the construction and operation of the small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system including, but not limited to, U.S. Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts on wildlife movement or nursery sites, no feasible mitigation measures exist beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. MM BIO-3 was added as part of the Final EIR in response to concerns that permittees may not be aware of other laws protecting biological resources that could affect the siting and design of their small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system. However, certain recommendations were rejected as being infeasible, such as further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems and requiring discretionary review for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems in all zones, since further restrictions would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social,

technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-6 Impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. In Southern California, birds use both the coastal and inland areas, and typical birds of the Pacific coast route include gulls, ducks, and other water birds. The proposed project would allow for wind energy systems that may have the potential to impact birds and bats that travel within the County. The existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code contains a number of regulations that would continue to apply to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that would reduce potential effects related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites. Under the proposed project, these provisions would remain in place. The proposed project would incorporate additional setbacks and buffers to further reduce the effects of such projects on bird and bat species. However, impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites would not be reduced to a level below significant. Therefore, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers may result in significant impacts associated with interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would

generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.

- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning

Code amendments, and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts on wildlife movement or nursery sites, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended further limitations in the areas of the County where such projects would be allowed. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on wildlife movement or nursery sites (i.e., stricter siting requirements)would decrease the extent to which and small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for

highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-7 Impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or wildlife corridors resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact BIO-8 Impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would require large areas of land and may impact existing wildlife corridors. Additionally, indirect effects may occur from increased noise levels or nighttime lighting, which would potentially discourage movement within corridors and linkages. Although these projects would require future discretionary review, there is no guarantee at this time that impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level. Therefore, impacts would be significant**.**

Future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project may introduce new vertical elements that could interfere with wildlife movement or impede the use of nursery sites. The proposed project would allow for utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that may have the potential to impact birds and bats that travel within the County. In Southern California, birds use both the coastal and inland areas, and typical birds of the Pacific coast route include gulls, ducks, and other water birds. Therefore, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities may result in significant impacts associated with interference with wildlife movement or nursery sites.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to

develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts on wildlife movement or nursery sites, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended increased setbacks between utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities and sensitive biological resources. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to effects on wildlife movement or nursery sites (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-9 Impacts to oak woodlands resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to oak woodlands resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project may introduce new structures or vertical elements or may result in ground disturbance. Because oak woodlands are contained within a variety of zoning designations in the County, and because small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not typically be subject to further discretionary review, future projects may result in significant impacts to oak woodlands if any exist on site.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-3 Ministerial permits for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems will include a notice to the permittee explicitly stating that additional state and federal regulations may apply to the construction and operation of the small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system including, but not limited to, U.S. Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to oak woodlands, no feasible mitigation measures exist beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. MM BIO-3 was added as part of the Final EIR in response to concerns that permittees may not be aware of other laws protecting biological resources that could affect the siting and design of their small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system. However, certain recommendations were rejected as being infeasible, such as further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems and requiring discretionary review for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems in all zones, since further restrictions would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social,

technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-10 Impacts to unique native trees other than protected oaks resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems or temporary MET towers under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to unique native trees other than protected oaks resulting from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale wind energy systems or temporary MET towers would need to identify whether any unique species of trees are present within the site. Impacts to these unique species of trees may result from clearing or grading activities and from planting ornamental plants in close proximity. If oak trees were to be impacted by project-level activities, an oak tree permit would be required, the conditions of which would reduce impacts. However, the County does not extend protected tree status to species other than oak trees and it cannot be guaranteed that the oak tree permit would reduce all impacts to oak trees to a level less than significant; therefore, impacts would be significant.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.

- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to unique native trees, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended further limitations in the areas of the County where such projects would be allowed. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures

and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on unique native trees (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which and small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-11 Impacts to unique native trees other than protected oaks resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact BIO-12 Impacts to unique native trees other than protected oaks resulting from implementation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to unique native trees other than protected oaks resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would need to identify whether any unique species of trees are present within the site. Impacts to these unique species of trees may result from clearing or grading activities and from planting ornamental plants in close proximity. If oak trees were to be impacted by project-level activities, an oak tree permit would be required, the conditions of which would reduce impacts to less than significant. Nevertheless, the County does not extend protected tree status to species other than oak trees. As such, it cannot be guaranteed that all impacts to unique native trees would be reduced to a level less than significant; therefore, impacts would be significant.

Future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project would introduce new vertical elements. If oak trees were to be impacted by project-level activities, an oak tree permit would be required, the conditions of which would reduce impacts to less than significant. Nevertheless, the County does not extend protected tree status to species other than oak trees. As such, it cannot be guaranteed that all impacts to unique native trees would be reduced to a level less than significant; therefore, impacts would be significant.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would

generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.

- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts on unique native trees, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended increased setbacks between

utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities and sensitive biological resources. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to effects on unique native trees (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-13 Impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources resulting from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources resulting from implementation of

small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities developed pursuant to the proposed project may introduce new structures or vertical elements or may result in ground disturbance. Small-scale solar energy systems are allowed in O-S and W zones, while utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not be allowed in the O-S and W zones. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems would be subject to project-level CEQA review when developed in the O-S and W zones and would therefore be required to implement measures to minimize impacts involving conflict with local policies and ordinances. However, because small-scale solar energy systems and most utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not require any further discretionary review, future projects may conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources; therefore, impacts would be significant.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.
- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

MM BIO-3 Ministerial permits for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems will include a notice to the permittee explicitly stating that additional state and federal regulations may apply to the construction and operation of the small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system including, but not limited to, U.S. Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their effects on biological resources. MM BIO-3 was added as part of the Final EIR in response to concerns

that permittees may not be aware of other laws protecting biological resources that could affect the siting and design of their small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system. However, certain recommendations were rejected as being infeasible, such as further limitations on the size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems and requiring discretionary review for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems in all zones, since further restrictions would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact BIO-14 Impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact BIO-15 Impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources resulting from implementation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources resulting from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.4.4, Biological Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mound wind energy facilities would not be allowed within O-S and W zones. Such projects located in or around Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas would be subject to development standards of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan, would require review by the Environmental Review Board, and may require additional mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to biological resources. Utility-scale ground-mounted projects would be prohibited within Significant Ecological Areas. These future facilities would also undergo a discretionary permit process and project-level CEQA review. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement measures to avoid conflicts with any local policies or ordinances to the greatest extent feasible. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a less than significant level, the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features.

- For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological processes (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations.
- For impacts to federal or state-listed species from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over the wetlands and waters.
- For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as the "lake effect"), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species from collision with panels; therefore, projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of no panels).

MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM BIO-1 (lake effect-related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County of Los Angeles and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary

review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond those listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on biological resources. For example, commenters recommended increased setbacks between utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities and sensitive biological resources. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to related to conflicts with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources (i.e., stricter siting requirements) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in

Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact CUL-1 Impacts related to historical resources from implementation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to historic resources from construction of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated historical resource as defined under Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. The installation of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would potentially result in a significant impact to a historical resource if historic building materials are removed, damaged, or altered or if the system is placed in an incompatible location that compromises a building's historic character or setting, ultimately impacting its historical significance. The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* set forth considerations for installing solar technology on historic buildings. However, these future projects would not undergo further discretionary review. Properties designated as historic under the County's Draft Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO) would require a Certificate of Appropriateness, which would involve implementation of measures from the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. However, the Draft HPO is not yet adopted. Furthermore, the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* or other measures to reduce impacts would not be applied to future project sites that could be historic but do not have the official designation. As a result, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities could potentially result in the physical demolition, destruction, or alteration of the historical resource through ground disturbance, or alter the setting of the resource when the setting contributes to the resource's significance through introducing new vertical elements. Therefore, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may result in a potentially significant adverse impact to a historical resource.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with historical resources to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

> Measure: Require adoption of the Draft HPO to reduce impacts relative to historical resources.
>
> Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible because it is the responsibility of the County Board of Supervisors to decide whether the Draft HPO will be adopted. While the County Board of Supervisors has indicated their intent to approve the Draft HPO, the status of the Draft HPO and the timing of its official adoption are independent from this project.

No feasible mitigation measures exist that would reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would reduce effects of solar energy projects on historical resources (such as prohibiting solar energy equipment from being located on or near a historical or potentially historical resource) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in

Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact CUL-2 Impacts related to historical resources from implementation of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to historic resources from construction of small-scale wind systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale wind energy systems or temporary MET towers may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated historical resource as defined under Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. The installation of small-scale wind energy systems or temporary MET towers would potentially result in a significant impact to a historical resource if historic building materials are removed, damaged, or altered or if the system is placed in an incompatible location that compromises a building's historic character or setting, ultimately impacting its historic significance. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement measures to minimize impacts to historical resources to the greatest extent feasible. CEQA requires proposed projects to provide detailed information on the potentially significant environmental effects they are likely to have, list ways in which the significant environmental effects would be minimized, and identify alternatives that would reduce or avoid the significant impacts identified for the project. Such measures may include conformance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.* Additionally, properties designated as historic under the Draft HPO would require a Certificate of Appropriateness. However, the HPO has not yet been adopted and in effect, and the County does not currently have regulations in place to ensure that future projects would be required to mitigate potential impacts to historical resources to a level less than significant. Therefore, impacts could be significant for these future projects.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with historical resources to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

Measure: Require adoption of the Draft HPO to reduce impacts relative to historical resources.

Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible because it is the responsibility of the County Board of Supervisors to decide whether the Draft HPO will be adopted. While the County Board of Supervisors has indicated their intent to approve the Draft HPO, the status of the Draft HPO and the timing of its official adoption are independent from this project.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. However, at this time, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on historical resources (such as prohibiting wind energy equipment from being installed near a historical or potentially historical resource) would decrease the extent to which and small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact CUL-3 Impacts related to historical resources from implementation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities (solar and wind) under the proposed project.

Impact CUL-4 Impacts related to historical resources from implementation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to historic resources from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities as well as utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction of a utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facility generally requires a large expanse of land to accommodate the size of the facility. If historical resources are present, they could be significantly impacted by the associated construction activities, both aboveground and underground. Although construction activities would have the greatest impact on historical resources, there may be additional impacts to historical resources as a result of the facility's day-to-day operations. Potential impacts resulting from the operation of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities include unintentional soil compaction and increased erosion. Other potential visual impacts include fragmentation of large blocks of land. All of these could result in significant impacts to historical resources. Utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would also have the potential to effect historical resources. If historical resources are present on or near a project site, they could be significantly impacted due to potential visual impacts, including fragmentation of large blocks of land. The discretionary review process would require future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy projects and future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to be evaluated under CEQA and would require measures to minimize impacts to historical resources to the greatest extent feasible. Measures may include conformance with the *Secretary of the*

Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Additionally, properties designated as historic under the Draft HPO would require a Certificate of Appropriateness. However, the HPO has not been adopted and is not yet in effect, and the County does not currently have regulations in place to ensure that future projects would be required to mitigate potential impacts to historic resources to a level less than significant. Therefore, impacts from future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities implemented under the proposed project could remain potentially significant.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with historical resources to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

> Measure: Require adoption of the Draft HPO to reduce impacts relative to historical resources.
>
> Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible because it is the responsibility of the County Board of Supervisors to decide whether the Draft HPO will be adopted. While the County Board of Supervisors has indicated their intent to approve the Draft HPO, the status of the Draft HPO and the timing of its official adoption are independent from this project.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. However, at this time, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would reduce the effects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities on historical resources (i.e., such as prohibiting projects from being installed on or near a historical or potentially historical resource) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to

meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact CUL-5 Impacts related to archaeological resources from implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to archaeological resources from construction of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated archaeological resource as defined under Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. Ground-disturbing activities that could encounter native soils could result in a significant impact to archaeological resources.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with archaeological resources to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

> Measure: Require an archaeological resources survey for all small-scale solar energy systems to ensure that impacts to archaeological resources will be avoided or mitigated.

Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible as it would directly conflict with the project objective to encourage the development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy systems and facilities through a streamlined and standardized permit review process.

No feasible mitigation measures exist that would reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would reduce effects of solar energy projects relative to archaeological resources (such as requiring an archeological resources survey) would add barriers to implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy projects in the County, thereby decreasing the extent to which solar energy is generated in the County and undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact CUL-6 Impacts related to paleontological resources from implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to paleontological resources from construction of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may be located on a site that contains a unique paleontological resource or site or a unique geologic feature. Ground-disturbing activities that could encounter native soils could result in a significant impact to paleontological resources. Structure-mounted solar energy systems and facilities (small-scale and utility-scale) are anticipated to require minimal ground disturbance, if any. Construction of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems could result in a potentially significant impact to paleontological resources if intact native soils are disturbed. If ground-disturbing activities associated with the installation of ground-mounted systems would not impact native soils and would occur within a level of known fill material, then these impacts would be considered less than significant. However, ground-disturbing activities that could encounter native soils could result in a potentially significant impact to paleontological resources.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with paleontological resources to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

> Measure: Require a paleontological resources study prior to any ground-disturbing construction activities associated with small-scale solar energy systems.
>
> Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible as it would directly conflict with the project objective to encourage the development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy systems and facilities through a streamlined and standardized permit review process.

No feasible mitigation measures exist that would reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would reduce effects of solar energy projects relative to paleontological resources (such as requiring a paleontological resources survey) would add barriers to implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy projects in the County, thereby decreasing the extent to which solar energy is generated in the County and undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability

to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact CUL-7 Impacts related to human remains from implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to human remains from construction of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.5.4, Cultural Resources, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems could result in a potentially significant impact to human remains if intact native soils are disturbed. If ground-disturbing activities associated with the installation of ground-mounted systems would not impact native soils and would occur within a level of known fill material, then these impacts would be considered less than significant. However, ground-disturbing activities that could encounter native soils would result in a significant impact to human remains.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts to human remains to a level below significance. However, the County has determined that this measure would be infeasible, as described below. Therefore, the following mitigation measure will not be implemented.

Measure: Require a survey to identify potential human remains on site for all small-scale solar energy systems to ensure that impacts to human remains will be avoided or mitigated.

Rationale for Rejection: This measure is not feasible as it would directly conflict with the project objective to encourage the development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy systems and facilities through a streamlined and standardized permit review process.

No feasible mitigation measures exist that would reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would reduce effects of solar energy projects relative to human remains (such as requiring a survey to identify any potential human remains on the site) would add barriers to implementation of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy projects in the County, thereby decreasing the extent to which solar energy is generated in the County and undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address cultural resource protection throughout the County and in specific communities are provided in the County's General Plan, area plans, and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Impact GEO-1 Impacts of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems relative to erosion and loss of topsoil.

Impact GEO-2 Impacts of small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems and temporary MET towers relative to erosion and loss of topsoil.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts associated with erosion and loss of topsoil from small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems, small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.6.4, Geology and Soils, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems, small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems and temporary MET towers would have the potential to involve ground disturbance, movement of soils, or exposure of soil to wind or water. Ground-mounted systems of a certain size would be required to comply with the County Grading Code (Title 26, Los Angeles County Code, Appendix J). Although construction-related erosion would be minimized through compliance with the Grading Code, operational erosion could result as wind and water pass over the land that has been cleared for the solar or wind energy system. Wind erosion is a particular concern in desert areas such as the Antelope Valley. Although existing County regulations would minimize erosion caused by the development of future small-scale ground-mounted systems and would minimize the amount of ground disturbance, there is the possibility that some systems may result in significant impacts relative to causing substantial erosion or loss of soil.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code and the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to erosion and loss of topsoil, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce Impact GEO-1 and GEO-2 to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for dust control. For example, commenters recommended decreasing the allowable size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the

aspects of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems, small-scale wind energy systems, and temporary MET towers that contribute to erosion and loss of topsoil (i.e., amount of ground disturbance) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Furthermore, relative to small-scale and structure-mounted solar energy projects, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5). Lastly, relative to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact GEO-3 Impacts of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities relative to erosion and loss of topsoil.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts associated with erosion and loss of topsoil from utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.6.4, Geology and Soils, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would generally require large areas of land and may require a large amount of grading or other land disturbance. Additionally, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would likely include ancillary structures such as transmission lines, transformers, substations, or operations and maintenance buildings that would also require ground disturbance during construction. When large areas of land are subject to ground disturbance, a variety of adverse effects may result. Loss of topsoil may occur, erosion may be caused as wind blows over the site or as stormwater flows across the site, and people who are on the site or nearby may be exposed to blowing dust containing the fungus that causes Valley Fever. Due to the large amounts of ground disturbance that have the potential to result from utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and due to the unknown, speculative nature of future project-specific mitigation measures, impacts relative to substantial erosion and topsoil loss would be significant.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts related to erosion and loss of topsoil, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce effects related to erosion and loss of topsoil. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Additional mitigation measures and/or development standards that would require further erosion control measures or that would limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to erosion (i.e. size) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and

would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Impact HAZ-1 Impacts related to glare produced from small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, with the potential to result in ocular obstruction.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to glare produced from small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, with the potential to result in ocular obstruction. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.8.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would have the potential to generate glare, primarily produced from the solar panels, which reflect a small portion of the sun's image back to the viewer. Glare intensity is directly related to the angle of incidence of the sun striking the panel, and may account for a wide range of results depending on whether the solar panels are static or moving throughout the day. Glare produced from solar panels represents a potential hazard to aviation. Although future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to aviation safety, glare produced from small-scale solar energy systems

and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would have the potential to result in ocular obstruction; therefore, impacts would be significant.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts related to glare, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for solar energy projects to reduce their aesthetic effects. For example, commenters indicated that glare from solar energy projects should not be allowed. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects relative to glare (such as prohibiting production of glare) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact HAZ-2 **Impacts related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fire due to future small-scale solar energy systems and/or utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities being located in high fire severity zones, or due to the introduction of a dangerous fire hazard.**

Impact HAZ-3 **Impacts related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fire due to future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers being located in high fire severity zones, or due to the introduction of a dangerous fire hazard.**

Impact HAZ-4 **Impacts related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fire due to future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities being located in high fire severity zones, or due to the introduction of a dangerous fire hazard.**

Impact HAZ-5 **Impacts related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fire due to future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities being located in high fire severity zones, or due to the introduction of a dangerous fire hazard.**

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fire due to future small-scale solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities being located in high fire severity zones, or due to the introduction of a dangerous fire hazard. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.8.4, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The proposed Zoning Code amendments apply to the entire unincorporated County. Therefore, proposed small-scale solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities may be located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Zone 4); or in a high fire hazard area with inadequate access; or within an area with inadequate water and pressure; or within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazards. Small-scale solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that would not occur

within an urban area and would occur within proximity to high fire hazard areas could potentially present a fire hazard. Vegetation on sites and adjacent sites could be dominated by chaparral species, which represent fuels that would spread wildfire on and off the site. Based on the region's fuels, fire history, and expected fire behavior, a high-intensity fire could be expected to occur in some areas, which could pose a potentially significant hazard to those working on a site or in the surrounding area. Additionally, the construction, operation, and maintenance of future renewable energy projects may introduce potential ignition sources that do not currently exist on a site. For example, inverters, solar panels, trackers, and wind turbines represent a risk of sparking or igniting nearby flammable vegetation. Therefore, the proposed project may result in a significant impact involving fires.

The following mitigation measure identified in the Final EIR would reduce the impact identified in association with wind energy projects, but not to below a level of significance:

MM HAZ-1 During the environmental review process for future discretionary permits for wind turbines, the County of Los Angeles may determine that a fire protection plan (FPP) should be prepared for review and approval. An FPP is a technical report that considers the topography, geology, combustible vegetation (fuel types), climatic conditions, and fire history of the proposed project location. The FPP addresses the following in terms of compliance with applicable codes and regulations, including but not limited to water supply, primary and secondary access, travel time to the nearest fire station, structure setback from property lines, ignition-resistant building features, fire protection systems and equipment, impacts to existing emergency services, defensible space, and vegetation management. When impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures that are typically applied include fire suppression systems, sufficient on-site water storage, inclusion of fire management zones, and funded agreements with fire protection districts.

The following measure was considered in the EIR in attempting to reduce impacts associated with fires within the County to below a level of significance. However, it has been determined that this measure is infeasible for the reasons provided. Therefore, this measure would not be implemented.

Measure: Prohibit construction of all renewable energy facilities in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Rationale for Rejection: This measure would be infeasible because this prohibition throughout most of the County's jurisdiction would conflict with the project objectives to

facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County, to maximize the production of energy from renewable sources, and to reduce the potential for energy shortages and outages by facilitating local energy supply.

Wind energy projects and utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to fire hazards, no feasible mitigation measures exist beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of solar and wind energy projects to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR expressed concern about the potential for wind turbines to interfere with aviation firefighting. In response, a provision was added to the proposed Zoning Code amendments to request aviation agencies to consider effects to aviation fire fighting during the required aviation consultation. Additional measures that would further reduce effects related to fire hazards would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of renewable energy projects that contribute to effects related to fire hazards (i.e., location and equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Furthermore, relative to small-scale and structure-mounted solar energy projects, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted

solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5). Lastly, relative to small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact HYD-1 Impacts to groundwater resources from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to groundwater resources from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.9.4, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy structures may require water for dust control during construction. In the event that on-site wells are used to obtain water for dust control activities, future projects may use groundwater and would potentially affect the groundwater supply. There is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region and therefore any usage of groundwater would result in a significant impact to groundwater resources in this area. The project area includes Antelope Valley and the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. Therefore, small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may result in significant impacts to groundwater resources as a result of withdrawing water for dust control activities.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to groundwater resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended further limitations on small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems to reduce their environmental effects, including the amount of water that such future projects may use. For example, commenters recommended reducing the allowable size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on groundwater resources (i.e., additional size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact HYD-2 Impacts to groundwater resources from the development of utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to groundwater resources from the development of utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.9.4, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Ground disturbance associated with utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would be expected to be minimal because these facilities would be mounted to an existing building or structure. During maintenance, solar energy facilities are typically cleaned with water on an annual basis. Such cleaning activities would be akin to hosing off a paved area or a lawn. Any runoff water would enter the existing storm drain system or would infiltrate into the ground for structures surrounded by pervious surfaces. However, as stated above, there is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region and therefore any usage of groundwater would result in a significant impact to groundwater resources in this area. The project area includes Antelope Valley and the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. For these reasons, impacts of utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would be significant.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to groundwater resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on groundwater resources (such as additional size limitations or requirements for discretionary review) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as

discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact HYD-3 Impacts to groundwater resources from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to groundwater resources from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.9.4, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers would not involve operations that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. During operation, some projects may generally use small amounts of groundwater for cleaning the equipment, such as wind turbine rotor blades, on the site. These expected small amounts of water usage would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. However, there is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region and therefore any usage of groundwater would result in a significant impact to groundwater resources in this area. The project area includes Antelope Valley and the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. For these reasons, impacts would be significant.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM HYD-1 All small-scale wind energy systems, temporary meteorological towers, utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy projects, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to California Environmental Quality Act review, and when impacts to groundwater resources are determined to be potentially significant, evaluation of groundwater resources, such as the preparation of a groundwater resources investigation report, may be required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The report shall analyze the drawdown of wells and recommend feasible and

appropriate project-specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts, such as well monitoring and pumping caps, or requiring water from other sources.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts to groundwater resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on groundwater resources would decrease the extent to which small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact HYD-4 Impacts to groundwater resources from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact HYD-5 Impacts to groundwater resources from the development of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to groundwater resources from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.9.4, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, particularly facilities involving PV panels, could increase the amount of impervious surfaces on a project site. Increasing the amount of impervious surfaces on a site has the potential to preclude groundwater recharge. During construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, water usage would primarily result from fugitive dust control measures. Operational water use would result from water used for fugitive dust control, water used to periodically wash off the solar or wind equipment, water used to establish and maintain landscaping, and water used by maintenance personnel at an operations and maintenance building. Due to the potential for substantial dust control efforts to be required, due to the overdraft condition in the Antelope Valley, and due to the potential for future projects to result in increased impervious surfaces on project sites, impacts of future projects may be significant.

Ground disturbance associated with utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would be minimal because these facilities would be mounted to an existing building or structure. During maintenance, wind energy components are typically cleaned with water on an

annual basis. However, construction and operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would not require water use to the extent that groundwater supplies would be depleted and would not create new impervious surfaces that would preclude groundwater recharge. However, there is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region and therefore any usage of groundwater would result in a significant impact to groundwater resources in this area.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM HYD-1 All small-scale wind energy systems, temporary meteorological towers, utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy projects, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to California Environmental Quality Act review, and when impacts to groundwater resources are determined to be potentially significant, evaluation of groundwater resources, such as the preparation of a groundwater resources investigation report, may be required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The report shall analyze the drawdown of wells and recommend feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts, such as well monitoring and pumping caps, or requiring water from other sources.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts to groundwater resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on groundwater resources. For example, commenters recommended requirements for water conservation plans and requirements to use trucked recycled water when piped recycled water is not available. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would require further water conservation measures or that would further limit the aspects of utility-

scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to effects on groundwater resources (i.e., project site size and landscaping) could increase the severity of other impacts such as air quality effects and would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.9 NOISE

Impact NOI-1 Impacts relative to generation of noise in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts relative to generation of noise, including pure tone noise, in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances from the construction of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.12.4, Noise, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction activities for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could generate a significant amount of traffic on project-area roadways, resulting in short-term, construction-related increases in noise. Additionally, the construction of these facilities may involve construction equipment such as graders, excavators, tractors/loaders/backhoes, and pile drivers. The traffic and construction equipment associated with such projects could create noise conditions in exceedance of County noise thresholds. Mitigation could include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may result in significant, albeit temporary, impacts relative to generation of noise in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM NOI-1 **Construction Noise and Vibration Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding construction-related noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. When noise and/or vibration impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to exceedance of noise standards

during construction, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects related to construction noise would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to noise (i.e., stricter limitations in location of project sites and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Additional measures to address site-specific construction-related noise impacts are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact NOI-2 Impacts relative to the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities.

Impact NOI-3 Impacts relative to the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels from operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts relative to generation of noise, including pure tone noise, in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances from the construction and operation of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities and from operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.12.4, Noise, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could involve heavy construction equipment, extensive ground disturbance and excavation, and pile driving that could occur in numerous instances over the course of construction. Because vibration attenuates quickly over short distances, impacts related to vibration have generally been deemed less than significant for most utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities recently proposed within the County that have been evaluated at the project level. However, because the specific locations and construction details of future projects are not known at this time, there is the potential for future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to expose persons to vibration and/or to produce excessive vibration. Because there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, implementation of future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project may result in significant, albeit temporary, impacts relative to the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.

Utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities could cause vibrational impacts to the structure the facility is mounted on. At this time, the number of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities proposed for specific structures and the specifications for the structure-mounted facilities are uncertain. Due to these uncertainties, a vibrational study would need to be conducted when specific projects are proposed to determine whether future proposed utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would result in a significant vibrational impact. Therefore, impacts related to exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels would be significant.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM NOI-1 **Construction Noise and Vibration Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding construction-related noise and vibration shall be required.

In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. When noise and/or vibration impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers.

MM NOI-3 **Operational Noise Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for CUPs for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with DPH regarding operation noise shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise study, a noise study shall be conducted. For proposed wind energy facilities, the noise study shall include analysis of pure tone noise and address A-weighted sound levels and low-frequency sound levels anticipated to be generated during operation of the proposed system. When operational noise impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include use of low-noise-rated transformers, use of an alternative wind turbine manufacturer with a lower noise rating, and project redesign to situate noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts related to vibration, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measures listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional

measures to reduce effects related to vibration would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to vibration (i.e., stricter limitations in location of project sites and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Additional measures to address site-specific construction and operational noise impacts are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact NOI-4 Impacts from operation of small-scale wind energy systems relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels from the operation of small-scale wind energy systems. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.12.4, Noise, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers could produce temporary noise. However, due to the limited nature of construction activities and the short-term and temporary nature of construction processes for such systems, construction-related noise would not cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels within the unincorporated County. Operation of wind turbines could lead to a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of future small-scale wind energy systems above the existing ambient noise levels of those areas. Additionally, the addition of low-frequency noise to an area would have the potential to cause annoyance to some people. The existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code contains regulations that would continue to apply to small-scale wind energy systems that would reduce potential effects associated with substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels. Under the proposed project, these provisions would remain in place. However, impacts associated with substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels would not be reduced to a level below significant. Project-specific mitigation that is applied to future small-scale wind energy systems could include revising the turbine layout, curtailment of nighttime use, use of an alternate turbine manufacturer with a lower noise rating, and implementation of noise reduction technology. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, future small-scale wind energy systems may result in significant impacts relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels relative to existing noise levels.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM NOI-2 **Operational Noise and Vibration Study for Small-Scale Wind Energy Systems.** During the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future small-scale ground- or structure-mounted wind energy systems, consultation with DPH regarding operational noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. The noise study shall address pure tone noise and A-weighted sound levels as well as low-frequency sound levels anticipated to be generated during operation of the proposed system. When noise impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include revising the turbine layout, curtailing nighttime use, using an alternate turbine

manufacturer with a lower noise rating, implementing noise reduction technology, and adding additional setbacks from sensitive receptors.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts to existing ambient noise levels, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects to reduce their effects related to noise. For example, commenters recommended further limitations in the amount of noise that can be produced by wind energy systems in rural and/or residential areas. Commenters also recommended increased setbacks between wind energy projects and certain land uses, such as businesses, residential properties, and areas with farm animals. In response to this concern, the EIR was clarified to explain that projects would be subject to the County's Noise Control Ordinance, which sets forth specific thresholds for noise in residential areas. Additional measures that would further reduce the potential for wind energy projects to increase ambient noise levels would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems on ambient noise levels (i.e., increased setbacks or increased noise limitations beyond those required in the County Noise Control Ordinance) would decrease the extent to which and small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Additional measures to address site-specific operational noise impacts are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems that are in

Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact NOI-5 **Impacts from operation of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar facilities relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels including pure tone noise associated with wind turbines, relative to existing noise levels.**

Impact NOI-6 **Impacts from operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels.**

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels, including pure tone noise, relative to existing noise levels from the operation of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.12.4, Noise, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The operation of future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities and structure-mounted wind energy facilities may produce noise, including pure tone noise, above existing ambient levels. Additionally, the addition of low-frequency noise to an area would have the potential to cause annoyance to some people. As there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities and structure-mounted wind energy

facilities may result in significant impacts relative to substantial permanent increases in ambient noise levels relative to existing noise levels.

The following mitigation measures identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM NOI-1 **Construction Noise and Vibration Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding construction-related noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. When noise and/or vibration impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers.

MM NOI-3 **Operational Noise Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for CUPs for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with DPH regarding operation noise shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise study, a noise study shall be conducted. For proposed wind energy facilities, the noise study shall include analysis of pure tone noise and address A-weighted sound levels and low-frequency sound levels anticipated to be generated during operation of the proposed system. When operational noise impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include use of low-noise-rated transformers, use of an alternative wind turbine manufacturer with a lower noise rating, and project redesign to situate noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measures identified above would reduce significant impacts to existing ambient noise levels, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measures listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for wind energy projects to reduce their effects related to noise. For example, commenters recommended further limitations in the amount of noise that can be produced by wind energy systems in rural and/or residential areas. Commenters also recommended increased setbacks between wind energy projects and certain land uses, such as businesses, residential properties, and areas with farm animals. In response to this concern, the EIR was clarified to explain that projects would be subject to the County's Noise Control Ordinance, which sets forth specific thresholds for noise in residential areas. Additional measures that would further reduce the potential for wind energy projects to increase ambient noise levels would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of operation of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to noise impacts (i.e., stricter limitations in location of project sites and equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Additional measures to address site-specific operational noise impacts are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a

level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measures listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact NOI-7 **Impacts from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities relative to substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels compared with existing noise levels in surrounding areas.**

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts relative to substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels compared with existing noise levels in surrounding areas from the construction of utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.12.4, Noise, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Temporary noise from utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would occur in association with construction activities and cleaning of the components. Temporary noise associated with construction and maintenance vehicles and equipment may have the potential to exceed noise standards, regulations, or ordinances. Therefore, noise produced during construction could result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels relative to existing noise levels in surrounding areas. As there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may result in significant impacts relative to substantial temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels as compared with existing noise levels in surrounding areas.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM NOI-1 **Construction Noise and Vibration Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities.** During the environmental review process for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities,

> consultation with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding construction-related noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. When noise and/or vibration impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to temporary or periodic increases in existing ambient noise levels, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects related to construction noise would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to noise (i.e., stricter limitations in location of project sites and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Additional measures to address site-specific construction noise impacts are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.10 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

Impact TRF-1 Potential short-term, temporary exceedance of County traffic thresholds from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in potential short-term, temporary exceedance of County traffic thresholds from construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.16.4, Traffic and Circulation, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may have long construction periods, on the order of a year or more, and therefore could lead to increases in traffic near future project areas. Due to the amount of open land required to develop such facilities, it would not be expected that future facilities would be constructed in areas subject to high volumes of traffic. Therefore, the addition of temporary construction traffic may not cause an exceedance of level of service (LOS) levels in future project areas. However, because the future size and location of such projects cannot be determined at this time, and because construction schedules can vary greatly depending on a number of factors, the vehicle trips required for future projects cannot be calculated. As there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, construction of future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may result in significant, albeit temporary, impacts related to inconsistency with the County's LOS thresholds.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM TRF-1 During the environmental review process for future discretionary utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding construction-related traffic shall be required. In the event that DPW requires a traffic impact analysis (TIA), a TIA shall be conducted and submitted to DPW. When traffic impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPW and/or in the TIA shall be incorporated into the project. Examples of standard mitigation measures required include designing the project to avoid potential impacts; installing temporary traffic controls near construction sites; making physical road improvements; and implementing transportation demand management programs, including encouraging construction workers to carpool.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to exceedance of County traffic thresholds during construction, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects on traffic during construction would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to traffic (i.e., location of project sites and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore,

the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact TRF-2 Potential short-term, temporary conflict with Congestion Management Plan standards during construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in potential short-term, temporary conflict with Congestion Management Plan standards during construction of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.16.4, Traffic and Circulation, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Construction activities related to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities have the potential to result in significant impacts due to vehicle trips required to transport construction workers, construction equipment, and construction trucks. Although the location of future project sites relative to the locations of intersections and freeway segments identified in the CMP cannot be determined at this time, in the event that such a construction project were located within the vicinity of a CMP-monitored intersection or freeway segment, a potentially significant, albeit temporary, impact could occur. As there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, construction of future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may result in significant, albeit temporary, impacts related to inconsistency with the CMP.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM TRF-1 During the environmental review process for future discretionary utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding construction-related traffic shall be required. In the event that DPW requires a traffic impact analysis (TIA), a TIA shall be conducted and submitted to DPW. When traffic impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPW and/or in the TIA shall be incorporated into the project. Examples of standard mitigation measures required include designing the project to avoid potential impacts; installing temporary traffic controls near construction sites; making physical road improvements; and implementing transportation demand management programs, including encouraging construction workers to carpool.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts related to temporary conflicts with the Congestion Management Plan, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities to a less than significant level. Additional measures to reduce effects on traffic during construction would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would further limit the aspects of construction of utility-scale ground-mounted projects that contribute to traffic (i.e., location of project sites and construction equipment used) would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and, reduction in the potential for energy shortages. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate

provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.11 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact UTL-1 Impacts to water supply from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to water supply from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.17.4, Utilities and Service Systems, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems may require water for dust control during construction. In the event that on-site wells are used to obtain water for dust control activities, future projects may use and potentially affect groundwater supply. Additionally, there is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region; therefore, groundwater may not be a reliable source of water for future projects in this area. Therefore, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may result in significant impacts to water supply, particularly groundwater resources, as a result of withdrawing water for dust control activities.

Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments would reduce significant impacts to water supply, no feasible mitigation measures exist that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended further limitations on small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems to reduce their environmental effects, including the amount of water that such future projects may use. For example, commenters recommended reducing the allowable size of small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems. However, mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce effects of solar energy projects on groundwater resources (i.e., additional size limitations) would decrease the extent to which solar energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Furthermore, state law precludes local jurisdictions from creating unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems and certain rooftop solar energy systems, thus limiting the extent to which the County can apply development standards and mitigation measures to small-scale and certain structure-mounted solar energy projects (Government Code Section 65850.5).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact UTL-2 Impacts to water supply from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers under the proposed project

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to water supply from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.17.4, Utilities and Service Systems, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers would not result in substantial water usage. Water would either be obtained from on-site wells or from a water provider or district and/or delivered to the site by truck. If water is required from a water provider or district, approval would be required, and the district must ensure that there are adequate water resources and entitlements available to serve the requested water resources before any permit approval is granted. However, there is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region; therefore, groundwater may not be a reliable source of water for future projects in this area. The project area includes Antelope Valley and the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. For these reasons, impacts would be significant.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM HYD-1 All small-scale wind energy systems, temporary meteorological towers, utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy projects, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to California Environmental Quality Act review, and when impacts to groundwater resources are determined to be potentially significant, evaluation of groundwater resources, such as the preparation of a groundwater resources investigation report, may be required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The report shall analyze the drawdown of wells and recommend feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts, such as well monitoring and pumping caps, or requiring water from other sources.

Wind energy projects are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code, the proposed Zoning Code amendments, and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant

impacts to water supply, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to a less than significant level. Additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or more restrictive development standards that would further reduce the effects of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers on groundwater resources would decrease the extent to which small-scale wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; encouragement of small-scale projects through a streamlined and standardized review process; and, allowing temporary MET towers for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis. Lastly, the County is retaining the majority of the existing provisions for small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers that are in Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code. This is because existing Zoning Code provisions for these projects are more restrictive than those provided by state law, with which the County would have to comply if existing provisions were replaced (see the Preface of the Final EIR for details; see also Government Code Section 65893 et seq.).

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social,

technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact UTL-3 Impacts to water supply from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities under the proposed project.

Impact UTL-4 Impacts to water supply from the development of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities under the proposed project.

Potential Effect. The proposed project may result in impacts to water supply from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 4.17.4, Utilities and Service Systems, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. During construction, water would typically be used to suppress fugitive dust during ground disturbance, which may include grading, trenching, and soil compaction, and to apply soil binding agents to help with soil stabilization during construction. Operationally, potable water would likely be required for on-site operations and maintenance buildings for cleaning the solar or wind equipment to maintain optimal facility performance and maintenance of landscaping. Utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would have substantially less water demand as compared to utility-scale ground-mounted wind energy facilities. There is an overdraft of groundwater in the Antelope Valley region; therefore, groundwater may not be a reliable source of water for future projects in this area. Therefore, the proposed project may result in significant impacts related to water capacity problems.

The following mitigation measure identified as being feasible in the Final EIR would reduce the impact, but not to below a level of significance:

MM HYD-1 All small-scale wind energy systems, temporary meteorological towers, utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy projects, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to California Environmental Quality Act review, and when impacts to groundwater resources are determined to be potentially significant, evaluation of groundwater resources, such as the preparation of a groundwater resources investigation report, may be required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The report shall analyze the drawdown of wells and recommend feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts, such as well monitoring and pumping caps, or requiring water from other sources.

Utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities are evaluated at a program level of detail within the Final EIR; as such, these projects are speculative in nature at this time and would be subject to further project-level discretionary review once specific project-level details, including location, design, size, and scale have been defined. At that point in time, project-level impacts may be found to be comparable to, less than, or greater than the significant impacts identified within the Final EIR and additional project-specific mitigation measures would be applied as necessary. Although the standards incorporated into the proposed Zoning Code amendments and the mitigation measure identified above would reduce significant impacts to groundwater resources, no feasible mitigation measures exist at the programmatic level beyond the measure listed above that would further reduce impacts resulting from the development of utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities to a less than significant level. Some commenters on the Draft EIR recommended stricter provisions for utility-scale facilities to reduce their effects on water supply. For example, commenters recommended requirements for water conservation plans and requirements to use trucked recycled water when piped recycled water is not available. Such additional measures would not be anticipated to reduce impacts below a level of significance and were determined to be infeasible for implementation at the programmatic level for a number of reasons. Mitigation measures and/or development standards that would require further water conservation measures or that would further limit the aspects of utility-scale ground-mounted projects and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that contribute to effects on water supply (i.e., project site size and landscaping) could increase the severity of other impacts such as air quality effects and would decrease the extent to which solar and wind energy can be generated in the County, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Failure to meet these objectives would decrease the potential for new employment opportunities associated with renewable energy development and would affect the County's ability to facilitate the state's renewable energy objectives, such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments incorporate provisions that are feasible for implementation at the Countywide level. Policies that address specific portions of the County or specific communities are provided in the County's area plans and community plans. Likewise, provisions addressing site-specific environmental issues are more accurately and feasibly determined on a project-by-project basis.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure provided above would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures beyond the measure listed above that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social,

technological or other factors, that would mitigate this impact to a less-than-significant level as discussed above, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

2.12.1 Aesthetics

Scenic Vistas

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to scenic vistas. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Cumulative projects located in the County can potentially result in a cumulatively significant impact to scenic vistas if in combination they would result in visual impacts within the viewshed of a scenic vista. Adjacent jurisdictions, including incorporated cities, adjacent counties, and federal and state-managed lands, have general plan policies, zoning ordinances, and other ordinances or regulations in place to protect scenic vistas within their jurisdictions. However, it cannot be assured that past, present, and foreseeable future projects will be required to adhere to regulations that protect scenic vistas. Development of future small-scale solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would have the potential to result in impacts to scenic vistas. In combination with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to scenic vistas.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.1, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the

alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Views from Trails

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to views from public trails. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the County can potentially result in a cumulatively significant impact to scenic resources if in combination they would substantially damage or obstruct views of a regional trail. The proposed project would allow for the development of renewable energy systems near a regional riding or hiking trail. Past, present, and foreseeable future projects are not all held to strict standards protecting scenic resources and may also be developed in proximity to a regional trail. Therefore, the cumulative projects in the region would have the potential to result in cumulatively significant impacts to views from trails. In combination with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to public trails

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.1, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

State Scenic Highways

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the County can potentially result in a cumulatively significant impact to scenic resources if in combination they would substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within the viewshed of a state scenic highway. The proposed project would allow for the development of renewable energy systems near a state scenic highway. Past, present, and foreseeable future projects are not all held to specific standards protecting scenic resources and may also be developed near a state scenic highway. Therefore, the proposed project in combination with cumulative projects has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant impacts to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.1, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Visual Character of the Site

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to visual character and quality. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the County could potentially result in a cumulatively significant impact to visual character or quality if, in combination, they would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed project would introduce new development throughout the unincorporated County where past, present, and future development may also occur. Therefore, the proposed project in

combination with cumulative projects has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant impacts related to visual character and quality.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.1, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Light and Glare

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with nighttime lighting. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The construction and operation of projects located in the County can create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Impacts from glare are generally localized and not cumulative in nature. However, new sources of nighttime light pollution in the County would result in a potential lighting impact to rural locations, particularly the Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, and Antelope Valley. The height of wind turbines and the repetitive flashing of FAA-required obstruction lighting may result in a strong, constant source of highly visible light, and nighttime views for area residents may be affected. Therefore, the proposed project in combination with cumulative projects has the potential to contribute to cumulatively significant impacts associated with nighttime lighting.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.1, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section

21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Conversion of Farmland

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with the conversion of farmland. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Within the greater Los Angeles region, the conversion of Farmland is increasing due to population growth, the need for commercial and industrial-related uses, and the subsequent development required to support the population growth and commercial and industrial needs. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would potentially require substantial ground disturbance, and there is no guarantee that future project-specific-level environmental review with mitigation measures would fully reduce potential impacts related to Farmland to a level below significance. As such, future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities may result in a cumulatively significant impact related to conversion of Farmland when combined with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.2 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.2, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Agricultural Zoning and Williamson Act Contracts

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to agricultural zoning and Williamson Act contracts. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities could require substantial ground disturbance and would be subject to discretionary review. As part of the County's discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures. However, as there is ultimately no guarantee on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, the proposed project may result in a cumulatively significant impact related to agricultural zoning and Williamson Act contracts when combined with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.2 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.2, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Indirect Conversion of Farmland or Forest Land

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to indirect effects to Farmland and forest land. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Under the proposed project, the development of wind energy systems and facilities (both small scale and utility scale) and temporary MET towers would require a discretionary permit. Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would potentially require substantial ground disturbance. As part of the County's

discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures as necessary. Development of such systems and facilities could occur on or adjacent to Farmland or forest land. As there is ultimately no guarantee on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant, the proposed project may result in a cumulatively significant impact related to indirect effects to Farmland and forest land when combined with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.2 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.2, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.3 Air Quality

Violation of Air Quality Standard & Cumulative Increase in Criteria Pollutants

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to violation of air quality standards and an increase in criteria pollutants. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the Los Angeles region would result in a significant cumulative air quality impact if, in combination, they violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The entire South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) is designated as a nonattainment area for both federal and state ozone standards. The EPA has classified the SCAB as an "extreme nonattainment" area and has mandated that it achieve attainment no later than June 15, 2024. The SCAB is also designated as a nonattainment area for state standards for particulate matter 10 microns in size or less (PM_{10}), and both federal and state standards for particulate matter 2.5 microns in size or less ($PM_{2.5}$). Projects within the County and surrounding jurisdictions, including incorporated cities, adjacent

counties, and federal and state-managed lands would be required to comply with NAAQS and CAAQS pursuant to CEQA prior to approval. However, some environmental impacts associated with the development of such projects may be significant and unavoidable. Therefore, cumulative projects in the region would have the potential to result in cumulatively significant impacts associated with air quality violations and a cumulative increase in criteria pollutants. There is ultimately no guarantee that mitigation measures for all future utility-scale energy facilities will reduce impacts to a level below significant. Therefore, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with air quality violations, as well as a cumulative increase in criteria pollutants.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.3 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.3, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the Los Angeles region would result in a cumulatively significant impact on sensitive receptors if, in combination, they would expose sensitive receptors to a substantial concentration of TACs that would significantly increase cancer risk. The risks are especially attributable to emissions from diesel particulate matter from truck trips. The construction of the renewable energy projects would result in a temporary increase in truck trips related to hauling construction materials to and from a project site. Increases in truck trips may also result from new industrial or commercial development due to project operation. Placement of new sensitive receptors near existing TAC emissions may also result in a cumulatively significant impact. Residential development projects that are proposed

to be located in close proximity to industrial or extractive land uses may result in these impacts. Projects located in adjacent jurisdictions, including incorporated cities, adjacent counties, and state-managed lands, would be required to comply with the CARB's recommendations for siting new sensitive receptors. However, some projects may not be subject to such regulations for TACs. Therefore, projects in the region may result in cumulatively significant impacts associated with sensitive receptors. There is ultimately no guarantee that mitigation measures for future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities will reduce impacts to a level below significant. Therefore, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impacts associated with exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.3 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.3, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.4 Biological Resources

Adverse Effect on Special-Status Species & Adverse Effect on Sensitive Natural Community

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to an adverse effect on special-status species and an adverse effect on sensitive natural communities. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Impacts to special-status species and sensitive natural communities as a result of the proposed project were determined to be potentially significant. The proposed Zoning Code amendments include provisions to avoid and minimize biological impacts from solar and wind energy projects. However, there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that these provisions would reduce impacts to less than significant levels

and since there is no guarantee that future project-specific-level environmental review with mitigation measures would fully reduce potential impacts related to biological impacts to levels below significance, future projects may contribute to cumulative significant biological impacts.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.4 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.4, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Interference with Wildlife Movement or Nursery Sites

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. The proposed project would allow for solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that may have the potential to impact birds and bats that travel within the County including the Pacific Flyway. Therefore, small-scale solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, in combination with other past, present and foreseeable future projects, may result in a cumulatively significant impact related to wildlife movement or nursery sites.

Utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities would require large areas of land and may impact existing wildlife corridors. As part of the County's discretionary review process, all future projects would be evaluated under CEQA and required to implement feasible mitigation measures. Adjacent jurisdictions, including incorporated cities, adjacent counties, and federal and state-managed lands would be required to comply with applicable federal and/or state regulations.

If potentially significant impacts would occur from particular cumulative projects, then mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to the extent feasible. However, without a comprehensive NCCP in place for the long-term protection of wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites for the entire Southern California region, a cumulative loss of wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites would occur, even after mitigation has been implemented for individual projects. Therefore, a significant cumulative impact resulting from the proposed project and cumulative projects associated with wildlife movement corridors and nursery sites would occur.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.4 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.4, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impacts to Oak Trees and Other Unique Native Trees

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to oak trees and other unique native trees. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. As described in Section 4.4.4, some future temporary MET towers and renewable energy systems/facilities may be built on land that contains oak woodlands or other unique native trees. The presence of oak trees (*Quercus* spp.) or oak woodlands has been documented countywide within the Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone and in the Significant Ecological Areas. In addition to oaks and oak woodlands, other unique species of trees in the County include juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), Joshua trees, Northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), Southern California black walnut, and California sycamore. All of these species have been identified by the County as unique native trees, with the juniper and Joshua having also been identified by the state, under the Desert Plant Conservation Act, as unique species in California and in need of preservation. Future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground-

mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would require discretionary review process and additional CEQA review, and for the above mentioned systems and facilities that would impact oak trees would be required to obtain an Oak Tree Permit. Nevertheless, the County does not extend protected tree status to species other than oak trees, and therefore impacts to other unique species of native trees as a result of the proposed project, in combination with other past, present and foreseeable future projects could result in cumulatively significant impact related to oak trees and native trees.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.4 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.4, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Conflict with Local Policies, Ordinances, and Habitat Conservation Plans

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related conflicts with local policies, ordinances, and/or habitat conservation plans. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Because small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not require any further discretionary review in the majority of the County's zones, future projects, in combination with other past, present and foreseeable future projects may conflict with local policies or ordinances protection biological resources. Under the proposed project, the development of wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would require a discretionary permit. As part of the County's discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures. However, there is no guarantee that future project-specific environmental review with mitigation measures would fully reduce potential impacts related to biological resources to a level below significance, future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities may

result in a cumulatively significant impact related to biological resources when combined with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.4 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.4, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.5 Cultural Resources

Impact on a Historical Resource

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to historical resources. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Cumulatively, projects located in the Los Angeles region may result in impact associated with the loss of historical resources if in combination they would result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of historical resources. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated historical resource as defined under Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines and would be subject to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.* However, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not undergo further discretionary review, and therefore it cannot be guaranteed at this time that these systems and facilities would implement the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* or other measures to reduce impacts to historical resources. Therefore, in combination with past, present, and future cumulative projects, small-scale solar energy systems developed under the proposed project could contribute to a cumulatively significant impact. Similar to small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, future small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale

ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities could result in significant impacts to historical resources if historic building materials are removed, damaged, or altered or if the system is placed in an incompatible location that compromises a building's historic character or setting. Future utility-scale ground-mounted projects located where historical resources are present could be significantly impacted due to potential visual impacts including fragmentation of large blocks of. Because there is no guarantee that future project-specific environmental review with mitigation measures would fully reduce potential impacts related to historical resources to a level below significance, the proposed project, in combination with past, present, and future cumulative projects, would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.5, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact on an Archaeological Resource

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to archaeological resources. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the Los Angeles region may result in a cumulative impact associated with the loss of archeological resources if in combination they would result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of archaeological resources. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated archaeological resource as defined under Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project would allow for small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to be developed on a legal lot as an accessory use to the primary use of the property without discretionary review provided that it conforms to the zoning ordinance. Ground disturbing activities that could encounter native soils may occur in areas that are archeologically sensitive

without additional discretionary review. Therefore, in combination with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to archaeological resources.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.5, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Impact on a Unique Paleontological Resource or Geologic Feature

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to unique paleontological resources or geologic features. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the Los Angeles region may result in a cumulative impact associated with the loss of paleontological resources if in combination they would result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of paleontological resources. Future small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may be located on a site that has a national or state-designated paleontological resource as defined under Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project would allow for small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities to be developed without discretionary review. Ground disturbing activities that could encounter native soils may occur in areas that are paleontologically sensitive without additional discretionary review. Therefore, in combination with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to paleontological resources.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.5, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social,

technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Disturbance of Human Remains

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to human remains. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects located in the Los Angeles region may result in a cumulative impact associated with the loss of human remains if in combination they would result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of human remains. The proposed project would allow for small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facility to be developed without discretionary review. Ground-disturbing activities that involve impacts to human remains may occur without additional discretionary review. Therefore, in combination with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects, the proposed project would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to human remains.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.5, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.6 Geology and Soils

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Although existing regulations would minimize erosion caused by systems both large and small in size and would minimize the amount of ground disturbance, there is the possibility that small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy systems may result in potentially significant impacts relative to causing substantial erosion or loss of soil. Future small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems and temporary MET towers would also be subject to regulations minimizing erosion and would be subject to project-specific discretionary review under CEQA. However, due to the potential for small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems and temporary MET towers to result in erosion and/or loss of topsoil, impacts are considered potentially significant. Due to the large amounts of ground disturbance that have the potential to result from utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and due to the unknown, speculative nature of future project-specific mitigation measures, impacts relative to substantial erosion and topsoil loss would be potentially significant. As such, the proposed project, in combination with other cumulative projects, would contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.6, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Airport Land Use Plan / Public Airport and Private Airstrips

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to ocular obstruction. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure mounted solar energy facilities could be located within the vicinity of a public or private airport. The proposed project would be required to comply with applicable safety regulations, such as ALUCPs, FAA standards, DOD standards, and the State Aeronautics Act. Although future systems and facilities would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, glare produced from small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities may contribute to a cumulatively significant impact related to ocular obstruction.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The Board further finds that there are no mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.7, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Risk of Loss or Injury Involving Fires and Dangerous Fire Hazard

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with fire hazards. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Some cumulative projects would occur in areas which would expose people and structures to a potentially significant loss of life and property. Growth occurring in the Los Angeles region, implemented under various cumulative projects, would likely place people and/or property within danger of wildland fires, due to the widespread risk across the region. Although regulations exist to reduce hazards associated with wildland fires,

they would not reduce the risk to below a level of significance. Since small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not be subject to discretionary review, the County could not be certain that all potential impacts related to fire hazards from these systems and facilities would be avoided. Therefore, the proposed project in combination with other past, present and foreseeable future projects, would potentially contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to fire hazards. Construction activities associated with small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground mounted renewable energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities that may result in ignition sources and would include vegetation clearing and piling, ground disturbance, site preparation, soil disturbances, concrete pouring and preparation, and construction and refueling. Operation of these systems and facilities would introduce potential ignition sources that do not currently exist on the site, such as solar panels, trackers, transformers, capacitors, electric transmission lines, turbine blade failure, or pole failure. Such projects would be subject to further discretionary review. However, as there is no guarantee that future project-specific-level environmental review with mitigation measures would fully reduce potential impacts related to fire hazards to a level below significance, future projects may result in a cumulatively significant impact related to fire hazards when combined with other past, present, and foreseeable future projects.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.7 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.7, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Groundwater Supplies and Recharge

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact to groundwater supplies and recharge. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Groundwater basins typically serve localized areas; therefore, any cumulative impacts would generally be localized. The area of cumulative analysis for groundwater supplies and recharge includes the groundwater dependent areas of the unincorporated County and the immediately adjacent jurisdictional areas that share groundwater basins with County areas. Due to the potential for cumulative projects to result in increased impervious surfaces and water usage from on-site wells for dust control activities, the proposed projects in combination with cumulative projects could result in cumulatively significant impacts related to groundwater supplies and recharge.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.8 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.8, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.9 Noise

Excessive Noise Levels

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with excessive noise levels. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. A cumulative noise impact would occur if construction and operation associated with cumulative regional land use projects, such as those identified in adjacent city and county general plans and regional transportation plans, combined would exceed the noise compatibility guidelines and standards of the Noise Ordinance. The proposed project along with cumulative projects within the County would be required to comply with the regulations in the County Noise Control Ordinance. While it would be unlikely that construction of such projects would expose workers to elevated noise levels, in the event that this were to occur, construction contractors or the entity coordinating installation of the system would need to ensure compliance with the California OSHA (Cal/OSHA) regulations for worker safety relative to noise exposure. Under the proposed project, the development of wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would require a discretionary permit. As part of the County's discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures to minimize impacts to noise. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, the construction of utility-scale ground-mounted facilities may result in potentially significant impacts relative to generation of noise in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances. Therefore, since construction equipment and construction noise are unknown at this time and may exceed respective jurisdiction's noise ordinance as well as cause a noise disturbance to sensitive receptors, in combination with cumulative projects, the proposed project would contribute to cumulatively significant impact.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.9 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.9, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Excessive Ground-Borne Vibration

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with excessive ground-borne vibration. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. A cumulative ground-borne vibration impact would occur if one or more cumulative projects would exceed the FTA and Federal Railroad Administration guidelines for ground-borne vibration and noise. However, there are no specific plans or time scales for individual construction projects. Therefore, it is not possible to determine exact vibration levels, locations, or time periods for construction. Potential vibration impacts from construction would need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, cumulative projects have the potential to result in a cumulatively significant impact if located in close proximity to one another and if construction of multiple cumulative projects were to occur at the same time. Therefore, a potentially cumulatively significant impact may occur as a result of the proposed project.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.9 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.9, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise Levels

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. A cumulative noise impact would occur if construction and development associated with cumulative regional land use projects, such as those identified in adjacent city and county general plans and regional transportation plans, when combined would

result in an increase in ambient noise that would exceed the County's noise standards. Under the proposed project, the development of wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would require a discretionary permit. As part of the County's discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures to minimize impacts to noise. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures will reduce impacts to a level below significant, the construction and operation of utility-scale ground-mounted facilities, the operation of future small-scale wind energy systems, and the operation of utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities may result in potentially significant impacts relative to generation of noise in excess of noise standards, regulations, or ordinances. Therefore, since construction equipment and future project noise operations are unknown at this time and may exceed respective jurisdiction's noise ordinance as well as cause a noise disturbance to sensitive receptors, in combination with cumulative projects, the proposed project would contribute to cumulatively significant impact.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measures described in Section 2.9 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.9, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.10 Traffic and Circulation

Conflict with Plan, Policy, Ordinance or CMP Guidelines

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact associated with a conflict with a traffic and circulation plan, policy, ordinance, or Congestion Management Program guidelines. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Projects in the region could result in cumulatively significant impacts due to potential conflicts with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of the effectiveness of the circulation system performance, or with the CMP guidelines. Due to the brief construction period associated with installation of small-scale structure-mounted solar energy systems, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities, small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems, small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, and because traffic generated by the construction and operation of these systems and facilities would be relatively minor, construction and operation of such systems and facilities would not conflict with the County's LOS standards.

Under the proposed project, the development of wind energy systems, temporary MET towers, and utility-scale ground-mounted facilities would require a discretionary permit. As part of the County's discretionary review process, these projects would be evaluated under CEQA and would be required to implement feasible mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traffic. However, as there is no guarantee at this time on a project-specific level that mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a level below significant and since it is unknown whether cumulative projects would exceed LOS thresholds and/or CMP, construction of future utility-scale ground-mounted facilities in combination with cumulative projects may result in cumulatively significant impact.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.10 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.10, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

2.12.11 Utilities and Service Systems

Potential Effect. The proposed project would contribute to a cumulatively significant impact relative to water supply. Support for this environmental impact conclusion is fully discussed in Section 5, Cumulative Effects, of the EIR.

Facts Supporting the Finding. Cumulative impacts may result from an increase in wastewater treatment or water demand that exceeds existing requirements, entitlements and resources, substantial depletion of groundwater resources, or insufficient capacity to accommodate solid waste disposal needs. Cumulative projects within the region would result in an increase in residential, commercial, and industrial development that would require water and wastewater treatment and solid waste services. Cumulative projects would result in an increase in impervious surfaces that would increase stormwater runoff volumes. Cumulative projects would also have the potential to increase the demand for potable water. The project may result in an impact relative to reliable water supply, particularly from groundwater resources, due to the development of small-scale wind and solar energy systems, temporary MET towers, utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities, and utility-scale structure-mounted solar and wind energy facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would contribute to a cumulative impact that would adversely affect utilities and service systems relative to water supply, specifically groundwater resources.

Finding. The Board finds this impact to be significant. The mitigation measure described in Section 2.11 would be adopted along with the proposed project and would reduce this cumulative impact, but not to a level below significant. The Board further finds that there are no additional mitigation measures that are feasible, taking into consideration specific economic, legal, social, technological or other factors, that would mitigate this cumulative impact to a less-than-significant level for the same reasons described in Section 2.11, and, further, that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the alternatives identified in the EIR, as discussed in Section 3 of these Findings (CEQA Section 21081(a)(1), (3); CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(a)(1),(3)). As described in the Statement of Overriding Considerations, the Board has determined that this impact is acceptable because specific overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including regionwide or statewide environmental benefits of the proposed project outweigh its significant effects on the environment.

CHAPTER 3
FINDINGS REGARDING PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

These Findings and Facts Supporting Findings regarding project identified in the Final EIR are set forth to comply with CEQA Section 21002 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091(a)(3) and 15126.6.

The consideration of alternatives is an integral component of the CEQA process. The selection and evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives provides the public and decision-makers with information on ways to avoid or lessen environmental impacts created by a proposed project. When selecting alternatives for evaluation, CEQA requires alternatives that meet most of the basic objectives of the project, while avoiding or substantially lessening the project's significant effects. Thus, objectives for the proposed project were considered in evaluating the alternatives. These objectives are to:

1. Facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County pursuant to existing and future statewide goals.
2. Assist the County in furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
3. Reduce the potential for energy shortages and outages by facilitating local energy supply.
4. Clarify the approval process for the development and operation of solar and wind energy systems and facilities.
5. Minimize the potential for land use conflicts and environmental impacts that may arise through the development of renewable energy systems and facilities.
6. Encourage the development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy systems and facilities through a streamlined and standardized permit review process.
7. Allow temporary MET towers with a Minor Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the purposes of collecting data to determine appropriate locations for wind energy.

Three alternatives to the proposed project described in the Draft EIR were analyzed and considered as follows: 1) No Project (No Zoning Code Amendments) Alternative; 2) Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative; and 3) Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative. These alternatives constitute a reasonable range of alternatives necessary to permit a reasoned choice. For the reasons set forth below, Alternatives 1 through 3 are rejected as infeasible for specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations set forth below.

3.1 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT EVALUATED

One alternative was considered but rejected from further analysis in the EIR because it would not accomplish most of the basic project objectives or would be infeasible to analyze. The Distributed

Generation Policy alternative was suggested by stakeholders during the scoping process. This alternative was not evaluated in the EIR because it would be the California Public Utilities Commission's authority to implement a distributed generation policy since it has the global oversight to rank and incentivize renewable energy projects. As such, the Distributed Generation Policy Alternative is outside the scope of this project and therefore, this alternative was rejected from further consideration. However, while a distributed generation policy is considered outside the scope of this project, the proposed Zoning Code amendments were designed in such a way that small-scale and/or structure-mounted projects would be incentivized relative to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy projects, thereby encouraging distributed systems to the extent that is feasible in the County's Zoning Code.

3.2 ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED

3.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Project (No Zoning Code Amendments)

Facts Supporting Finding. The No Project Alternative assumes that the existing Zoning Code would remain in effect. Renewable energy projects that would be proposed under the No Project Alternative would undergo permitting procedures akin to energy generation plants (with the exception of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers, which would be subject to the existing provisions within Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code that currently regulate such projects). The No Project Alternative would continue to allow guy wires. Additionally, under the No Project Alternative, protection measures for bird and bat species would not be included in the Zoning Code.

Under the No Project Alternative there may generally be fewer renewable energy projects implemented throughout the unincorporated County due to the absence of standardized and streamlined permitting procedures. However, future renewable energy projects under the No Project Alternative would undergo permitting procedures akin to energy generation plants because under the existing Zoning Code, renewable energy projects (with the exception of small-scale wind energy systems and temporary MET towers) are not defined. Because energy generation plants differ in project footprint and often in the types of resources that are most impacted, the existing development standards for renewable energy projects do not directly deal with impact areas specific to renewable energy. Similarly, the existing Part 15 provisions for small-scale wind energy systems do not currently include measures to protect bird and bat species from the effects of such systems, whereas the proposed Zoning Code amendments would add such provisions to the existing regulations for small-scale ground-mounted wind energy systems. As a result, although fewer projects may be implemented under this alternative, it would lead to an overall increase in impacts due to the lack of standards specific to renewable energy systems and facilities and due to the absence of specific bird and bat protection measures for small-scale wind energy systems. Additionally, the proposed project would prohibit ground-

mounted utility-scale renewable energy facilities from being constructed within adopted Significant Ecological Areas, whereas the No Project Alternative would not. While generally fewer renewable energy projects may be implemented under the No Project Alternative, these projects would not be required to implement the standards specific to the industry that are included as part of the proposed project. Therefore, some environmental impacts, such as aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, biology, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise, could potentially be increased as compared to the proposed project. Additionally, the No Project Alternative would not meet the project objectives.

Finding. The Board rejects Alternative 1 as infeasible in consideration of specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including the provisions of employment opportunities for highly trained workers. The Board also rejects Alternative 1 as infeasible because it fails to meet the project's underlying purpose of establishing regulations and permit requirements that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy systems, utility-scale renewable energy facilities, and temporary MET towers in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare and minimizes significant environmental impacts. Furthermore, Alternative 1 would not meet the project objectives that support this underlying purpose. Alternative 1 would also potentially result in increased environmental impacts relative to the proposed project.

3.2.2 Alternative 2 – Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems

Facts Supporting Finding. The Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative involves two components:

- Reduced Project Area – Small-scale solar energy systems would not be permitted, either by right or with a discretionary permit, in Open Space (O-S) and Watershed (W) zones.
- Reduced Project Size/Capacity – The size of small-scale solar energy systems would be limited to 500 kilowatts (kW). Anything larger than 500 kW would be considered utility scale and would require a Minor CUP or CUP, depending on whether the system is structure mounted or ground mounted. Comparatively speaking, the proposed project would allow small-scale ground-mounted solar systems of up to 25% maximum lot coverage, or 2.5 acres, whichever is less. The size of a typical 500 kW ground-mounted solar energy system is not expected to exceed approximately 30,000 square feet (or 0.7 acre).

All other components of the Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative would remain as in the proposed project.

The Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative would decrease environmental impacts as compared to the proposed project. However, it should be noted this alternative would not reduce potentially significant impacts to a level less than significant. The Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative would reduce impacts associated with small-scale solar energy systems, but these systems would continue to be allowed without discretionary review, as under the proposed project. The Reduced Small-Scale Solar Energy Systems Alternative would likely result in potentially significant aesthetic impacts, biological resources impacts, cultural resources impacts, geological resources impacts, hazards due to ocular obstruction, water resources, increases in ambient noise and ground-borne vibration, traffic impacts, and utilities and service system impacts, similar to impacts of the proposed project, albeit to a lesser extent than the proposed project due to less ground disturbance and smaller-scale implementation.

Finding. The Board rejects Alternative 2 as infeasible in consideration of specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including the provisions of employment opportunities for highly trained workers. Alternative 2 would meet the underlying purpose of the project, which is to establish regulations and permit requirements that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy systems, utility-scale renewable energy facilities, and temporary MET towers in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare and minimizes significant environmental impacts. However, Alternative 2 would reduce the allowable size of small-scale solar energy systems and would limit the areas in which these systems are allowed, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of small-scale and structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Accordingly, the Board rejects Alternative 2 as infeasible because it would reduce the County's ability to meet these basic objectives and would be undesirable from a policy standpoint. Furthermore, Alternative 2 would decrease environmental impacts but not to a level below significant.

In addition, there are state laws in place that would affect the County's ability to implement Alternative 2. The Solar Rights Act limits a local jurisdiction's ability to regulate small-scale solar energy systems. Local jurisdictions cannot impose unreasonable barriers to the installation of small-scale solar energy systems, and it is the state's policy to promote and encourage the use of these solar energy systems and to limit obstacles to their use. Therefore, in addition to the reasons for infeasibility described above, Alternative 2 is infeasible as it is inconsistent with state law.

3.2.3 Alternative 3 – Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities

Facts Supporting Finding. The Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative would involve three substantial changes as compared to the proposed project.

- Reduced utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities: Under the Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would require a CUP in all zones with the exception of projects defined as "small residential rooftop solar energy systems" in Government Code Section 65850.5(j)(3). Utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would not be permitted in the O-S and W zones. For comparison, under the proposed project, utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities would be allowed without discretionary review in all zones except O-S and W (where they would not be permitted) and R-1 (where a Minor CUP is required unless a project meets the definition of a "small residential rooftop solar energy system" as defined in Government Code Section 65850.5(j)(3)). Requiring discretionary review for these types of projects would require more time and costs affiliated with these projects.
- Reduced utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities: Under the Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would require a CUP in all zones except O-S and W (where they would not be permitted). For comparison, under the proposed project, utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities would be allowed with a Minor CUP in all zones except O-S and W (where they would not be permitted).
- Reduced utility-scale ground-mounted wind and solar energy facilities: Under the Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative, a minimum 60-foot setback would be required in agricultural zones and a minimum 30-foot setback would be required for all other zones. For comparison, the proposed project would require a 30-foot setback in agricultural zones and for non-agricultural zones the future facilities would need to adhere to the existing setback.

All other components would remain as specified in the proposed project.

The Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative would result in fewer future renewable energy projects allowed by right, and in turn, more types of renewable energy projects would be required to undergo further discretionary review and implement project-specific mitigation measures as necessary through the CEQA process. The Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Facilities Alternative would not reduce any potentially significant impacts to less than significant as compared to the proposed project, but it would lessen the degree of such impacts, including those for aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality,

biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards, water resources, noise and ground-borne vibration, traffic and utilities and services systems. Of the three alternatives evaluated, the Reduced Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Energy Alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Finding. The Board rejects Alternative 3 as infeasible in consideration of specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including the provisions of employment opportunities for highly trained workers. Alternative 3 would meet the underlying purpose of the project, which is to establish regulations and permit requirements that support and facilitate the responsible development of small-scale renewable energy systems, utility-scale renewable energy facilities, and temporary MET towers in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare and minimizes significant environmental impacts. However, it is anticipated that Alternative 3 would reduce the number of utility-scale structure-mounted projects and would reduce the number and/or size of utility-scale ground-mounted projects, thereby undermining the project's ability to fulfill the following objectives that support the underlying purpose: facilitation of renewable energy; furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005; reduction in the potential for energy shortages; and, encouragement of structure-mounted projects through a streamlined and standardized review process. Accordingly, the Board rejects Alternative 3 as infeasible because it would reduce would reduce the County's ability to meet these basic objectives and would be undesirable from a policy standpoint. Furthermore, while Alternative 3 would lessen the degree of environmental impacts, it would not reduce any potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

CHAPTER 4
OTHER CEQA FINDINGS

Findings Regarding Growth Inducing Impacts

The CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) requires that an EIR analyze ways in which projects may "foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." Section 4.13 of this EIR specifically addresses whether the proposed project would induce substantial population growth within the County. The proposed project does not propose any residential use, included but not limited to a residential subdivision, mobile home park, or construction for a single-family residence that would cause an increase in population. The proposed project also does not include a recreational component, such as a hotel, resort, campground, or other facility that would attract or accommodate an increase in visitors to the County that would indirectly cause temporary increases in population. Additionally, the proposed project does not propose the extension of utility lines, construction of roads, or construction of expansion of wastewater facilities. The proposed project includes revisions to the County's Zoning Code, but would not amend land use policies that may foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. The proposed project consists of amendments to the Zoning Code that would assist the County in furthering federal goals under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. For these reasons, the proposed project would not directly induce growth related to provision of additional electric power. Based on the conclusions outlined above and the analysis provided in Section 4.13 of the EIR, the Board finds that the proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth.

Findings Regarding Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

California Public Resources Code, Section 21100(b)(2)(B), and Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines require that an EIR analyze the extent to which the proposed project's primary and secondary effects would impact the environment and commit nonrenewable resources to uses that future generations will not be able to reverse. The proposed project would facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County pursuant to existing and future statewide goals, thus decreasing overall reliance on nonrenewable energy sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For these reasons, the Board finds that the proposed project would not result in significant irreversible environmental changes or otherwise commit nonrenewable resources to uses that future generations will not be able to reverse.

Findings Regarding Recirculation

The Board finds that the project does not require recirculation under CEQA (CEQA Section 21092.1, CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5). CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5 requires

recirculation of an EIR prior to certification of the Final EIR when "significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice is given of the availability of the draft EIR for public review." As described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5:

> New information added to an EIR is not "significant" unless the EIR is changed in a way that deprives the public of a meaningful opportunity to comment upon a substantial adverse environmental effect of the project or a feasible way to mitigate or avoid such an effect (including a feasible project alternative) that the project's proponents have declined to implement. "Significant new information" requiring recirculation includes, for example, a disclosure showing that:
>
> 1. A new significant environmental impact would result from the project or from a new mitigation measure proposed to be implemented;
> 2. A substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact would result unless mitigation measures are adopted that reduce the impact to a level of insignificance;
> 3. A feasible project alternative or mitigation measure considerably different from others previously analyzed would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the project, but the project's proponents decline to adopt it;
> 4. The draft EIR was so fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature that meaningful public review and comment were precluded.

In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(b) provides "recirculation is not required where the new information added to the EIR merely clarifies and amplifies or makes insignificant modifications in an adequate EIR."

As such, the Board makes the following findings:

1. None of the public comments submitted to the County regarding the Draft EIR and the July 2015 Final EIR, including public statements and comments made at the Commission and Board hearings, or responses to comments present any significant new information that would require the EIR to be re-circulated for public review.
2. No new significant environmental impacts would result from new or modified mitigation measures proposed to be implemented.
3. The Draft EIR adequately analyzed project alternatives and there are no feasible project alternatives or mitigation measures considerably different from others previously analyzed that would clearly lessen the significant environmental impacts of the project.

4. The Draft EIR was not fundamentally and basically inadequate and conclusory in nature and did not preclude meaningful public review and comment.

The new information in the July 2015 Final EIR has been provided merely to clarify or amplify information in the Draft EIR. The new information does not reveal that the project would cause significant new impacts not previously identified in the Draft EIR.

Findings Regarding the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21081.6, the Board, in adopting these findings, also adopts the MMRP for the Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance. This MMRP is designed to ensure that, during project implementation, the County and other responsible parties will comply with the mitigation measures adopted in these findings.

The Board hereby finds that the MMRP, which is incorporated herein by reference and attached as Attachment A to these findings, meets the requirements of CEQA Section 21081.6 by providing for the implementation and monitoring of project conditions intended to mitigate potential environmental effects of the project.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15090 Findings

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15090, the Board certifies that:

1. The final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA;
2. The final EIR was presented to the decision-making body of the lead agency, and that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the information contained in the final EIR prior to approving the project; and
3. The final EIR reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and 15092 Findings

Based on the foregoing findings and the information contained in the record, the Board made one or more of the following findings with respect to each of the significant effects of the project:

A. Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effects as identified in the Final EIR.

B. Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the Final EIR.

Based on the foregoing findings and the information contained in the record, and as conditioned by the foregoing:

A. All significant effects on the environment due to the project have been eliminated or substantially lessened where feasible.

B. Any remaining significant effects that have been found to be unavoidable are acceptable due to the overriding considerations set forth in Section 5, Statement of Overriding Considerations, of this document.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15084(D)(2) Findings

The County has relied on Section 15084(d)(2) of the CEQA guidelines, which allows contracting with another entity, public or private, to prepare the Draft EIR. The County has reviewed and edited as necessary the submitted drafts to reflect the County's own independent judgment, including reliance on County technical personnel from other departments.

CEQA Section 21082.1(c) Findings

Pursuant to CEQA Section 21082.1(c), the Board hereby finds that the lead agency has independently reviewed and analyzed the Final EIR, and that the Final EIR reflects the independent judgment of the lead agency.

Nature of Findings

Any finding made by the Board shall be deemed made, regardless of where it appears in this document. All of the language included in this document constitutes findings by the Board, whether or not any particular sensitive or clause includes a statement to that effect. The Board intends that these Findings be considered as an integrated whole and, whether or not any part of these Findings fail to cross reference or incorporate by reference any other part of these findings, that any finding required or committed to be made by the Board with respect to any particular subject matter of the Final EIR, shall be deemed to be made if it appears in any portion of these Findings.

Reliance on Record

Each and all of the findings and determinations contained herein are based on the competent and substantial evidence, both oral and written, contained in the entire record relating to the Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance. The findings and determinations constitute the independent findings and determinations of the Board in all respects, and are fully and completely supported by substantial evidence in the record as a whole.

Relationship of Findings to EIR

The County finds and declares that substantial evidence for each and every finding made herein is contained in the EIR or is in the record in the matter.

Custodian of Records

The custodian of the documents or other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board's decision is based, is the Community Studies North Section, located at the County's Regional Planning Department, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. This is in compliance with CEQA Section 21081.6(a)(2) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(e).

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CHAPTER 5
STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

The County is the lead agency under CEQA for preparation, review, and certification of the Final EIR for the Los Angeles County Renewable Energy Ordinance Project. As the lead agency, the County is also responsible for determining the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and which of those impacts are significant, and which can be mitigated through imposition of mitigation measures or adoption of alternatives to avoid or minimize those impacts to a level of less than significant. CEQA then requires the lead agency to balance the benefits of a proposed action against its significant unavoidable adverse environmental impacts in determining whether to approve the proposed project. In making this determination the County is guided by CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 which provides as follows:

a. CEQA requires the decision-making agency to balance, as applicable, the economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project against its unavoidable environmental risks when determining whether to approve the project. If the specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits, including region-wide or statewide environmental benefits, of a proposed project outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects, the adverse environmental effects may be considered "acceptable."

b. When the lead agency approves a project which will result in the occurrence of significant effects which are identified in the final EIR but are not avoided or substantially lessened, the agency shall state in writing the specific reasons to support its action based on the final EIR and/or other information in the record. The statement of overriding considerations shall be supported by substantial evidence in the record.

c. If an agency makes a statement of overriding considerations, the statement should be included in the record of the project approval and should be mentioned in the notice of determination. This statement does not substitute for, and shall be in addition to, findings required pursuant to Section 15091.

In addition, CEQA Section 21081(b) requires that where a public agency finds that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations, including considerations for the provision of employment opportunities for highly trained workers, make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in an EIR and thereby leave significant unavoidable effects, the public agency must also find that overriding economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh the significant effects of the project.

Although some potential project impacts have been substantially avoided or mitigated, as described in the Final EIR and in Section 2 of this document, there remain several significant unavoidable impacts for which complete mitigation is not feasible. Pursuant to CEQA Section

21081(b) and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, the County has balanced the benefits of the proposed project against these unavoidable adverse impacts and has adopted all feasible mitigation measures with respect to these impacts. The County also has examined alternatives to the proposed project, none of which meet all of the project objectives for the reasons discussed in Section 3 of this document.

Statement of Overriding Considerations

The following benefits and considerations outweigh the identified significant and unavoidable adverse environmental impacts. All of these benefits and considerations are based on the facts set forth in the findings, the Final EIR, and the record of proceedings for the project. Each of these benefits and considerations is a separate and independent basis that justifies approval of the project, so that if a court were to set aside the determination that any particular benefit or consideration would occur and justifies project approval, the Board would otherwise stand by its determination that the remaining benefit(s) or considerations are sufficient to justify and substantiate project approval.

Each benefit set forth below constitutes an overriding consideration warranting approval of the project independent of the other benefits, and the Board determines that the adverse environmental impacts of the project are "acceptable" if any of these benefits would be realized. The project would provide public benefits to the County as follows:

1. The proposed project facilitates Federal and State renewable energy policy goals.

At both the federal and state levels, steps are being taken to increase renewable energy production. At the federal level, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the U.S. Department of Energy to study and report on existing natural energy resources, in support of renewable energy production (U.S. Code, Title 42, Section 15851). At the state level, California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program requires utility providers to procure at least 1% of retail sales per year from eligible renewable sources until 20% of overall retail sales are procured from eligible renewable sources. California Executive Order S-3-05 (2005) identified greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the state, providing the impetus for a potential expansion of the RPS program to include a goal of 33% renewable energy by 2020. Additionally, in June 2008 the California Air Resources Board (CARB) issued the draft Climate Change Scoping Plan, which identifies California codifying and achieving a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2020 as a key component in achieving the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets (CARB 2008). The state has also adopted legislation (Assembly Bill 45, October 11, 2009, codified as Government Code 65893 et seq.) to specifically encourage the use of small wind turbines and limit obstacles to their use. Similarly, the 1978 Solar Rights Act requires permit streamlining through a ministerial permitting process for most small-scale solar energy systems, especially

small residential rooftop solar energy systems. As discussed below, the proposed project would facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County pursuant to existing and future federal and statewide goals.

The County's Zoning Code does not currently contain definitions or standards for solar energy projects or for utility-scale wind energy projects. By codifying definitions of such technologies and by establishing permitting procedures and development standards for such projects, the Zoning Code will be updated to reflect the movement towards increased use of renewable energy technologies in the state. The proposed project would help facilitate the development of renewable energy technologies, which in turn would provide renewable energy sources to meet state and federal goals.

Furthermore, the proposed Zoning Code amendments have been designed in such a way that small-scale and/or structure-mounted projects would be incentivized relative to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy projects. The permitting procedures for small-scale and/or structure-mounted projects would generally be less extensive and less expensive than those established for utility-scale ground-mounted projects. Incentivizing small-scale renewable energy projects is consistent with state laws, such as the Solar Rights Act and Government Code Section 65893 et seq., that aim to promote and encourage use of solar energy systems and small wind energy systems.

Recognizing that utility-scale ground-mounted projects also support certain legislative mandates, such as the RPS, the proposed project establishes and clarifies requirements that are imposed on utility-scale ground-mounted facilities to continue allowing for such projects while minimizing the potential for land use conflicts and environmental impacts. Project applicants for utility-scale ground-mounted projects are currently being directed to zoning regulations for electric generating plants, which have been used to regulate utility-scale renewable energy projects proposed in the County. Information is also provided to applicants regarding application materials that may be requested, in addition to conditions of approval that may also be imposed by the Planning Commission or the Board. This current method of regulating utility-scale renewable energy facilities has produced inconsistent results relative to the effects, the maintenance protocols, and the appearance of such facilities in the County. By established permitting requirements, development standards, findings, and conditions of approval that are specific to utility-scale ground-mounted projects, the County would address community concerns surrounding such projects to the extent feasible while continuing to support state policy by facilitating renewable energy development.

2. The proposed project assists in achieving State Greenhouse Gas Reduction targets and Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan goals.

On December 11, 2008, CARB approved the Climate Change Scoping Plan to achieve the goals of Assembly Bill 32. The Scoping Plan established an overall framework for the measures that will be adopted to reduce California's GHG emissions. To comply with the Scoping Plan, the County prepared a Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) to evaluate, track, and reduce GHG emissions in the unincorporated areas of the County.[1] The County set a target to reduce GHG emissions from community activities in the unincorporated areas of the County by at least 11% below 2010 levels by 2020, which is consistent with the statewide reductions under AB 32.

As discussed in Section 4.7 of the Final EIR, the proposed Zoning Code amendments would be consistent with all applicable CCAP actions. The proposed project consists of amendments to the Zoning Code to streamline approval of certain renewable energy projects that would encourage development and expansion of renewable energy sources throughout the County's jurisdiction. By facilitating the use of renewable energy within the County, the proposed project would decrease reliance on non-renewable energy sources. The proposed project particularly encourages development of small-scale and structure-mounted renewable energy projects through a streamlined and standardized permit review process. As such, the proposed Zoning Code amendments would facilitate the installation of small-scale and/or structure-mounted projects concurrent with new developments in a simpler and more effective manner when compared to the current permitting processes for renewable energy systems and facilities. Through expansion of small-scale and/or structure-mounted solar and wind energy projects, the proposed project would allow individual properties within the County to be less dependent on grid-sourced, utility-based energy, which in turn would potentially result in lower peak demand and encouragement of distributed systems. By facilitating the use of renewable energy and reducing the County's reliance on non-renewable energy sources, the proposed project would assist in achieving state and County GHG reduction targets.

3. The proposed project implements goals and policies of the General Plan and Antelope Valley Area Plan.

Both the County General Plan and Antelope Valley Area Plan include goals and policies to encourage renewable energy development in a sustainable manner. The proposed project would help implement these goals and policies.

[1] The CCAP will go into effect when the 2015 Los Angeles County General Plan Update is adopted, which is now anticipated to occur by August 2015.

General Plan

The existing adopted County General Plan and the 2015 Draft General Plan Update both include goals and policies that encourage the development of renewable energy. The existing adopted General Plan provides a policy to "support the conservation of energy and encourage the development and utilization of new energy sources, including geothermal, thermal waste, solar, wind, and ocean-related sources" and provides a second policy to "promote the use of solar energy to the maximum extent possible." As described under items 1 and 2 above, the proposed project would facilitate the use of renewable energy within the County by codifying definitions and regulations for solar and wind energy projects and by particularly encouraging small-scale and structure-mounted solar and wind energy projects. Under the proposed Zoning Code amendments, solar energy would be encouraged by decreasing permitting requirements for utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy facilities and by allowing small-scale and utility-scale structure-mounted solar energy projects in most zones without discretionary review. Structure-mounted solar energy projects in most zones would not be required to obtain any permits from Regional Planning, effectively promoting the use of solar energy to the maximum extent possible.

The 2015 Draft General Plan Update expands on the renewable energy policies established in the existing adopted General Plan by establishing policy to "support rooftop solar facilities on new and existing buildings," to "encourage the production and use of renewable energy resources," to "encourage the effective management of energy resources, such as ensuring adequate reserves to meet peak demand," and to "encourage distributed systems that use existing infrastructure and reduce environmental impacts." The proposed project would help implement these policies by facilitating renewable energy development, encouraging small-scale and structure-mounted projects, and by allowing rooftop solar projects with the least extensive permitting procedures. Furthermore, while a distributed generation policy is considered outside the scope of this project (see Section 3.1 of this document), the proposed Zoning Code amendments were designed in such a way that small-scale and/or structure-mounted projects would be incentivized relative to utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy projects, thereby encouraging distributed systems to the extent that is feasible in a Zoning Code.

Both the existing adopted General Plan and the 2015 Draft General Plan Update also contain goals and policies related to environmental protection, such as promoting compatible land uses, protecting Significant Ecological Areas and other environmentally sensitive areas, and protecting water, scenic, and other natural resources. The proposed project would help implement these goals and policies by establishing standardized regulations, findings, and conditions of approval for renewable energy projects that have greater environmental effects (i.e., utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy facilities).

Antelope Valley Area Plan

The 2015 Antelope Valley Area Update includes goals and policies that support renewable energy development and recommends additional regulations for renewable energy development. A goal of the Antelope Valley Area Plan supports individual energy systems for on-site use, and implementing policies of this goal include requiring appropriate development standards for individual renewable energy systems to minimize impacts to surrounding properties, as well as simplification of the permitting process for projects that meet these development standards. The proposed Zoning Code amendments provide streamlined and standardized permitting processes for renewable energy projects that are installed for on-site use. They also add development standards for on-site solar energy projects to the Zoning Code and augment existing development standards for on-site wind energy projects.

Several goals set forth in the Antelope Valley Area Plan aim to limit the effects of utility-scale renewable energy projects that generate energy for off-site use. While the proposed project has an objective of facilitating renewable energy production, it also establishes development standards, findings, and conditions of approval for utility-scale ground-mounted projects where there currently are none in the Zoning Code. While such projects will continue to have site-specific and project-specific conditions and mitigation measures applied, the proposed Zoning Code amendments would establish baseline standards for such projects, thereby implementing the goals and policies of the Antelope Valley Area Plan to limit the effects of such facilities on aesthetics, biota, noise, open spaces, land use, and agricultural uses.

4. The proposed Zoning Code amendments provide more protective development standards for utility-scale solar and wind energy projects.

Renewable energy facilities that convert solar energy or wind energy to electricity on a utility scale meet the definition of Electric Generating Plant in the existing Zoning Code. As such, development standards contained within the current Zoning Code do not address design, environmental, or land use issues that are unique to utility-scale renewable energy facilities. Therefore, with respect to impacts specific to utility-scale solar and wind energy projects, such as glare, noise, and dust, the proposed Zoning Code amendments establish baseline development standards where none currently exist. In certain zones, the proposed Zoning Code amendments also change the permitting procedure so that site-specific conditions and mitigation beyond the baseline development standards can be implemented through a discretionary process and project-level CEQA review.

5. The proposed project allows the County to provide better service to its communities.

The proposed project would allow the County to provide better service to its communities by establishing reasonable regulations and a clear permitting process for each type of solar and wind energy project, by providing a more consistent approach for processing such projects, and by providing greater clarity for Regional Planning staff, applicants, and the public. Additionally, the proposed project establishes comprehensive and specific regulations aimed at addressing community concerns, which would result in improved service delivery in the County and an improvement in the quality of life of its communities.

Definitions

The proposed project would add and revise definitions related to solar and wind energy projects. These amendments are necessary to make in the Zoning Code as renewable energy is a relatively new technology, and Title 22 has not been updated accordingly. Currently, Title 22 only provides a definition for temporary MET towers and small-scale wind energy systems. No definitions exist for the other types of solar and wind energy projects. Establishing a clear and updated definition of each type of solar and wind energy project will provide clarity to Regional Planning staff, project applicants, and the public regarding the nature and scope of these projects.

Permitting

The proposed project would establish the permitting process for each type of solar and wind energy project in each zone. Currently, small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale solar and wind energy facilities are not listed as land uses in Title 22. The proposed project would amend Title 22 so that all types of solar and wind energy projects are listed as uses under the zones in which they are allowed. Adding these projects as uses in Title 22 would clarify the permitting processes for each type of solar and wind energy project and would allow prospective project applicants to better determine which type of renewable energy project would be allowable and appropriate on their property.

Regulations

The proposed project would also establish regulations for each type of solar and wind energy project. Currently, the existing Part 15 of Chapter 22.52 of the Zoning Code only regulates temporary MET towers and small-scale wind energy systems. No specific regulations exist for small-scale solar energy systems and utility-scale solar and wind energy facilities. For utility-scale solar and wind energy facilities, the County uses project conditions to minimize impacts to the surrounding environment on a project-by-project basis, which has resulted in a wide range of outcomes for utility-scale projects. The proposed project would provide a more consistent approach for processing utility-scale solar and wind energy facilities by establishing development standards and conditions of approval that would

give guidance to Regional Planning staff, project applicants, and the public. While project-specific conditions of approval and mitigation measures could still be applied by the County on a project-by-project basis, the proposed Zoning Code amendments would establish baselines standards to better inform and standardize project design.

6. The proposed project provides economic benefits to the residents of Los Angeles County.

The proposed project streamlines the permitting process for small-scale and structure-mounted solar and wind energy projects, which would support distributed energy generation. In turn, this would encourage homeowners and business owners to purchase and install renewable energy technologies, thereby supporting renewable energy businesses and providing for a localized, secure method of energy generation. By encouraging homeowners and business owners to use renewable energy, the proposed project would also support diversification of California's energy portfolio.

Conclusion

The Board finds and determines that it has considered the identified means of lessening or avoiding the project's significant effects and that to the extent any significant direct or indirect environmental effects, including cumulative project impacts, remain unavoidable or not reduced to below a level of significance after mitigation, such impacts are acceptable in light of the social, legal, economic, environmental, technological, and other project benefits discussed above, and such benefits override, outweigh, and make "acceptable" any such remaining environmental impacts of the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15092(b)).

Attachment A

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

ATTACHMENT A
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

CEQA Section 21081.6 requires that, upon certification of an EIR, "the public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation."[1]

This mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) has been developed in compliance with CEQA Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15097. The mitigation measures in the table are coded by alphanumeric identification consistent with the EIR. The following items are identified for each mitigation measure:

- **Action Required.** Provides a summary of the step(s) that need to be taken by the monitoring party to comply with the mitigation measure.
- **Mitigation Timing.** Indicates when implementation of the mitigation measure would occur relative to construction. For mitigation involving development of a plan, the timing of the mitigation measure is assumed to include plan preparation (occurring prior to construction) and plan implementation (occurring during and/or after construction).
- **Responsible Party.** Indicates the agency or other entity that is responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented and that monitoring and reporting activities occur.
- **Monitoring Party.** Assigns implementation of monitoring and reporting activities to the applicable agency.
- **Completion.** Provides a location for the monitoring party to record their initials and the compliance date.

[1] CEQA Section 21000–21177. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
Agriculture and Forestry Resources								
MM AGR-1 When impacts relative to Farmland, agricultural zoning, Agricultural Opportunity Areas / Agricultural Resource Areas, or Williamson Act contracts are determined to be significant during the environmental review process for future Conditional Use Permits for utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, all feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures include avoidance of agricultural resources, preservation of agriculture, and inclusion of compatibility buffers near areas intended for agricultural uses.	Incorporation of measures into future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy projects to avoid, preserve, or buffer agricultural areas.	Develop Measures	Implement Measures	Maintain measures	DRP	Future Project Applicants		
Air Quality								
MM AQ-1 During the environmental review process for future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, an air quality technical report that includes project construction phasing, timing, and operational details shall be prepared using the current air quality model available from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Project emissions shall be modeled and then evaluated based on current SCAQMD and Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (AVAQMD) thresholds. The technical analysis shall be prepared to analyze construction and operational emissions. If air quality impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated to reduce	Preparation of an air quality technical report for future utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities and development of project-specific measures to reduce any significant air quality impacts that were identified in the air quality technical report. Incorporation of feasible measures into project construction, design, and/or operation.	Conduct study; incorporate project design measures	Implement measures, if required	Implement measures, if required	DRP	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
impacts. Examples of standard construction mitigation measures include the following: Consistent with SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403, it is required that fugitive dust generated by construction activities be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site, by following the dust control measures listed below: a. During clearing, ground disturbance, grading, earthmoving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease. b. During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement and construction work areas damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas later in the morning, after work is completed for the day, and whenever winds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph). c. Soil stockpiled for more than 2 days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with nontoxic soil binders to prevent dust generation. d. Speeds on unpaved roads shall be reduced to less than 15 mph. e. All ground disturbance, grading, and excavation operations shall be halted when								

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
wind speeds exceed 25 mph. f. Dirt and debris spilled onto paved surfaces at the project site and on the adjacent roadways shall be swept, vacuumed, and/or washed at the end of each workday. g. If import/export of soil materials would be required, all trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered and/or a minimum 2 feet of freeboard shall be maintained. h. At a minimum, at each vehicle egress from the project site to a paved public road, a pad consisting of washed gravel (minimum size: 1 inch) shall be installed and maintained in clean condition to a depth of at least 6 inches and extending at least 30 feet wide and at least 50 feet long (or as otherwise directed by the SCAQMD or AVAQMD). If a washed gravel pad is not desired, a wheel-washing system shall be installed and used to remove bulk material from tires and vehicle undercarriages before vehicles exit the site. i. Any additional requirements of SCAQMD and AVAQMD Rule 403 shall be reviewed and complied with. The following measures shall be adhered to during project grading / ground disturbance and construction to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) from construction equipment: a. Heavy-duty diesel-powered construction								

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
equipment rated at greater than 50 horsepower shall be equipped with Tier 4 or better diesel engines. b. The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum size. c. The amount of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest amount of equipment is operating at any one time. d. Construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications. e. Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment over 50 horsepower. f. Electric equipment shall be used in lieu of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible. g. Construction equipment shall be prohibited from idling in excess of 5 minutes. h. Zero-VOC-content architectural coatings during project construction/application of paints and other architectural coatings to reduce ozone (O3) precursors shall be used. If zero-VOC paint cannot be used, the developer shall avoid application of architectural coatings during the peak smog season: July, August, and September. The developer shall procure architectural coatings from a supplier in compliance with the requirements of SCAQMD's Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings).								

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
MM AQ-2 Pursuant to a Los Angeles County (County) Board Motion of May 14, 2013, Agenda Item No. 79-B, project-specific mitigation measures and/or other project-related conditions of approval for all discretionary renewable energy projects shall include the following measures related to fugitive dust control during both construction and operation. The County Departments of Regional Planning, Public Works, and Public Health shall work jointly to refine and implement these measures respective of their individual authorities to ensure fugitive dust from renewable energy projects is controlled appropriately. a. Continue to require a fugitive dust control plan for review and approval by the AVAQMD. b. Require a dust plume response plan including weather stations and monitors with wind speed, wind direction, temperature, and humidity sensors. c. Establish full or partial perimeter vegetation for both visual screening and limiting the off-site movement of dust. d. Require reestablishment of vegetative ground cover to the greatest extent feasible throughout the array areas for the life of the subject permit. e. Continue to require decommissioning plans to include restoration of disturbed areas with native vegetation at the end of the life of the	Incorporation of project-specific measures to test for and control fugitive dust.	Prepare fugitive dust control plans	Implement required measures	Implement required measures	DRP -AND- DPH	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
project. f. Require additional mitigation monitoring and inspections during the first 2 years to ensure compliance with dust mitigation measures and other conditions of project approval. g. When appropriate, require a dedicated on-site compliance monitor during construction to independently monitor and report project compliance. h. When appropriate, require installation of mechanical dust-monitoring devices at each project site to identify locations on site that require dust control treatment. The dust sensors will also clarify whether the project is a dust source during a wind event. i. Require use of green-screen fencing cover during construction and use of tarps over dirt in trucks to limit off-site movement of dust and limit visual impacts during construction.								
Biological Resources								
MM BIO-1 All renewable energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to CEQA review, and when impacts to biological resources are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures may include, but are not limited, to the following: Establish buffers of a minimum of 100 feet between	Incorporation of project-specific measures to minimize effects to biological resources.	Design project consistent with permit requirements and avoidance measures, if any; design habitat restoration, if required	Implement project-specific measures, if required	Conduct restoration, if required	DRP; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Water Quality Control Board; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
solar panels and the edge of existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features. For significant impacts to sensitive species, natural communities, or ecological process (like wildlife movement or hydrological processes) resulting from ground disturbance impacts associated with ground mounted facilities, compensatory mitigation would generally involve one or a combination of the following actions: On or off-site habitat preservation, habitat restoration/enhancement, long-term habitat management activities, and/or species translocations. For impacts to federal or state listed species from ground-mounted facilities, incidental take authorization would be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife. For impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and waters from ground mounted facilities, permits and/or approvals would be required from the appropriate regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands and waters. For potential impacts to avian species related to reflection/refraction of light from solar projects (referred to as lake effects), solar projects sited away from existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features would have a reduced potential to attract waterfowl and other bird species and a reduced potential to impact these species								

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
from collision with panels; or projects sited adjacent to existing lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, playas, and other water features or areas where bird use determined to be high and the risk of avian collision with panels is considered high should incorporate anti-reflective or low-glare solar panels or design the configuration of solar panels so that they do not mimic natural waterbodies (e.g., avoid large contiguous areas of solar panels; intersperse areas of panels with areas of non panels).								
MM BIO-2 Projects determined to have a significant high risk of avian collision with panels after application of MM-BIO-1 (lake effect related measures) shall be required to develop a Bird Conservation Strategy for submittal and approval by the County and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bird Conservation Strategy shall describe avoidance, minimization, monitoring, and/or compensatory mitigation measures that would offset the adverse effects of bird collision.	Development of Bird Conservation Strategy	Determine impact potential; develop strategy, if required	Implement measures identified in the strategy, if any	Implement measures identified in the strategy, if any	DRP -AND- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Future Project Applicants		
MM BIO-3 Ministerial permits for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems will include a notice to the permittee explicitly stating that additional state and federal regulations may apply to the construction and operation of the small-scale ground-mounted solar energy system including, but not limited to, U.S. Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.	Update Zoning Conformance Review application to require permittees for small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems to be given notice of applicable laws protecting biological resources	County to provide notice to permittees	Permittees to adhere to applicable state and federal regulations	Permittees to adhere to applicable state and federal regulations	DRP and permitting agency, if applicable	DRP and permitting agency, if applicable		
Hazards and Hazardous Materials								
MM HAZ-1 During the environmental review process for future discretionary permits for wind	Development of a Fire Protection Plan, if necessary.	Prepare plan, if required	Implement measures	Implement measures	DRP	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
turbines, the County may determine that a Fire Protection Plan (FPP) should be prepared for review and approval. An FPP is a technical report that considers the topography, geology, combustible vegetation (fuel types), climatic conditions and fire history of the proposed project location. The plan addresses the following in terms of compliance with applicable codes and regulations including but not limited to: water supply, primary and secondary access, travel time to the nearest fire station, structure setback from property lines, ignition-resistant building features, fire protection systems and equipment, impacts to existing emergency services, defensible space and vegetation management. When impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures shall be incorporated. Examples of standard mitigation measures that are typically applied include fire suppression systems, sufficient on-site water storage, inclusion of fire management zones, and funded agreements with fire protection districts.			identified in plan	identified in plan				
Hydrology and Water Quality								
MM HYD-1 All small-scale wind energy systems, temporary meteorological towers, utility-scale ground-mounted solar and wind energy projects, and utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy projects that require a discretionary permit shall be subject to California Environmental Quality Act review, and when impacts to groundwater resources are determined to be potentially significant, evaluation of groundwater resources, such as the preparation of a groundwater resources	Development of a Groundwater Resources Investigation Report, if necessary.	Prepare plan, if required	Implement measures identified in plan	Implement measures identified in plan	DPW	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
investigation report, may be required by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The report shall analyze the drawdown of wells and recommend feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures to reduce impacts, such as well monitoring and pumping caps, or requiring water from other sources.								
Noise								
MM NOI-1 Construction Noise and Vibration Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities. During the environmental review process for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with the County Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding construction-related noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. When noise and/or vibration impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include requiring construction equipment to contain noise control features such as shrouds, mufflers, and air-inlet silencers and using mobile sound barriers.	Consultation with the DPH regarding construction-related noise and vibration for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted facilities. Preparation of a noise study, if required by the DPH, and development of project-specific measures to reduce any significant noise and/or vibration impacts. Incorporation of feasible measures into project construction.	Consult with DPH; Conduct study if required	Implement measures, if required		DRP -AND- DPH	Future Project Applicants		
MM NOI-2 Operational Noise and Vibration Study for Small-Scale Wind Energy Systems. During the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future	Consultation with the DPH regarding operational noise and vibration for future	Consult with DPH; Conduct study if		Implement measures, if required	DRP -AND-	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
small-scale ground- or structure-mounted wind energy systems, consultation with DPH regarding operational noise and vibration shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise and vibration study, a noise and vibration study shall be conducted. The noise study shall address A-weighted sound levels as well as low-frequency sound levels anticipated to be generated during operation of the proposed system. When noise impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise and vibration study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include revising the turbine layout, curtailing nighttime use, using an alternate turbine manufacturer with a lower noise rating, implementing noise reduction technology, and adding additional setbacks from sensitive receptors.	small-scale ground- or structure-mounted wind energy systems. Preparation of a noise study, if required by the DPH, and development of project-specific measures to reduce any significant noise impacts that were identified in the noise study. Incorporation of feasible measures into project design and operation.	required; Incorporate any project design measures			DPH			
MM NOI-3 Operational Noise Study for Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities. During the environmental review process for CUPs for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted renewable energy facilities and during the environmental review process for Minor CUPs for future utility-scale structure-mounted wind energy facilities, consultation with DPH regarding operation noise shall be required. In the event that DPH requires a noise study, a noise study shall be conducted. For proposed wind energy facilities, the noise study shall include analysis of pure tone noise and address A-weighted sound levels as well as low-frequency sound levels anticipated to be generated during operation of the proposed system. When operational noise impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific	Consultation with the DPH regarding operational noise for future utility-scale ground- and structure-mounted facilities. Preparation of a noise study, if required by the DPH, and development of project-specific measures to reduce any significant noise impacts that were identified in the noise study. Incorporation of feasible measures into project design and operation.	Consult with DPH; Conduct study if required; Incorporate any project design measures		Implement measures, if required	DRP -AND- DPH	Future Project Applicants		

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Action Required	Mitigation Timing			Responsible Agency or Party	Monitoring Agency or Party	Completed	
		Pre-Construction	*During Construction*	*Post-Construction*			*Initials*	*Date*
mitigation measures as specified by DPH and/or as specified in the noise study shall be incorporated into the project to the extent practicable. Examples of standard mitigation measures required may include use of low-noise-rated transformers, use of an alternative wind turbine manufacturer with a lower noise rating, and project redesign to situate noise-generating equipment away from sensitive receptors.								
Traffic and Circulation								
MM TRF-1 During the environmental review process for future discretionary utility-scale ground-mounted renewable energy facilities, consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding construction-related traffic shall be required. In the event that DPW requires a traffic study, a traffic study shall be conducted and submitted to DPW. When traffic impacts are determined to be significant, feasible and appropriate project-specific mitigation measures as specified by DPW and/or in the traffic study shall be incorporated into the project. Examples of standard mitigation measures required include designing the project to avoid potential impacts; installing temporary traffic controls near construction sites; ; making physical road improvements; and implementing transportation demand management programs, including encouraging construction workers to carpool.	Consultation with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (DPW) regarding construction-related traffic. Preparation of a traffic study, if required by DPW, and development of project-specific measures to reduce any significant traffic impacts that were identified in the traffic study. Incorporation of feasible measures into project construction.	Consult with DPW; Conduct study if required	Implement measures, if required		DRP -AND- DPW	Future Project Applicants		

DRP: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
DPH: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
DPW: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

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