Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Wind and Temp Met Projects - Summary

Permitted with a <u>Minor CUP</u> if:	• The project is a "small-scale" wind energy system (i.e. energy used primarily on-site and rated capacity of 50 kilowatts or less) or a temporary meteorological tower, AND • The property is zoned R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-A, A-1, A-2, or O-S.
<u>Prohibitions</u>:	• Utility-scale wind energy facilities are prohibited in all zones. • Small-scale wind energy systems and temporary meteorological towers are prohibited in all zones not listed above.
DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS for SMALL-SCALE WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS and TEMPORARY METEOROLOGICAL TOWERS	
Minimum Lot Size	• 0.5 acres.
Maximum Tower Height	• Lots less than 1 acre: 35 feet. • Lots 1 < 2 acres: 65 feet. • Lots 2+ acres: 85 feet. • Tower height measured from ground to the top of the tower (<u>excluding</u> wind turbine generator, blades, and wind measuring devices).
Minimum Clearance	• Minimum 20 feet from ground. • Safe clearance required between a tower/system and all structures and trees.
Setbacks	• Between a tower/system and any property line or road right-of-way: Height of the tower/system (<u>including</u> any wind turbine generator, wind-measuring devices, and the highest vertical extent of any blades), provided that the required distance shall also comply with any applicable fire setback requirements pursuant to state law; • Prohibited within or over drainage, utility, or other established easements, or on or over property lines.
Guy Wires	• Prohibited.
Colors	• The colors used in the construction materials or finished surface must be visually compatible with surrounding development.
Noise	• Noise from a small-scale wind energy system cannot exceed 60 dBA (weighted decibels) SEL (single event noise level) as measured at the closest neighboring inhabited dwelling, except during short-term events, such as utility outages and severe windstorms.
Lighting	• A safety light that meets Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards is required for all systems exceeding 50 feet in height including any wind turbine generator, wind-measuring devices, and the highest vertical extent of any blades; • A safety light may also be required on shorter towers; • All required lights must be shielded from adjacent properties, and no other lights can be placed upon the tower.
Climbing Apparatus	• All climbing apparatus must be located at least 12 feet above the ground, and the tower must be designed to prevent climbing within the first 12 feet.
Signs	• Limited to one; • Maximum of 18 inches in length and one foot in height; • Must be posted at the base of the tower; • Must include a notice of no trespassing, a warning of high voltage, and the phone number of the property owner to call in the event of an emergency.
Automatic Overspeed Controls	• Manual and automatic overspeed controls are required to limit the blade rotation speed to within the design limits of the small-scale wind energy system.
Wind Turbine Generator	• The wind turbine generator must be certified by a qualified, licensed engineer as meeting the requirements of wind turbine-specific safety and/or performance standards adopted by the national or international standards-setting body; • The wind turbine generator must have a manufacturer's warranty with at least five years remaining from the date the application is filed; • The model of equipment proposed must have a documented record of at least one year of reliable operation at a site with average wind speeds of at least 12 mph.
Visual Effects	• Small-scale wind energy system must not be placed or constructed where it silhouettes against the skyline above any major ridgeline when viewed from any designated Scenic Highway or Major, Secondary, or Limited Secondary Highway, or from any significantly inhabited area to the satisfaction of Regional Planning; • The top of a small-scale wind energy system, including the wind turbine generator and the highest vertical extent of the blades, must be located at least 25 vertical feet below the top of any adjacent major ridgeline, and a small-scale wind energy system must be located at least 100 horizontal feet from any adjacent major ridgeline; • Any small-scale wind energy system that is placed within the viewshed of a designated Scenic Highway or Major, Secondary, or Limited Secondary Highway will be assessed for its visual effects, and appropriate conditions relating to siting, buffers, and design of the system will be applied; • The placement of a small-scale wind energy system must not obstruct views of the ocean from any residence or highway, and must otherwise conform to the policies and standards of any applicable Local Coastal Plan.

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ADDITIONAL STANDARDS for GROUND-MOUNTED SMALL-SCALE WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS	
Trellis-Style Towers	• Use of trellis-style towers is prohibited.
Buffers	• No part of a ground-mounted small-scale wind energy system can be closer than 300 feet or five times the tallest wind tower height (including the wind turbine generator, wind-measuring devices, and highest vertical extent of any blades), whichever is greater, from the following: o Bat roosting sites o Recorded open space easements and publicly designated preserve areas o Riparian areas and wetland • No part of a ground-mounted small-scale wind energy system can be closer than one mile from a known golden eagle nest site.
Tower Base	• The vegetation within a 10-foot radius of the base of a wind tower must be mowed, and appropriate measures shall be applied to prevent re-growth, but removal of existing vegetation root systems is prohibited.
AREA-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS	
Coastal Zone	• Must comply with applicable Local Coastal Plan.
Military Operations or Airport Influence Area	• As part of Minor CUP and CUP, appropriate agencies are consulted and comments considered by decision-maker.

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