

# Renewable Energy Ordinance Update


March 27, 2025




# Simultaneous Translation Available

Simultaneous language translation is not available if you use dial-in or call-in phone audio features.


## Windows/ MacOS Users

1. Go to the bottom control buttons, click **Interpretation** 
2. Click on the language that you would like to hear.
3. (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click Mute Original Audio

## Android/iOS Users


1. In your meeting controls, tap ellipses 
2. Tap Language Interpretation
3. Tap the language you want to hear
4. (Optional) Tap the toggle to Mute Original Audio
5. Click Done

# Click on the Interpretation Icon



# Countywide Residential Design Standards

November 17, 2022




Listen In:

- ✓ Original Audio (Interpretation off)
- EN English
- あ Japanese
- ES Spanish

Mute Original Audio

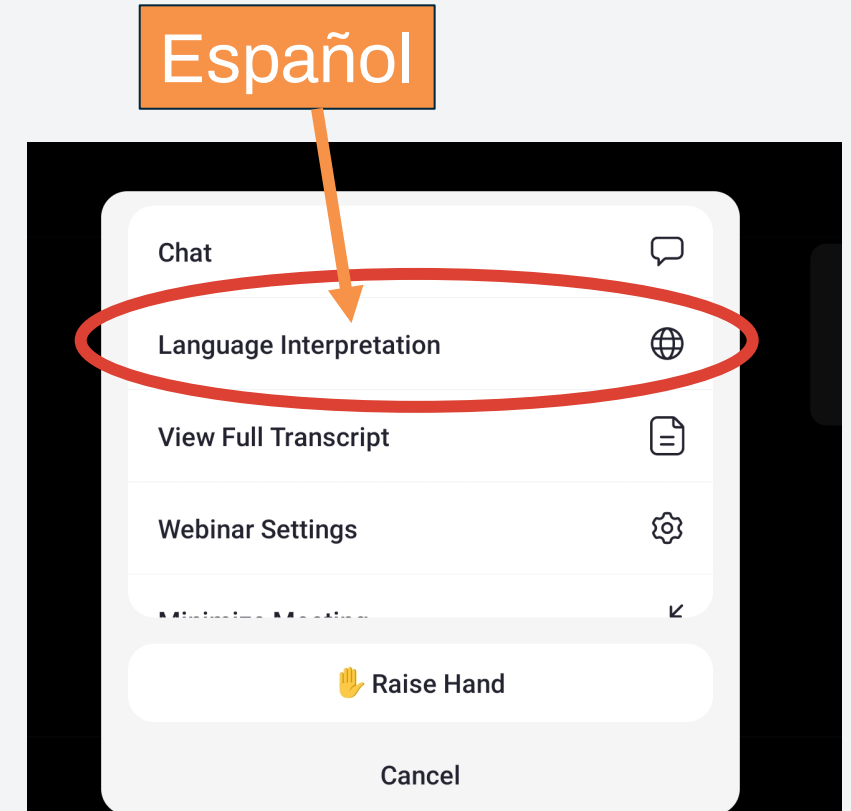
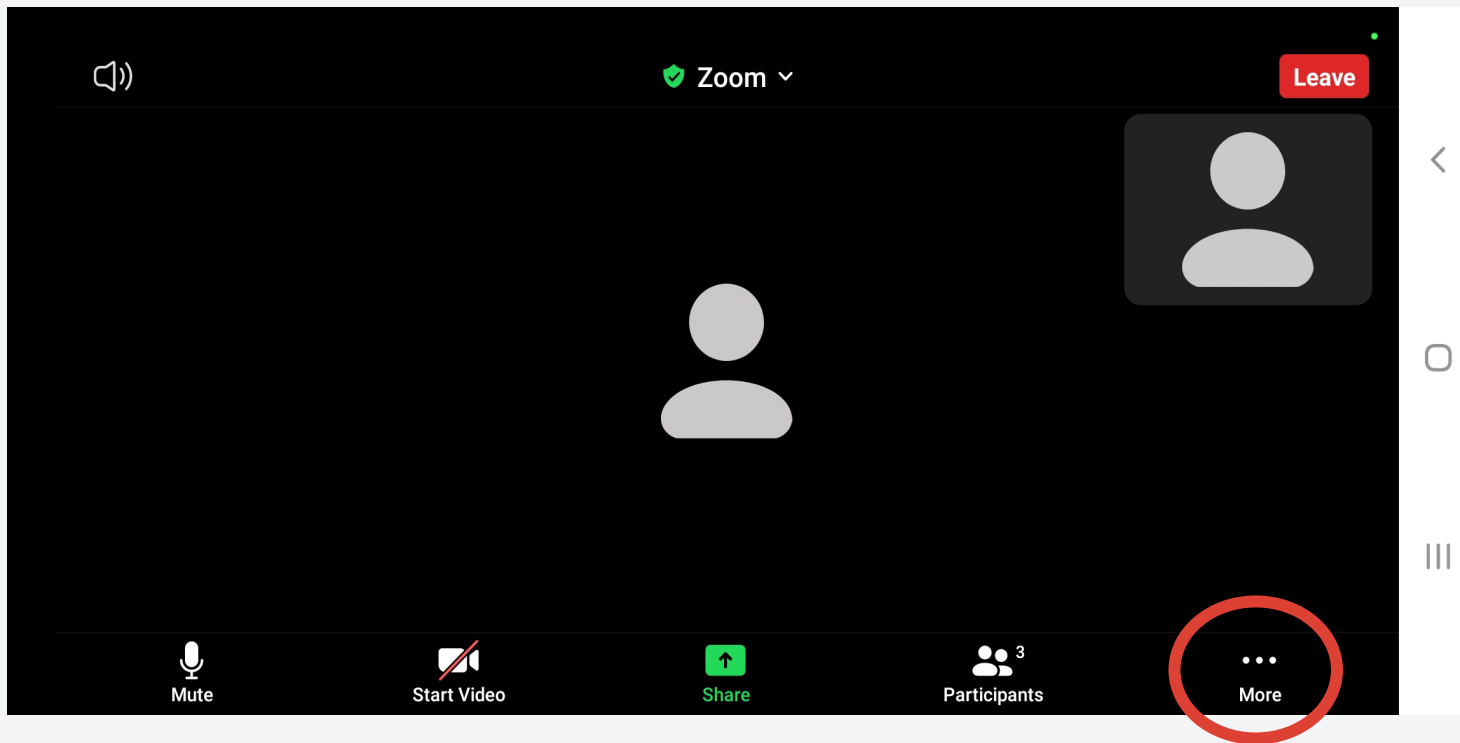
Audio Settings ^

Chat ^ Raise Hand Interpretation



Español

# Tap on More button or ellipsis ...



# Welcome / Introductions

## County Project Team

- Connie Chung, Deputy Director, Advance Planning
- Edward Rojas, Assistant Deputy Director, Advance Planning
- Mark Herwick, Supervising Regional Planner
- Katie Lample, Regional Planner
- Lorraine Acuña, Regional Planner
- Caroline Chen, Senior Regional Planner
- Interpreters: Martín and Rocky

# Agenda

- Project Background
- Project Overview
- Renewable Energy Technologies and Definitions
- Overview of Energy Policy and Goals
- Questions





**BACKGROUND**

# Background - Existing Ordinance

- The Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO) was adopted in December 2016. The REO sets requirements for:
  - Small scale and utility scale solar projects
  - Small scale wind projects
  - Temporary meteorological towers
- Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) is not explicitly defined in the County's Zoning Code. Currently, LA County Planning follows an interpretation memo that likens BESS to an Electric Distribution Substation.



# Background - Board Motions

- LA County Board of Supervisors passed two motions:
  - December 19, 2023 – “Developing a Los Angeles County Ordinance for Renewable Energy Zoning, Standards, and Requirements.”
  - April 9, 2024 – “Accelerating Renewable Energy Development and Promoting Community Resiliency in Los Angeles County.”

# Background - Current Work

- Technical Study
  - Overview of renewable energy technologies
  - Status of renewable energy projects in unincorporated LA County.
  - Policy analysis and recommendations.



# OUR PROJECT



# PROJECT GOALS - OVERALL

Update Renewable Energy Ordinance with a focus on utility-scale renewable energy facilities and add technologies such as BESS.



# PROJECT GOALS - RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

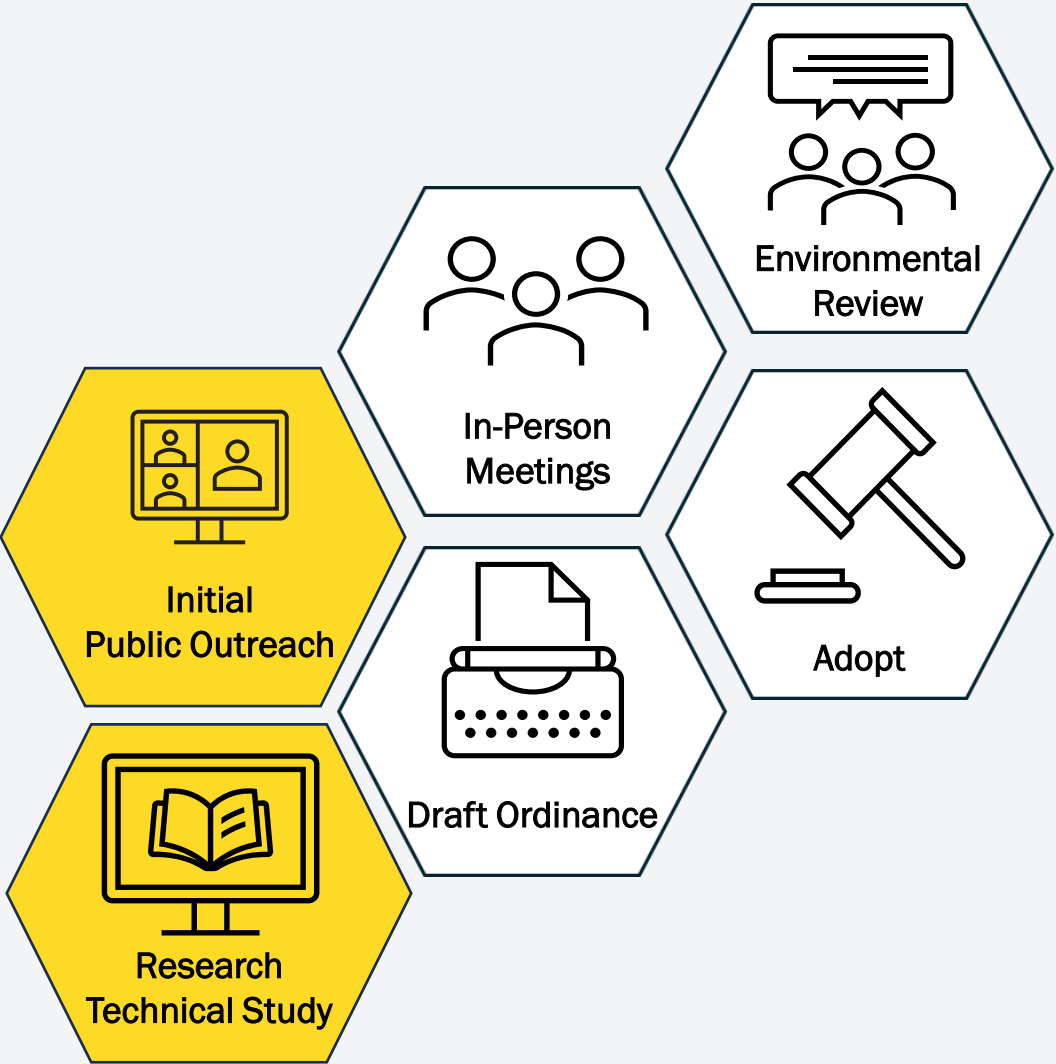
- Direction in Board Motion:
  - Update the Renewable Energy Ordinance, with a focus on accelerating development of utility-scale renewable energy
    - Identify areas in the County as renewable energy development zones
    - Establish a size threshold for ministerial/discretionary project approvals and define development standards for each
    - Develop approach for community benefits that promote community resiliency in impacted areas
    - Evaluate the ban on utility-scale wind energy
    - Apply relevant best practices and development standards from other California jurisdictions
  - Conduct outreach related to Renewable Energy project development
  - Align the update of the Renewable Energy Ordinance with the BESS Motion

# PROJECT GOALS - BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS)

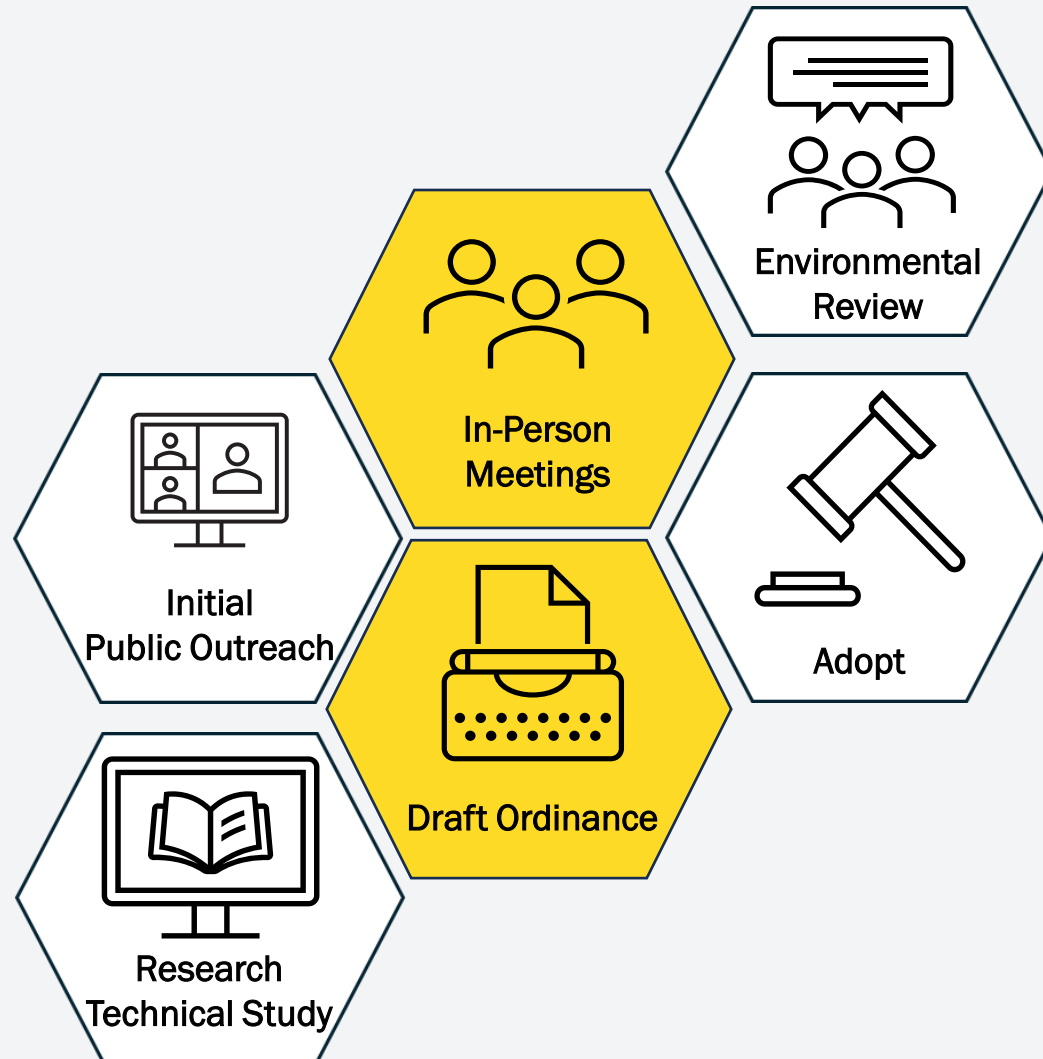
- Conduct outreach related to BESS
- Amend Title 22 to regulate BESS
  - Establish a size threshold for ministerial/discretionary project approvals
  - Identify siting criteria
  - Differentiate primary use projects and accessory use projects
  - Consider:
    - Overconcentration of large primary use BESS
    - Hazards, such as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
    - Noise impacts
    - Decommissioning protocols
    - Emerging technologies



# PROCESS



# PROCESS



# PROCESS



# **TECHNOLOGIES AND DEFINITIONS**

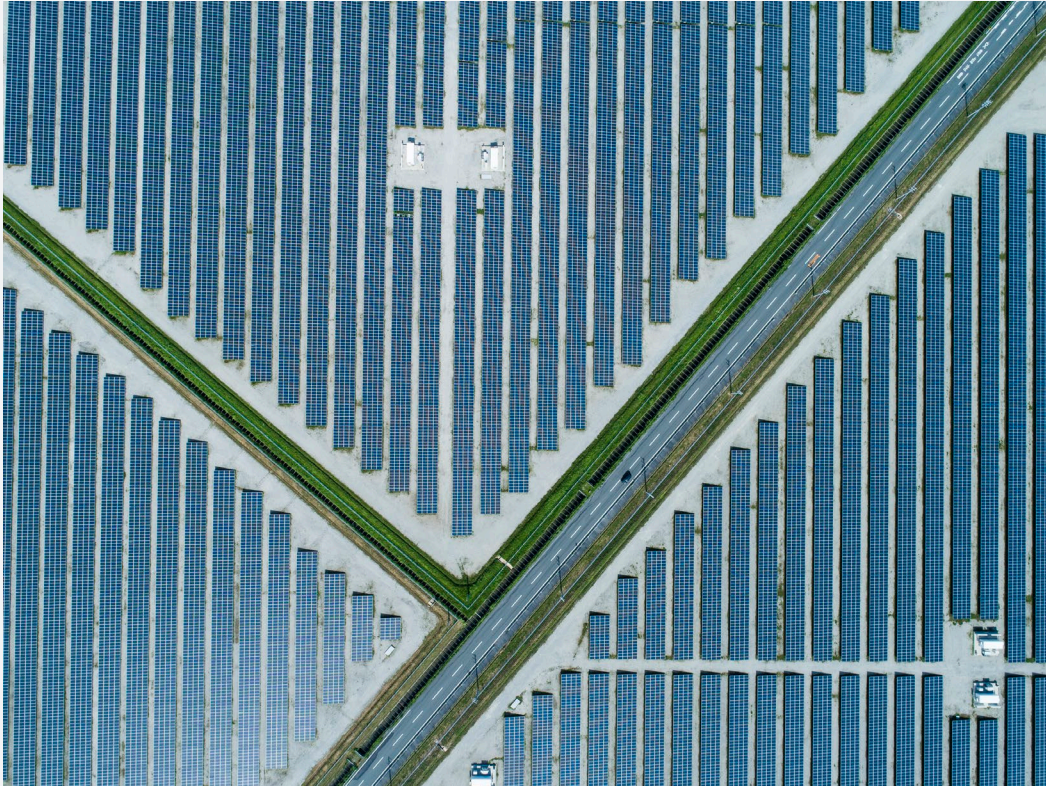


# Overview of Technologies

- BESS
- Solar
- Wind
- Green Hydrogen



# Utility-Scale Solar



Ground-mounted utility-scale solar

- Typically affixed to the ground
- Converts solar energy into electrical or thermal energy
- Energy produced is primarily for off-site use



# Utility-Scale Wind



- Converts wind energy into electrical energy
- Energy produced is primarily for off-site use, or
- Exceeding a rated capacity of 50 kilowatts

# Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)



- Electrochemical devices that charge, or collect, energy from the grid or a generation facility
- Store and discharge energy at a later time
- Helpful for utilizing renewable energy and increasing grid flexibility

# Green Hydrogen

Source: <https://www.sbec.com/About/Company-News/--SB-Completes-Green-Hydrogen-Plant-/>



Photo of a green hydrogen production facility in Woodbine, Georgia  
(15,000 kg/day of liquid hydrogen)

- Electrolysis: the splitting of hydrogen and oxygen from water molecules
- When the electricity to operate electrolysis is renewable, the hydrogen is considered 'green'

# Definitions

**Carbon Neutral** – Balancing of carbon emissions by offsetting them through carbon removal (ex. cap and trade)

**Net-zero** – When the amount of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activities is balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere.

**Renewable Energy** - Energy coming from resources that are naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, tides, waves, bioenergy, hydrogen, and geothermal.

**Utility-Scale** - Our zoning code currently defines ‘utility-scale’ as being primarily for off-site use. For utility-scale wind it is the same, with the addition of having a rated capacity greater than 50 kw.

**Distributed Energy Resources (DER)** – Decentralized sources of energy that are smaller than utility-scale energy sources and can be aggregated to provide the power necessary to meet regular demand.



# ENERGY GOALS

# California Energy Goals

SB 100 – 100% Clean Energy Act of 2018

1. **100% retail electricity to be supplied by renewable and zero carbon sources by 2045.**
2. Renewable energy portfolio standard requirement 60% by 2030.
3. Joint reporting by CEC, California Public Utilities Commission and California Air Resources Board. First report in 2021 and every 4 years thereafter.





# California AB 205 / AB 303

- AB 205 Adopted June 30, 2022
- **Gives the California Energy Commission the authority to issue a certificate for any:**
  - Photovoltaic solar facility, on-shore wind facility, thermal energy facility not powered by fossil fuels or nuclear fuels, with a generating capacity of at least 50 megawatts, battery energy storage system capable of storing 200 megawatt-hours or more of electricity;
- Electric transmission line from any such generating or storage facility to an interconnected transmission system; and
- Facility that manufactures, produces, or assembles wind, solar, or storage systems, with a capital investment of at least \$250,000,000 over a period of 5 years.
- **AB 205 explicitly supersedes local permitting AND local ordinances.**

# LA County - Climate Action Plan (CAP)

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions by Strategy – **Energy Supply**

### **Strategy 1:** Decarbonize the Energy Supply

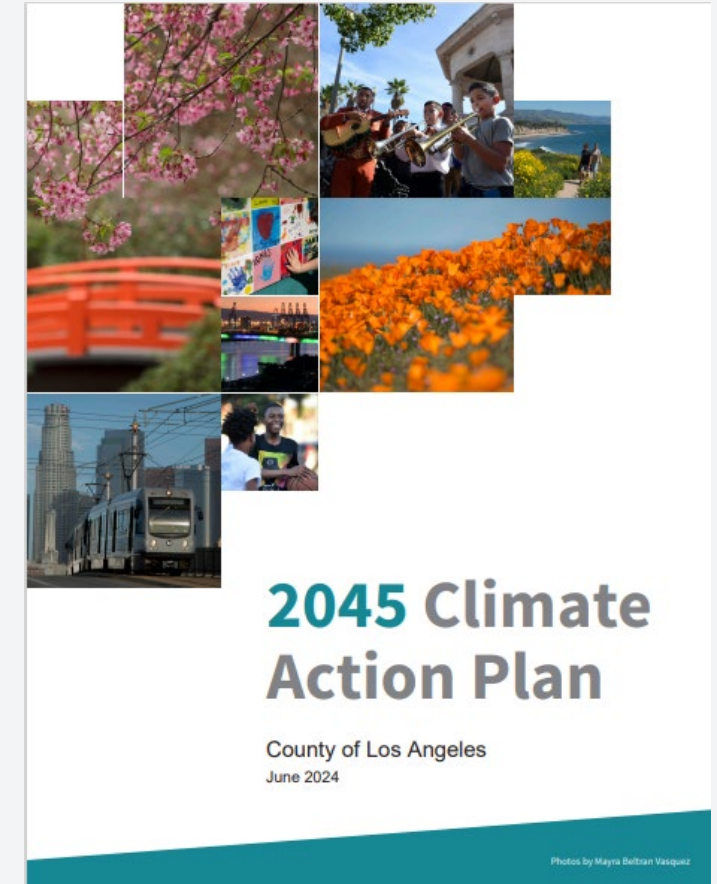
**Measure ES1:** Develop a Sunset Strategy for All Oil and Gas Operations

**Measure ES2:** Procure Zero-Carbon Electricity

**Measure ES3:** Increase Renewable Energy Production

**Measure ES4:** Increase Energy Resilience

**Measure ES5:** Establish GHG Requirements for New Development



# LA County - OurCounty

## GOAL 7

A fossil fuel-free LA County

### STRATEGY 7A

Transition to a **zero-carbon energy system** that reduces air and climate pollution and that minimizes the dangers of a changing climate to our communities and economy.







**NEXT STEPS**

# Workshop Meetings

- Renewable Energy Technologies (May 13<sup>th</sup>)
- BESS (June 17<sup>rd</sup>)

# Stay Involved

- Survey
- Listening Sessions
- Mailing List

# CONTACT US

**Website:** <https://bit.ly/reo-update>

**Email:** [RenewableEnergy@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:RenewableEnergy@planning.lacounty.gov)

**Phone:** 213-974-6476

**Mail:** LA County Planning  
320 W. Temple Street,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Fill out our  
Survey**



<https://arcg.is/OTCbjT0>





**Q & A**