



County of Los Angeles Renewable Energy Ordinance Update Program Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

State Clearinghouse No. 2026080075

Project No. PRJ2025-004286

Ordinance No. RPPL2025003692

Plan Amendment No. RPPL2026001579

Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2026001581

Simultaneous Translation Available

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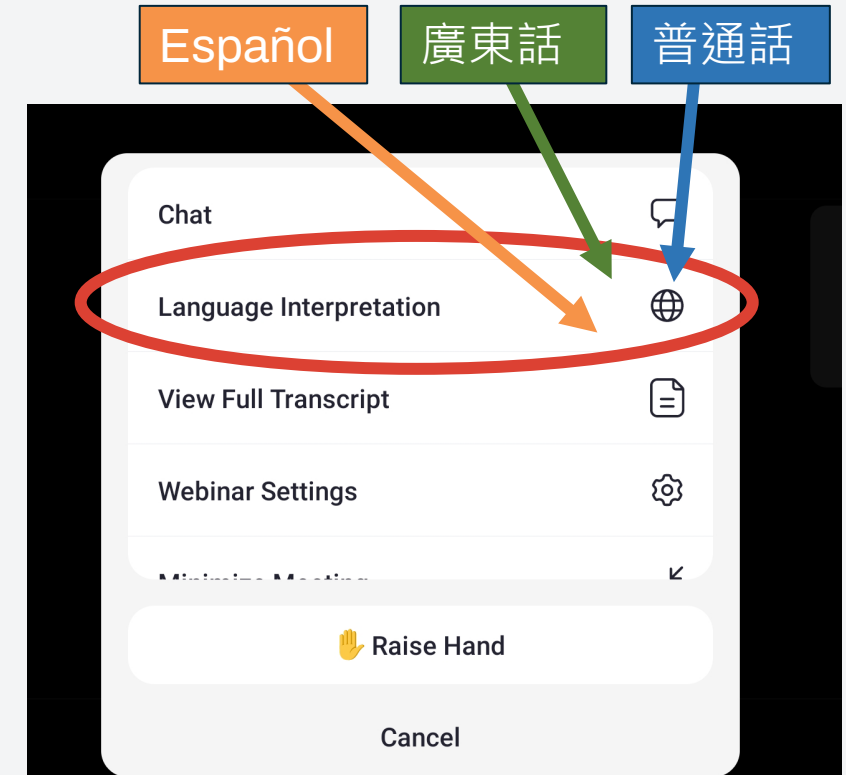
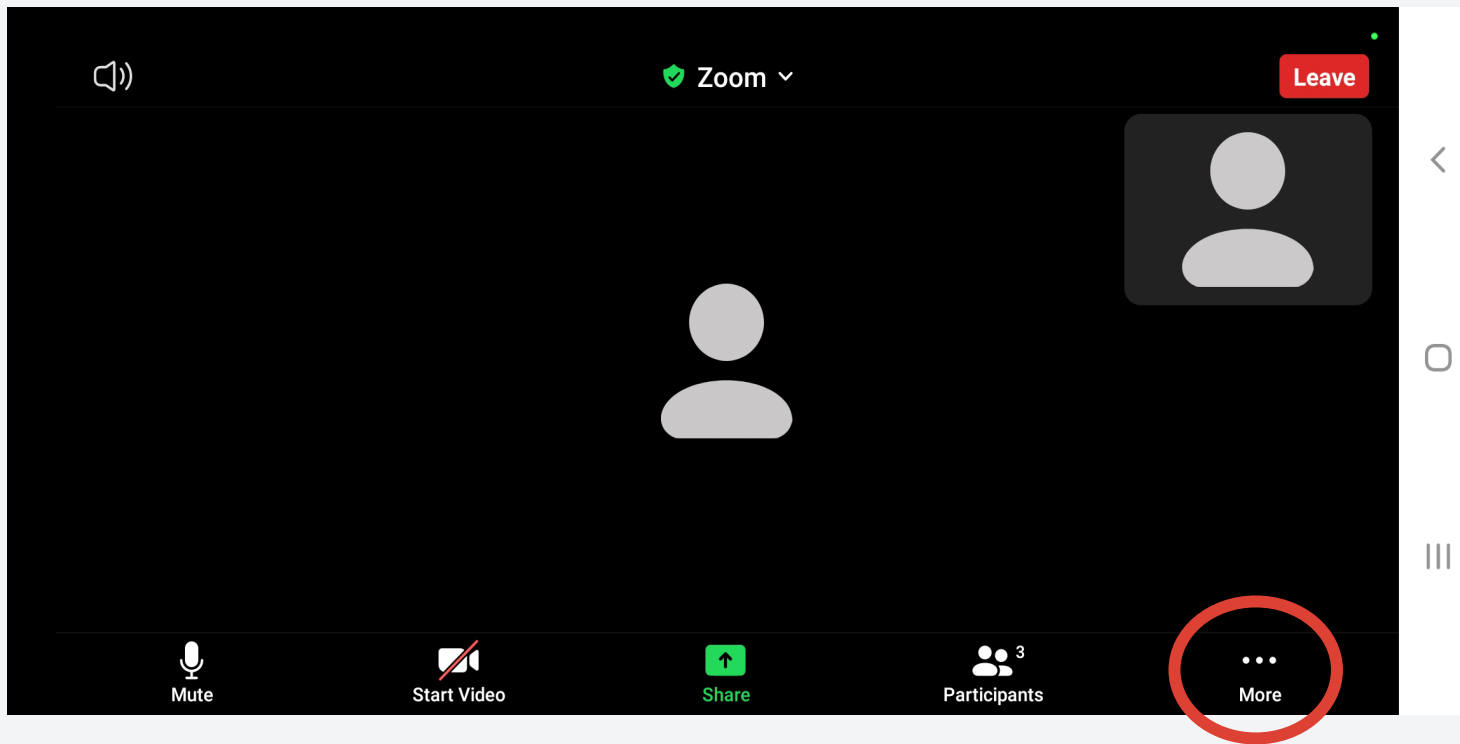
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Meeting Attendee Guide

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO) Update Overview
3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Requirements
4. Scoping Comments
5. Meeting Closure

Introductions

LA County Department of Regional Planning

- Mark Herwick, Supervising Planner
- Lorraine Acuña, Regional Planner
- Hayat Rasul, Regional Planner
- Caroline Chen, Senior Planner

Aspen Environmental Group

- Tatiana Inouye, Project Manager

Project Overview

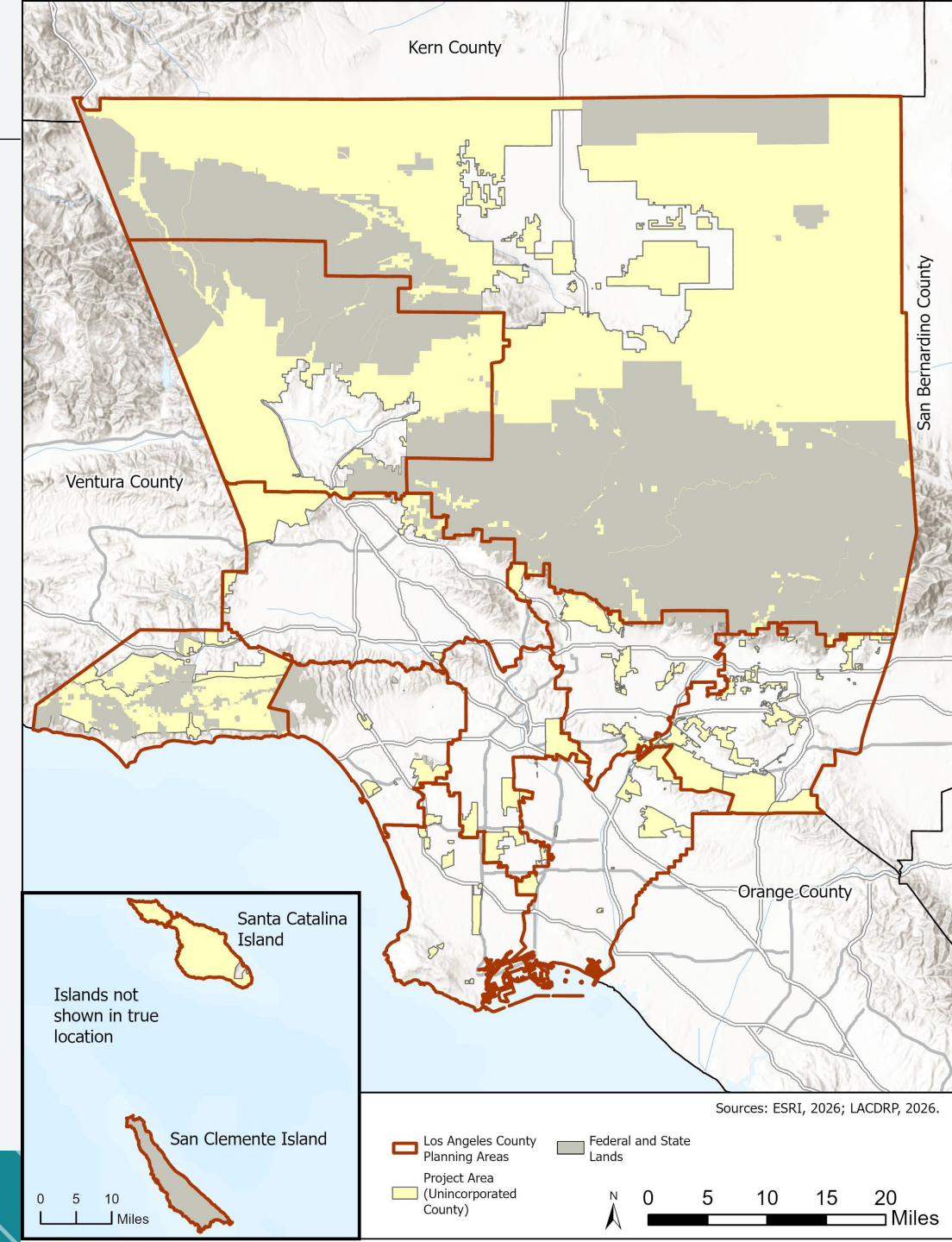
Current Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO)

- Adopted in 2016 to regulate renewable energy facilities (solar, wind, and temporary meteorological towers)
- Key Existing Provisions:
 - Requires Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for ground-mounted utility-scale solar projects
 - Bans utility-scale wind energy
 - Prohibits utility-scale solar projects in Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) and Economic Opportunity Areas (EOAs)
 - Mandates underground electric transmission lines associated with utility-scale solar projects
 - Mandates setbacks from agricultural zones

Project Location

The Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO) Update applies to unincorporated Los Angeles County, which consists of 11 planning areas:

- Antelope Valley
- Santa Clarita Valley
- San Fernando Valley
- Santa Monica Mountains
- Coastal Islands
- Westside
- South Bay
- Metro
- Gateway
- West San Gabriel Valley
- East San Gabriel Valley



Board of Supervisors Motions

December 2023: Developing a Los Angeles County Ordinance for Renewable Energy Zoning, Standards, and Requirements

- Directed LA County Planning to develop permitting structure and development standards for battery energy storage systems (BESS)

April 2024: Accelerating Renewable Energy Development and Promoting Community Resiliency in Los Angeles County

- Mandated comprehensive update to the current REO

Proposed REO Update Overview

Los Angeles County Code Title 22 Amendments

- Amends Title 22, Division 2 - Definitions, Chapter 22.14, to **update current definitions** related to ground-mounted and structure-mounted utility-scale solar, small-scale solar energy system, small-scale wind energy system, and temporary meteorological towers, and to **add definitions** for BESS and green hydrogen production facility
- Amends Title 22, Division 3 - Zones, to **update use regulations** for new and existing renewable energy systems and technologies
- Amends Title 22, Division 7 - Standards for Specific Uses, Section 22.140.510 – Renewable Energy, **to update or establish permitting processes** for new and existing renewable energy systems, facilities, and technologies

Proposed REO Update Overview

Specific Plan Amendments

- Amends **West Carson Transit-Oriented District Specific Plan** (Title 22, Division 11 - Specific Plans, Chapter 22.414) to update use regulations for existing renewable energy systems and technologies consistent with updates in Title 22, Division 3
- Amends **Florence-Firestone Transit-Oriented District Specific Plan** (Title 22, Division 11 - Specific Plans, Chapter 22.418) to update use regulations for existing renewable energy systems and technologies consistent with updates in Title 22, Division 3

Area Plan Amendment

- Amends the **Antelope Valley Area Plan** to remove prohibition of ground-mounted utility-scale renewable energy production facilities within Economic Opportunity Areas (EOAs)

Proposed REO Update Overview

Definitions added to Title 22

- **Battery energy storage system (BESS).** An electrochemical device that charges or collects energy from the grid or a generation facility, stores that energy, and then discharges that energy at a later time to provide electricity or other grid services. BESS can be used as uninterruptible power supplies.
- **Behind-the-meter.** A renewable energy generation facility or energy storage system installed on the customer's side of the utility meter and designed to support energy use by providing backup power, demand charge management, load shifting, or renewable energy integration on-site.
- **Energy storage systems.** A device or group of devices, used to store energy in order to supply electrical energy at a later time.
- **Front-of-the-meter.** A renewable energy generation facility connected directly to the energy transmission or distribution grid that produces energy for off-site use, or an energy storage facility that draws energy from a utility-scale renewable energy generation facility or from the energy transmission network and releases the energy into the transmission network.
- **Green hydrogen.** A facility that produces hydrogen through electrolysis using clean electricity generated from renewable energy sources, usually on-site, such as solar or wind power, to electrolyze water into hydrogen and oxygen and resulting in zero-carbon dioxide emissions.

Proposed REO Update Overview

Definitions added to Title 22

- **Megawatt (MW).** A unit of power that equals one million watts. Megawatts indicate the power capacity of utility-scale facilities and how much electricity can be produced at any given moment.
- **Megawatt-hour (MWh).** A measurement of power over time. This measurement indicates how much electricity a facility can deliver over a period of time.
- **Renewable energy generation facility.** A facility that generates electricity using fuel sources that restore themselves over a short period of time and do not diminish.
- **Thermal runaway.** The rapid uncontrolled release of heat energy resulting from a chemical reaction in a battery cell. Thermal runaway occurs when the heat generated within a battery exceeds the amount of heat that can be dissipated to its surroundings. This phenomenon can cascade to adjacent cells and progress through the energy storage system, thus the term “runaway.”
- **Utility-scale energy facility.** A renewable energy generation facility or energy storage system that is in front-of-the-meter.

Summary of Proposed Changes to REO - Primary Uses

Technology	Current REO	Proposed REO Update
Utility-scale battery energy storage systems facility	Not addressed in REO	• Definition added • Prohibited in SEA, VHFHSZ, Environmentally Sensitive Site, and Agricultural Resource Area • Requires CUP in these zones: A-2, C-M, M-1, M-1.5, M-2, IT
Green Hydrogen Production Facility	Not addressed in REO	
Utility-scale solar energy facility	• Prohibited within EOAs • Requires CUP in these zones: A-2, C-H, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-M, C-R, C-MJ, C-RU, M-1, M-1.5, M-2, R-R, MXD-RU, MXD, IT	• Allowed within EOAs • Requires CUP; zones are limited to the following: A-2, C-M, M-1, M-1.5, M-2, IT
Utility-scale wind energy facilities	Prohibited in all zones	Removed from Division 3

Summary of Proposed Changes to REO - Accessory Uses

Technology	Current REO	Proposed REO Update
Battery energy storage systems, behind the meter, wall-mounted	• Not addressed in REO • CA Energy Code requires BESS for newly constructed non-residential and high-rise multifamily buildings	• Definition added • Wall-mounted BESS permitted in all zones (consistent with CA Energy Code)
Battery energy storage systems, behind-the-meter, stand alone		Commercial and industrial BESS that consist of stand-alone battery units require ministerial SPR in all zones
Solar energy systems, behind the meter, structure mounted	Permitted in all zones	No change
Solar energy systems, behind-the-meter, ground-mounted	Permitted in all zones	No change, requires SPR

Summary of Proposed Changes to REO - Accessory Uses

Technology	Current REO	Proposed REO Update
Wind energy system, behind-the-meter, less than 20kw	• Categorized as 50 kW or less • Requires minor CUP in these zones: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-A, A-1, A-2, O-S.	• Requires ministerial SPR • Zones: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-A, A-1, A-2, C-RU, MXD-RU
Wind energy system, behind-the-meter, >20kw to 100kw		• Requires minor CUP • Zones: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-A, A-1, A-2, O-S, C-RU, MXD-RU
Wind energy system, behind-the-meter, >100kw to 1 MW		• Requires CUP • A-2 zone only

Summary of Proposed Changes to REO - Temp. Uses

Technology	Current REO	Proposed REO Update
Temporary meteorological towers	MCUP	SPR

Outreach

Survey: 515

Countywide Webinars:

1. REO Introduction
2. Renewable Energy Technologies
3. BESS

Community Meetings and Presentations: 8

Listening Sessions: 16

Draft Ordinance Comments

Submit written comments to:

Department of Regional Planning
Attention: Community Studies North Section
320 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

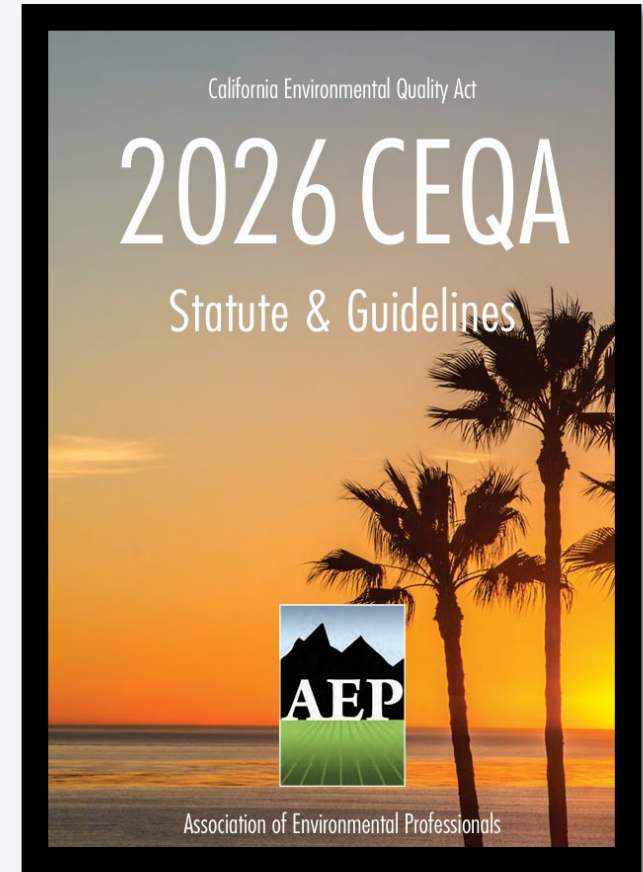
Email: RenewableEnergy@planning.lacounty.gov

<https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/reo-update>

CEQA Requirements

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Inform decision-makers and public about potentially significant physical effects on the environment
- Identify ways to avoid or significantly reduce environmental impacts
- Prevent significant avoidable impacts through feasible alternatives and/or mitigation
- If a project is approved with significant impacts, disclose to the public the reasons for approval



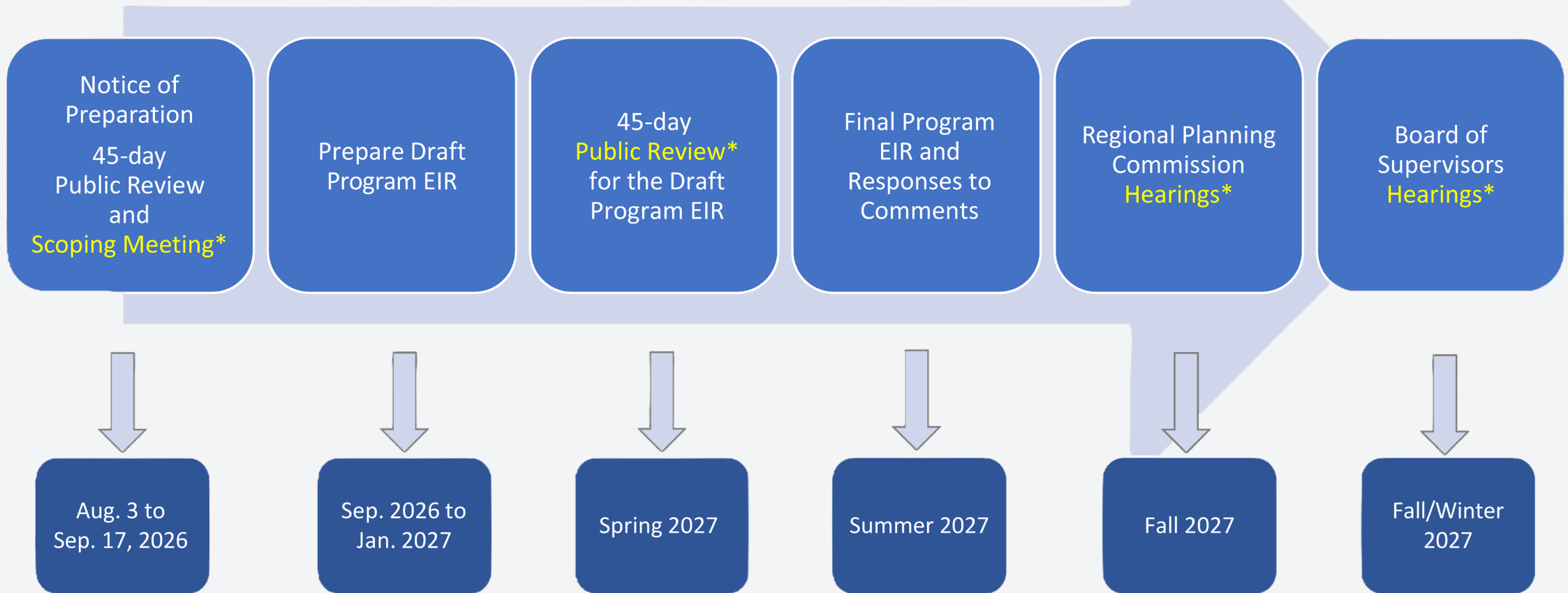
Purpose of a Scoping Meeting

To help determine the scope and content of the environmental information to be analyzed in the Program EIR through consultation with:

- Responsible and trustee agencies
- Adjacent cities/counties
- Interested organizations or individuals

This is an information-gathering meeting.

CEQA Process and Schedule



*Opportunities for Public Comment

Program EIR Contents

- Project description and objectives
- Environmental setting (baseline for impact analysis)
- Direct, indirect, and cumulative impact analyses
- Ways to avoid or reduce significant environmental impacts (mitigation measures & alternatives)
- Growth-Inducing Effects & Significant Irreversible Changes
- Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program
- Organizations and persons consulted

CEQA Environmental Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology & Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Wildfire

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Hydrology & Water Quality

Next Steps

1. Submit scoping comments by **September 17, 2026**
2. Preparation of Draft Program EIR: **September 2026 to January 2027**
3. Public review of Draft Program EIR: **Spring 2027**
4. Final Program EIR and response to comments: **Summer 2027**
5. Regional Planning Commission Hearing: **Fall 2027**
6. Board of Supervisors Hearing: **Fall/Winter 2027**

Scoping Comments

How to Provide Scoping Comments

Submit written comments to:

Department of Regional Planning
Attention: Community Studies North Section
320 W. Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Email: RenewableEnergy@planning.lacounty.gov

<https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/reo-update>

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Thank you for attending!

Submit scoping comments by **September 17, 2026**

Follow us for information on the
Renewable Energy Ordinance Update:

<https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/reo-update>



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