

**San Bernardino County Countywide Vision, Core Values and Guiding Principles
Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) (Adopted August 8, 2017)**

Do they apply to Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project (OMSESP)?

Will OMSESP effect your quality of life, economy, work and play in Lucerne Valley? Answer the questions found on pages 3 and 4 to see if OMSESP is consistent with the Countywide Vision (2011) and RECE, both of which are included in the 2007 County General Plan and carry the force of law. Policy 4.10 is not included here because it must still be presented to the BOS for adoption. However, even without the 4.10 the RECE provides protection for all unincorporated communities and must be followed by the Land Use Services Department (LUSD). If OMSESP is consistent with the General Plan and RECE the answers to the Community, Environmentally, and Economically-Oriented Questions below will be YES

“CORE VALUES (SEE RECE PAGE 4)

The **Countywide Vision Statement adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 30, 2011**, fosters strategic countywide coordination in a manner that reflects the priorities of local residents, businesses, and stakeholders. (Emphasis added. See page 4 of this document for how this applies to the OMSESP)

The citizens of San Bernardino County share the following core values, as articulated in the Countywide Vision:

♣ **Quality of Life:** A high quality of life for residents of the county that provides a broad range of choices to support the county’s diverse people, geography, and economy to live, work, and play.

♣ **Vibrant Economy:** Ample economic opportunities for current residents and businesses that support countywide prosperity, as well as new investment in economic growth.

♣ **Conservation of Natural and Cultural Resources:** Stewardship that conserves and responsibly uses environmental, scenic, recreational, and cultural assets, ensures healthy habitats for sensitive plants and wildlife, enhances air quality and makes the county a great place for residents and visitors alike. Renewable energy, when developed responsibly, is a valuable natural resource.

♣ **Sustainable Systems:** High quality built, natural, and social systems that complement, rather than degrade, the county’s natural resources, environment, and existing communities.

♣ **Self-Reliance:** Communities or individuals meeting their own energy needs.

♣ **Open Governance:** Governance guided by open, transparent, and ethical decision-making that values the county’s environment, people, heritage, location, economy, and community spirit.”

“Guiding Principles (See RECE Pages 4-6)

This Element’s Guiding Principles will guide plans, projects, and investment decisions that are **subject to the General Plan**. Based largely on the Core Values, Goals and Standards set through public involvement in the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element Framework of February 24, 2015, these principles encourage balanced, integrated, consistent, and predictable approaches to renewable energy development, addressing topics such as energy conservation, efficiency, siting, orientation of

production (community or utility), types of technology, environmental stewardship, community compatibility, equity, access, and leadership. (emphasis added)

The Guiding Principles are intended to be relevant to every action that updates, amends, or implements this Element. The County seeks to ensure that regulatory systems and land use decision-making are consistent with the values and goals expressed in this Element. By framing goals and policies in the context of Guiding Principles, the County is able to ensure continuity throughout its regulatory language and planning documents. Decision-makers then have a framework to inform discretionary review and can consistently determine whether proposed actions reflect County intentions on balance.

In the context of our Core Values, *(see page 1, this document)* the County will consider the following guiding principles when making land use decisions related to renewable energy development:

Community-Oriented

- Encourage community-oriented renewable energy generation facilities, with emphasis and priority given to roof-top and parking lot installations of solar energy systems.
- Keep utility-oriented projects separate from or sufficiently buffered from existing communities, to avoid adverse impacts on community development and quality of life.
- Encourage local renewable energy production to meet local energy demand while allowing excess energy to be sold to the grid.
- Ensure that new renewable energy development is located, designed, and constructed in a manner that reflects Core Values and respects private property rights.
- Encourage more direct benefits to the county from renewable energy.
- Inform affected communities and stakeholders about proposed renewable energy development in a manner that allows meaningful, timely engagement in the review process.
- Collaborate with county residents and other stakeholders to improve understanding of renewable energy issues.
- Provide residents more affordable, reliable, diverse, and safe access to energy, especially renewable energy.
- Ensure that development of County-owned properties is consistent with the goals and policies of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element.

Environmentally-Oriented

- Emphasize and promote energy efficiency and the utilization of rooftop and other onsite accessory generation.
- Guide community and regional development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in response to state mandates.
- Improve air quality.
- Direct renewable energy facilities to suitable areas in the unincorporated county - especially to areas that have been previously disturbed, leverage the existing transmission network, and/or respond to local demand.
- Encourage design, materials, and technologies to support responsible, equitable, and highly efficient energy consumption.
 - Prohibit renewable energy production in areas identified as critical habitat or as a wildlife corridor for species of special concern as defined in the Conservation Element, without comprehensive and feasible mitigation or avoidance of potential impacts.

- Prohibit renewable energy production in areas known to contain significant cultural resources, without a comprehensive program of avoidance and treatment.
- Monitor RE generation facilities during construction, throughout their useful lives, and through decommissioning, to ensure conformance to conditions of use.

Economically-Oriented

- Encourage renewable energy development that promotes a strong economy.
- Maintain a system of fees, taxation, and other compensatory tools that adequately covers County costs of providing necessary public services, including the costs associated with the regulation of renewable energy project sites.
- Optimize the benefits of renewable energy to county residents, businesses, organizations, and government, while ensuring fiscal integrity, accountability, and consistency with the county's core values.
- Ensure predictability, consistency, clarity, and timeliness in the permitting process for renewable energy projects.
- Encourage and simplify the permitting of on-site renewable energy production for on-site consumption.
- Finally, while the County does not approve or regulate utility transmission corridors, the goals and policies of this Element are intended to support the presence of adequate transmission infrastructure while minimizing the need for or development of new transmission corridors."

QUESTIONS: These questions, as stated above, directly relate to the Core Values and Guiding Principles in the adopted RECE. Answer 'yes' or 'no' to determine if the LUSD is following the RECE, as adopted by the BOS on August 8, 2017. If your answers are 'no' than the Core Value of Open Governance derived from the Countywide Vision (2011) is ignored by LUSD to our detriment.

Community-Oriented Questions

1. Has there been any priority given to roof-top and parking lot installations of solar energy systems by the County in Lucerne Valley? Does the OMSESP encourage local community-oriented renewable energy generation?
2. Will OMSESP be separated from or sufficiently buffered from the Lucerne Valley community to avoid adverse impacts on community development and your quality-of-life?
3. Will OMSESP meet local energy demand while allowing excess energy to be sold to the grid?
4. Would the energy produced by OMSESP and delivered by transmission lines to outside areas be safe from wildfires and earthquakes?
5. Is the OMSESP located and designed in a manner that reflects Core Values and respect for private property rights?
6. Will the OMSESP provide Lucerne Valley and surrounding communities with more affordable, reliable, diverse, and safe access to energy, especially renewable energy?

Environmentally-Oriented Questions

7. Does OMSESP promote local energy efficiency?

8. Does OMSESP meet the needs of Lucerne Valley in the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?
9. Does OMSESP meet state mandates for solar energy? (*Have state mandates already been met? Yes*)
10. Has the County directed OMSESP to a suitable area in the unincorporated county that has been previously disturbed and degraded beyond usefulness, takes advantage of existing transmission, and/or responds to local demand?
11. Does OMSESP conserve and sustain natural resources and habitats?
12. Is OMSESP in an area identified as critical habitat or as a wildlife corridor for species of special concern?
13. Is OMSESP located in an area with cultural resources?
14. Will the OMSESP improve air quality in the Lucerne Valley and its air corridors?
15. Will the energy produced by the OMSESP directly benefit the County?

Economically-Oriented Questions

16. Does the OMSESP encourage economic growth that compliments your local values and lifestyles?
17. Will the OMSESP promote a strong local economy?
18. Does the County have a system of fees, taxation, and other compensatory tools that adequately covers the County costs of providing necessary public services?
19. Does the OMSESP optimize the benefits of renewable energy for you as a resident, business owner, employee, or organization?
20. Would approval of the OMSESP set the precedent for approval of the Calcite Solar (590 acres), Sienna Solar (1625 acres), and Aurora Sorrel Solar (2,850 acres on State Lands) within Lucerne Valley CSA 29?
21. Would the approval of the Calcite Substation – approved by the CPUC but using the County EIR- provide the transmission infrastructure for utility-scale solar development in the unincorporated communities of Lucerne Valley, Daggett and Newberry Springs?

FROM: Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project - Draft Environmental Impact Report, Section 3.9 -5 Land Use and Planning

“LOCAL

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The County recently adopted a Renewable Energy and Conservation Element for inclusion in the San Bernardino County General Plan in August 2017. The element includes land use guidance regarding renewable energy projects. One of the element’s guiding principles includes keeping utility-oriented projects separate from or sufficiently buffered from existing communities, to avoid adverse impacts on community development and quality of life. **However, the element does not specifically identify the prohibition of utility-oriented projects being situated within the boundaries of existing community plan areas. Because the project application was accepted as complete prior to preparation and adoption of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element, the County has determined the project is “grandfathered” and not subject to conformance with the element’s land use policies.**” (emphasis added)

Whoa, only the application, and not the final plans, was submitted before the RECE was adopted. **So, the project is not ‘grandfathered’ in and is legally subject to conformance with the Element's land use policies.** And, as stated, the RECE policies are based on the Core Values which are based on the Countywide Vision Statement adopted by the BOS on June 30, 2011. The Vision Statement includes the priorities of local residents, businesses, and stakeholders. Communities with Community Plans were not called out. **The Vision applies to all communities throughout the entire county. The RECE Core Values and Guiding Principles, based on the 2011 Vision Statement, must also apply.**

From: Ord Mountain Solar and Energy Storage Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report Chapter 2 Project Description, Pages 2-15, 16

“PROJECT OBJECTIVES

A clear statement of project objectives allows for the formulation and analysis of a reasonable range of project alternatives which must be analyzed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6. The project alternatives (see Section 7.0, Alternatives) were developed to feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives while avoiding or substantially lessening at least some of the significant effects identified in Sections 3.1 through 3.11.

The objectives of the proposed project include the following:

1. Construct and operate a solar energy facility capable of producing up to 60 megawatts of electricity to help **meet the State-mandated Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)** of providing 33 percent renewable energy by 2020 and 50 percent by 2030.
2. Construct and operate a solar power facility with minimal impacts to the environment.
3. Develop a utility-scale solar energy facility project that **improves local electricity reliability for the San Bernardino region** by providing a source of local generation near the Calcite Substation.
4. Help reduce reliance on foreign sources of fuel.
5. Supply on-peak power **to the electrical grid in California.**
6. Help **the State of California** meet its statutory and regulatory goal of increasing renewable power generation, including greenhouse gas reduction goals of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006).
7. **Contribute to San Bernardino County’s economic growth and reputation as a region rich with renewable energy development.**
8. Sustain and stimulate **the economy of Southern California** by helping to ensure an adequate supply of renewable electrical energy while simultaneously creating additional construction and operations employment and increased expenditures in many local businesses.
9. Provide a new source of energy storage that assists the state in achieving or exceeding the energy storage target of 1.3 gigawatts of energy by 2020, consistent with the terms of AB 2514.” (emphasis added)

Please Note: The RECE Guiding Principles are not found within the OMSESP Project Objectives. The priorities of local residents, businesses, and stakeholders are ignored. **The SMSESP does not conform to the General Plan 2007, as amended.**