

# San Bernardino County's Official Documents Protecting Desert Community Values and Environment

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Year	Reference	Official County Position
<b>2007</b>	<b>General Plan 2007  With Amendments</b>	<p><b>C. "VISION" OF THE 2007 GENERAL PLAN</b></p> <p>The following Vision Statement was developed by the citizens of the County through an extensive public outreach program and further refined by the GPAC, PC, and Board of Supervisors:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>The 2007 General Plan recognizes the unique assets of individual communities in the County to guide County decision-making by building on those assets, as well as protecting and enhancing the quality of life throughout the County. As a foundation for the goals and polices of the General Plan, this Vision Statement describes ideal conditions to work toward during the next 20 years, as expressed in the following desires for the future of where people live, work, and play in San Bernardino County. References in each narrative below present various Goals and Policies of the 2007 General Plan which directly implement various aspects of the Vision.</i></p> <p><b>1. WHERE WE LIVE</b></p> <p><i>...Individuals may also choose a more "rural" lifestyle, often with a small-town atmosphere, room to breathe, and opportunities for self-reliance and independence (see Goal LU-2).</i></p> <p><b>Our vision for the future of the County includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A sense of "place" and community identity in distinct communities where residents may choose to remain in unincorporated neighborhoods (see Goal LU-10).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Clean air and a reliable clean water supply (see Goal CI-12).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Growth and development consistent with the maintenance of environmental quality (see Goal LU-7).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Preservation of dark night skies in rural areas (see Goals M/CO-5 and D/CO-3).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Conservation/preservation of the natural environment, which defines and enhances our quality of life (see Goal CO-1).</i></li> </ul> <p><b>2. WHERE WE WORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>A vibrant and thriving local economy that spans a variety of industries, services, and other sectors, thereby reducing commuting distance to jobs (see Goals ED-1, H-13, and LU-5).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Conservation of mineral resources for responsible productive use by extractive industries (see Goal ED-7).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Expanded access to communications technology and network resources (see Goal CI-15).</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Opportunities for the use of alternative energy sources (see Goal CO-8).</i></li> </ul> <p><b>3. HOW WE PLAY</b></p> <p><i>The plentiful open space in San Bernardino County serves County residents and attracts people from other areas as they pursue a wide variety of recreational activities: hiking, camping, off-highway vehicle traveling, fishing, horseback riding, star-gazing, winter sports, youth athletics, performing arts, and other entertainment.</i></p>

		<p><b>4. DESERT PLANNING REGION</b></p> <p>The Desert Planning Region, the largest of the three planning regions, includes a significant portion of the Mojave Desert and contains about 93 percent (18,735 square miles) of the land within San Bernardino County. The Desert Planning Region is defined as including all of the unincorporated area of San Bernardino County lying north and east of the Mountain Planning Region. The Desert Planning Region is an assemblage of mountain ranges interspersed with long, broad valleys that often contain dry lakes.</p> <p><b>W. DESERT REGION GOALS AND POLICIES OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT</b></p> <p><b>GOAL D/LU 1.</b> Maintain land use patterns in the Desert Region that enhance the rural environment and preserve the quality of life of the residents of the region.</p> <p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>D/LU 1.1</b> Encourage low density development by retaining Rural Living (RL) zoning in Community Plan areas that are outside of city spheres of influence and removed from more urbanized community core areas.</p> <p><b>D/LU 1.2</b> Limit future industrial development to those uses which are compatible with the Community Industrial Land Use Zoning District or zone, are necessary to meet the service, employment and support needs of the region, do not have excessive water requirements, and do not adversely impact the desert environment.</p> <p><b>D/LU 1.3</b> Utilize Rural Living (RL) areas to buffer Resource Conservation (RC) areas from more intensive land uses.</p> <p><b>GOAL D/LU 2.</b> Establish locational criteria for future development within the region to ensure compatibility between uses and with the character and vision that is desired for the region.</p> <p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>D/LU 2.1</b> Provide transitional uses and buffer incompatible uses such as residential and commercial uses and environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p><b>GOAL D/LU 3.</b> Ensure that commercial and industrial development within the region is compatible with the rural desert character and meets the needs of local residents.</p> <p><b>POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>D/LU 3.1</b> The County shall develop standards for commercial development within the region to best reflect the character of the region. Standards may include, but not be limited to signage, screening, pedestrian access, parking, and buffering between adjacent land uses.</p> <p><b>G. DESERT REGION GOALS AND POLICIES OF THE CIRCULATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT</b></p> <p><b>GOAL D/CI 2.</b> Ensure that infrastructure improvements are compatible with the natural environment of the region.</p> <p><b>POLICIES</b></p>
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<b>2015</b>	<b>Countywide Vision</b>	<p><i>We envision a complete county that capitalizes on the diversity of its people, its geography, and its economy to create a broad range of choices for its residents in how they live, work, and play.</i></p> <p><i>We envision a model community which is <b>governed in an open and ethical manner</b>, where great ideas are replicated and brought to scale, and all sectors work collaboratively to reach shared goals.</i></p> <p><i>From our valleys, across our mountains, and into our deserts, we envision a county that is a destination for visitors and a home for anyone seeking a sense of community and the best life has to offer.</i></p>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Vision Environmental Element</b>	<p>Our location and natural environment are two of our great strengths. We must protect and preserve the terrain and natural amenities with which we are blessed. We shall strive to intelligently manage our resources for habitat preservation, recreation opportunities, resource extraction, alternative energy, future growth, water quality, and air quality all within a regulatory framework that does not impede the creation of a sustainable economy.</p> <p>We have the opportunity to improve our regions self-reliance in meeting the needs of our own population, utilizing alternative and renewable energy sources; enhancing water management; encouraging green manufacturing; rewarding sustainable building, and conserving natural resources – all leading to a healthy population with a high quality of life.</p> <p>The Countywide Vision can be found at <a href="https://cms.sbcounty.gov/cao-vision/Home.aspx">https://cms.sbcounty.gov/cao-vision/Home.aspx</a></p>
<b>2013</b>	<b>Solar Ordinance 4213</b>	<p>The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, ordains as follows:</p> <p>SECTION 1. The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino finds that:</p> <p>(a) The County of San Bernardino desires to protect the character and value of communities and neighborhoods, and the natural and scenic values of the landscape within the County, from increased impacts of new commercial solar energy generation facilities, while providing safe and reliable renewable energy to assist California and its investor-owned utilities in meeting the State’s Renewable Portfolio Standards and its goals for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>(b) In protecting natural and scenic values of the landscape, the County recognizes not only the substantial intrinsic value of the desert’s natural and scenic setting, but also the importance of this setting for the quality of life of area residents and the economic value it creates for the area’s tourism industry.</p> <p>(c) The County desires to guide new commercial solar energy generation facilities to areas that can accommodate such facilities with fewer human and environmental resource conflicts.</p>

		<p>(d) In order to provide reasonable opportunities for commercial solar energy development and simultaneously protect communities, neighborhoods, and the natural and scenic values of the landscape, it is the intent of the County to focus new commercial solar energy development in areas that are both (1) less desirable for the development of communities, neighborhoods and rural residential use and (2) less environmentally sensitive.</p> <p>The Solar Ordinance can be found at  <a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/renewable/solarordinance121713.pdf">http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/lus/renewable/solarordinance121713.pdf</a></p>
	<p><b>Development Code 84.29.035</b>  <b>Adopted Ordinance 4098 (2010);</b>  <b>Amended Ordinance 4156 (2011)</b></p>	<p><b>84.29.035 Required Findings for Approval of a Commercial Solar Energy Facility</b>  (a) In order to approve a commercial solar energy generation facility, the Planning Commission shall, in addition to making the findings required under Section 85.06.040(a) of the San Bernardino County Development Code, determine that the location of the proposed commercial solar energy facility is appropriate in relation to the desirability and future development of communities, neighborhoods, and rural residential uses, and will not lead to loss of the scenic desert qualities that are key to maintaining a vibrant desert tourist economy by making each of the findings of fact in subdivision (c).</p> <p>The San Bernardino County Development can be found at  <a href="http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/planning/developmentcode.aspx">http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/planning/developmentcode.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>February 10, 2015</b></p>	<p><b>County Position Paper on the DRECP</b>  Approved by the Board of Supervisors</p> <p>This document is no longer available on the County website</p> <p>Contents on column to the right</p>	<p><b>Executive Summary</b></p> <p>More than half of the acreage included in the proposed Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is located within San Bernardino County (County). Given the potential impact of the DRECP on County land use, economic development, and desert communities, <b>the County undertook a review of the DRECP in the context of the County’s priorities.</b> This position paper reflects that review. It is not an exhaustive review of our position on every component of the DRECP, neither is it an exhaustive analysis of the environmental, cultural or socioeconomic impacts of the alternatives in the DRECP. Importantly, <b>the goal of this position paper is intended to highlight the County’s key priorities in the context of the DRECP and identify the County’s position on DRECP land use decisions and implementation measures.</b></p> <p><b>Our key priorities are as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect desert community values and economic development opportunities <b>by focusing large scale renewable energy development, mitigation and conservation on federal land in the County, and minimizing it on private land in the County</b></li> <li>▪ Encourage distributed generation that addresses local needs while allowing excess energy to be sold to the grid</li> <li>▪ Maintain County land use authority</li> </ul>

	<p>are taken from a downloaded PDF.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek means to improve economic benefits of renewable energy development to the County, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identifying opportunities for the County to partner with renewable energy developers on microgrid projects</li> <li>○ Developing mechanisms for direct financial benefits to local communities impacted by renewable energy development, such as discounted electricity bill pricing or rebates</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>1.1. County Priority: Protect desert community values and economic development opportunities by focusing large scale renewable energy development, mitigation and conservation on federal land in the County, and minimizing it on private land in the County</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The County supports renewable energy development on private land as long as it is emphasized in areas with marginal economic development potential or that is previously disturbed and avoided in areas identified by the County as prime for development or have strong local community opposition.</li> <li>▪ The County recommends that the DRECP consider eliminating DFA designations in Apple Valley, unincorporated Apple Valley, Phelan (south of SR 18 between US 395 and the Los Angeles County line), Stoddard Valley, Helendale, Lucerne Valley, Johnson Valley, Newberry Springs and along historically sensitive sections of California Highway 66.</li> </ul>
<p><b>August 8, 2017</b></p>	<p><b>Renewable Energy Conservation Element (RECE)</b></p>	<p><b>Intention of the Element:</b>  ...Generally, the Element emphasizes community-oriented renewable energy (CORE). Our ideal is local production primarily for local consumption. Programs like Community Choice Aggregation are highlighted to encourage locally appropriate development. This Element presents a CORE-standards approach, coupled with stringent siting criteria for utility-scale RE development. Such generation facilities will be limited to specific areas that can accommodate them in a manner consistent with the policies and standards in our regulatory system. Specifically, the County will focus utility-scale facilities in well-defined areas that are (1) less desirable for the development of communities, neighborhoods, commerce, and industry, and (2) less environmentally and culturally sensitive.</p> <p><b>Core Values: Quality of Life, Vibrant Economy, Conservation of Natural and Cultural Resources, Sustainable Systems, Self-Reliance, Open Government.</b></p> <p>The RECE plan Adopted on August 8, 2017 can be found at <a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/LUS/Renewable/RECElementFINALADOPTEDVersion8817WEB.pdf">http://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/LUS/Renewable/RECElementFINALADOPTEDVersion8817WEB.pdf</a></p>