

**RE Goal 4: The County will establish a new era of sustainable energy production and consumption in the context of sound resource conservation and renewable energy development practices that reduce greenhouse gases and dependency on fossil fuels.**

**RE Objective 4.1:** The County will continue its efforts to meet or exceed State Greenhouse Gas reduction goals, by encouraging renewable energy development that will be compatible with the natural environment and the integrity of unincorporated communities.

**RE Policy 4.1: Apply standards to the design, siting, and operation of all renewable energy facilities that protect the environment, including sensitive biological resources, air quality, water supply and quality, cultural, archaeological, paleontological and scenic resources.**

- RE 4.1.1: Consult with Native American tribes in the identification, evaluation, and treatment of cultural resources and in the preparation and implementation of measures required to identify, evaluate, protect, and manage cultural resources.
- RE 4.1.2: RE development applications shall be subject to thorough environmental review, including consideration of water consumption, before being permitted.

**RE Policy 4.2: Ensure that renewable energy facilities do not disrupt, degrade, or alter the local hydrology and hydrogeology.**

- RE 4.2.1: Require a groundwater impact assessment that evaluates the short and long-term impacts to groundwater usage.

**RE Policy 4.3: Require construction and operation of all renewable energy facilities to minimize negative effects and optimize benefits to unincorporated communities.**

- RE 4.3.1: Define measures required to minimize ground disturbance, soil erosion, flooding, and blowing of sand and dust, with appropriate enforcement mechanisms in the Development Code.
- RE 4.3.2: Require ~~operators to track and report energy production and other benefits cited in a~~ developers to submit a report detailing community benefits of each project proposal, in addition to tracking efforts to avoid and minimize negative impacts.
- RE 4.3.3: Give preference to the utilization of existing infrastructure to minimize the need for additional transmission development.
- RE 4.3.4: Establish inspection protocols and programs to ensure that RE facilities are constructed, operated, and eventually decommissioned consistent with the requirements of the San Bernardino County Code, and in a manner that will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare.

## EXHIBIT C – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICY 4.3.2 AND 4.10

**RE Policy 4.4: Encourage siting, construction and screening of RE generation facilities to avoid, minimize or mitigate significant changes to the visual environment including minimizing light and glare.**

- RE 4.4.1: Reduce visual impacts through a combination of minimized reflective surfaces, context-sensitive color treatments, nature-oriented geometry, minimized vegetation clearing under and around arrays, conservation of pre-existing native plants, replanting of native plants as appropriate, maintenance of natural landscapes around the edges of facility complexes, and lighting design to minimize night-sky impacts, including attraction of and impact to nocturnal migratory birds.

**RE Policy 4.5: Require RE generation facility developers to provide and implement a decommissioning plan that provides for reclamation of the site to a condition at least as good as that which existed before the lands were disturbed or another appropriate end use that is stable (i.e. with interim vegetative cover), prevents nuisance, and is readily adaptable for alternative land uses. Decommissioning plans shall:**

- RE 4.5.1: Include a cost estimate of the decommissioning and site restoration work for the purpose of providing a bond to guarantee completion of decommissioning.
- RE 4.5.2: Provide for an inspection after all decommissioning and site restoration work to ensure that the work has been completed to the standards required by the County, prior to release of the decommissioning bond.
- RE 4.5.3: Require any structures created during construction to be decommissioned and all material recycled to the greatest extent possible.
- RE 4.5.4: Require all material recovered during decommissioning and site restoration work of a renewable energy facility, including the renewable energy technology itself, to be reused or recycled to the greatest extent possible.

**RE Policy 4.6: Require all recyclable electronic and/or toxic materials to be recycled in accordance with the requirements of the Basel Convention or comparable standard.**

**RE Policy 4.7: RE project site selection and site design shall be guided by the following priorities relative to habitat conservation and mitigation:**

- Avoid sensitive habitat, including wildlife corridors, during site selection and project design.
- Where necessary and feasible, conduct mitigation on-site.
- When on-site habitat mitigation is not possible or adequate, establish mitigation off-site in an area designated for habitat conservation.

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**RE Policy 4.8: Encourage mitigation for RE generation facility projects to locate habitat conservation offsets on public lands where suitable habitat is available.**

- RE 4.8.1: Collaborate with appropriate state and federal agencies to facilitate mitigation/habitat conservation activities on public lands.

**RE Policy 4.9: Encourage RE facility developers to design projects in ways that provide sanctuary (i.e., a safe place to nest, breed and/or feed) for native bees, butterflies and birds where feasible and appropriate, according to expert recommendations.**

**RE Policy 4.10: ~~Prohibit~~ Require utility-oriented RE project ~~development on sites that would create adverse impacts on~~ applications to include a report of project benefits to the quality of life or economic development opportunities in existing unincorporated communities.**

- RE 4.10.1: The community benefit report shall identify elements of the project site design that have been incorporated to enhance compatibility with surrounding properties and existing communities, including Native American Tribes. The report shall also:
  - If the project site is located within the boundaries of an adopted community plan, include an analysis of consistency with community values and aspirations outlined in the community plan.
  - Explain how natural features of the site, such as elevation, topography or vegetation, combined with project design, will minimize potential visual impacts of the project.
  - Explain how planned improvements to the project site will minimize impacts or benefit other properties. This may include avoidance of natural drainage courses, making improvements that will reduce drainage impacts on downstream properties, allowing for wildlife movement through or around the site, or minimizing and managing impacts of blowing sand.
  - Identify any benefits to public utilities or public services that may result from construction of the project. This may include energy transmission or distribution system improvements that would enhance energy reliability, water system improvements that would reduce service costs for local consumers, or land use conversion that would decrease demand for public services.
  - Detail anticipated on-site or off-site project improvements that will benefit the community at large or other properties, such as road and drainage improvements.
  - Identify any commitment to employ the local labor force or cooperate with local job training or apprenticeship programs.

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- Identify any planned efforts to engage County residents and visitors through marketing or public education that will enhance interest in renewable energy and appreciation of the project.
- ~~RE 4.10.1: Prohibit development of utility-oriented RE projects in the Rural Living land use districts throughout the County.~~
- ~~RE 4.10.2: Prohibit development of utility-oriented RE projects within the boundaries of existing community plans, which at the time of adoption of this Element are the Bloomington, Museoy, Bear Valley, Crest Forest, Hilltop, Lake Arrowhead, Lytle Creek, Oak Glen, Homestead Valley, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Morongo Valley, Oak Hills and Phelan/Pinon Hills Community Plans.~~
- ~~RE 4.10.3: Establish exclusion areas in the Development Code regulations for renewable energy development, beginning with the prohibitions in Policies 4.10.1 and 4.10.2 and provide for additional exclusion areas, such as new community plan areas, to be designated by amendment to the Development Code.~~