

EXHIBIT F – Findings for General Plan Amendment

FINDINGS: General Plan Amendment

- 1. The proposed amendment to the General Plan Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) is internally consistent with all other provisions of the General Plan:**

The Renewable Energy and Conservation Element is consistent with the General Plan Conservation Element, which emphasizes the importance of protecting the natural environment. Renewable energy is recognized as a means to protect air quality. The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, adopted in 2011 and updated in 2015, focuses heavily on the promotion of energy conservation and development of renewable energy as a means to reduce greenhouse gases. The following Conservation Element Goals and Policies support all of the proposed amendments to the RECE. Goal CO10 and Policy CO 10.1 in particular support the proposed new RECE Policy 5.9.

Conservation Element Goals and Policies

Goal CO 4 - The County will ensure good air quality for its residents, businesses, and visitors to reduce impacts on human health and the economy.

CO 4.12 - Provide incentives to promote siting or use of clean air technologies (e.g., fuel cell technologies, renewable energy sources, UV coatings, and hydrogen fuel).

CO 4.13 - Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within the County boundaries.

Goal CO 8 - The County will minimize energy consumption and promote safe energy extraction, uses, and systems to benefit local regional and global environmental goals.

CO 8.1 - Maximize the beneficial effects and minimize the adverse effects associated with the siting of major energy facilities. The County will site energy facilities equitably in order to minimize net energy use and consumption of natural resources, and avoid inappropriately burdening certain communities. Energy planning should conserve energy and reduce peak load demands, reduce natural resource consumption, minimize environmental impacts, and treat local communities fairly in providing energy-efficiency programs and locating energy facilities.

CO 8.2 - Conserve energy and minimize peak load demands through the efficient production, distribution and use of energy.

CO 8.3 - Assist in efforts to develop alternative energy technologies that have minimum adverse effect on the environment, and explore and promote newer opportunities for the use of alternative energy sources.

Goal CO 10 - The General Plan will anticipate and accommodate future electric facility planning and will enable information-sharing to improve electric load forecasting.

CO 10.1 - Electric infrastructure is essential to serve growth and development in the County. Effective planning for electrical infrastructure requires collaboration between the major utilities and the County.

- 2. The proposed amendment to the RECE would not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the County, but in fact protects the public interest by encouraging the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions with renewable energy. The public interest, convenience and welfare are also served by the requirements to protect the quality of life in existing communities contained in the proposed policy amendments.**

- 3. The proposed amendment to the General Plan RECE will not have a significant effect on the environment, as documented in the September 2016 Addendum to the County General Plan EIR of 2007, including the Supplemental EIR prepared for the General Plan Amendment and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (SCH 2005101038) attached as Exhibit E to the Planning Commission staff report.**