



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: 9/24/2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: GIVING THE GREEN LIGHT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SUMMARY:

Overview

Over the past decade, the need for renewable, green energy has become more important as talk of power shortages and global warming have become more common. As our region looks for ways to become more energy self-sufficient, the County must look for ways to keep its regulations current in an effort to promote renewable, green energy.

An existing challenge in the current Zoning Ordinance, pertains to the placement of temporary test poles and testing equipment for wind energy, which is a necessary step to move forward in becoming more energy efficient. Under the current ordinance, a use permit may be needed to install equipment used to test whether a site is viable for future wind energy generation. In many cases the determination to allow temporary test poles and testing equipment for wind energy may be more appropriately decided at a departmental level and not require a full use permit process.

This recommendation will streamline the process for potential energy providers by changing the County Zoning Ordinance to enable the Department of Planning and Land Use to determine if the temporary equipment should be permitted.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR ROBERTS AND SUPERVISOR HORN

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to amend the County Zoning Ordinance to require an Administrative Permit, rather than a Major Use Permit, for the installation of temporary wind turbine testing equipment and to return to the Board of Supervisors within 120 days.

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Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact resulting from this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

California, with its abundant natural resources, has had a long history of support for renewable energy. In 2007, almost 12 percent of all electricity came from renewable resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and small hydroelectric facilities. Large hydro plants generated nearly another 12 percent of our state's electricity.

Each year, San Diegans are reminded to conserve energy to avoid rolling blackouts. While California is in need of more ways to produce energy, our region must find new ways to decrease its dependency on fossil and natural fuels. By utilizing renewable energy systems, our region can accomplish this while also doing its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to achieve this, San Diego County must take the necessary steps to ease the placing of temporary testing equipment by energy providers. Streamlining the process will allow these providers the opportunity to move forward with potential green energy solutions. Presently the County Zoning Ordinance may require a Major Use Permit to install equipment used to test whether a site is viable for generation of wind energy. Obtaining a Major Use Permit may be an unnecessary step, requiring time and financial resources from the potential wind energy provider. Rather than discouraging possible new renewable and green energy providers the County must simplify the process.

Beyond the concerns of self sufficiency, these renewable, green energy sources should be encouraged to protect and preserve our residents' health and wellbeing. With new clean air requirements such as those enacted by Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), California has shown by its action that it not only recognizes that Global Warming is a reality, but is also willing to lead the way to reducing its effects. Regardless of the scientific debate surrounding the term, the trend has been toward a warmer climate, and combined with the pollutants in the air, this can cause allergenic and asthmatic symptoms in many, specifically in our children, and can lead to premature death.

Today's recommendation will streamline the process for potential energy providers by changing the County Zoning Ordinance to allow for the Department of Planning and Land Use to permit installation of the necessary temporary equipment to test a location's feasibility.

The County of San Diego remains committed to both securing a healthy environment and becoming more energy self sufficient. This action would take a great step toward promoting both of these goals.

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Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan
N/A

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

BILL HORN
Supervisor, Fifth District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fourth Supervisorial District
Fifth Supervisor District

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____

SUBJECT: GIVING THE GREEN LIGHT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

[Click [here](#) and type action(s), or type N/A if not applicable]

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

[Click [here](#) and type applicable policies, or type N/A if not applicable]

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

[Click [here](#) and type required statement(s), or type N/A if not applicable]

CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

[Click [here](#) and type numbers, or type N/A if not applicable]

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT: [Click here and type]

PROGRAM: [Click here and type]

PROPOSAL: [Click here and type]

	FUTURE YEARS ESTIMATED BUDGET OF PROPOSAL IF ADOPTED				
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Budgeted Amount For Proposal	Proposed Change in Budgeted Amount	Proposed Revised Current Year Budget (a+b)	1st Subsequent Year	2nd Subsequent Year
Direct Cost					
Revenue/Other Offset					
NET GENERAL FUND COST					
Staff Years					

Sources of Revenue/Other Offset for Proposed Change and Subsequent Years:

Space-Related Impacts: Will this proposal result in any additional space requirements? Yes N/A

Support/Other Departmental Impacts: Yes N/A

Remarks: Yes N/A