

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING THE COUNTY'S POSITION ON THE PROPOSED LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT IN PHASE I OF THE DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

On February 17, 2016, on motion of Supervisor Lovingood, duly seconded by Supervisor Hagman and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

WHEREAS, in November 2015, as "Phase I" of a multi-agency "Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan" (DRECP), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a proposed land use plan amendment ("LUPA") and final environmental impact statement; and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County (COUNTY) has expressed numerous concerns regarding utility scale renewable energy development adjacent to County unincorporated communities and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY is currently preparing its own General Plan Renewable Energy Element to guide decision making via a standards-based approach to the siting of renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the preparation of the Renewable Energy Element involves extensive public outreach which is not yet complete; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation of the Development Focus Areas (DFAs) contained in the LUPA cannot be completed without having first completed the Renewable Energy Element, including the public review process; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY and BLM entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for processing environmental reviews in March 2008 that allows "the BLM and COUNTY to achieve consistency by collaborating on the development and review of joint environmental documents where feasible, and maximizing coordination between the two jurisdictions"; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY and the BLM have entered into an amendment to the 2008 MOU in December 2015, in which the BLM consented to initiate, if needed, an Amendment to the DRECP LUPA land use designations in order to match the COUNTY's objectives and land use designations; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY is in good faith relying on BLM's commitment to initiate and process the aforementioned amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

COUNTY will continue to act as a cooperating agency in the review of renewable energy projects under BLM jurisdiction, pursuant to the 2008 MOU; and

COUNTY indicates its general and tentative support for five (5) of the Development Focus Areas (DFAs) identified in the BLM DRECP LUPA (North of Kramer Junction, Trona, Hinkley, El Mirage, and Amboy), recognizing that further COUNTY evaluation of all BLM DFAs will continue in the preparation, public review and ultimate adoption of its Renewable Energy Element; and

The final analysis of the five (5) DFAs may confirm, modify or eliminate the tentative support stated herein; and

COUNTY continues to express its strong concern about DFAs in other areas of the County; and

Project-specific comments will be prepared by COUNTY for any future proposed renewable energy projects in all BLM DFAs; and

COUNTY will, upon adoption of the Renewable Energy Element, engage BLM and recommend LUPA revisions consistent with the process contained in the MOU.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Robert A. Lovingood, Janice Rutherford, James Ramos
Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales

NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)

I, **LAURA H. WELCH**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of February 17, 2016. Item 3 jll

LAURA H. WELCH
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By Jennifer Chuma
Deputy

