



DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 10, 2013

03

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

San Diego County is faced with some of the highest energy costs in the state and nation. With the emergence of renewable energy and green-building technology, consumers are realizing a growing range of options to help reduce energy costs and move towards energy independence. While the County has undertaken efforts to expand renewable energy and green-building development, a more comprehensive approach is needed to explore and maximize opportunities, and to reduce costs for consumers.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop options for a comprehensive renewable energy plan, prepare a work plan including time and cost estimates, and to include options for integrating the proposed wind ordinance into a renewable energy plan. This comprehensive approach should consider technology, appropriate zoning and development standards, fiscal and financial impacts and community benefits, including costs to consumers.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop options for a comprehensive renewable energy plan, prepare a work plan including time and cost estimates and return to the Board within 120 days.
2. Include options for integrating the proposed wind ordinance into a renewable energy plan when staff presents the item in May.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

N/A

Background

San Diego County is faced with some of the highest energy costs in the state and nation. With the emergence of renewable energy and green-building technology, consumers are realizing a growing range of options to help reduce energy costs and move towards energy independence. While the County has undertaken efforts to expand renewable energy and green-building development, a more comprehensive approach is needed to maximize renewable energy opportunities, reduce costs for consumers and minimizing impacts to the community and its resources.

Previous County efforts in support of renewable energy have included incentives such as permit fee waivers for residential photovoltaic systems and permit fee reductions for new construction projects that meet the state's green-building standards. Other initiatives include updated solar and meteorological testing facility regulations within the County's Zoning Ordinance and adopting and implementing the County's Strategic Energy and Climate Action Plans. While the County's efforts to date have made substantial progress toward facilitating various renewable energy developments, there remains a need for an overarching plan that evaluates threading the County's efforts together and maximizes benefits for consumers.

A renewable energy plan involves several components. The foundation of the plan should establish the County's renewable energy policies and goals within the framework of the County's General Plan. The County's Zoning Ordinance would then serve as the tool to implement these policies and goals. Potential components of a plan may include updating design and siting criteria, creating combining/overlay zones for utility scale projects and expanding opportunities for distributed energy systems. A County renewable energy plan should also explore new energy models such as community choice aggregation, and ensure the County's Strategic Energy and Climate Action Plans remain consistent with the County's renewable energy policies.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to research and develop options for a comprehensive renewable energy plan, prepare a work plan including time and cost estimates, and to include options for integrating the proposed wind ordinance into a renewable energy plan. The response will provide the Board of Supervisors with the information we need before considering any potential action on a comprehensive renewable energy plan. This comprehensive approach should consider technology, appropriate zoning and development standards, fiscal and financial impacts and community benefits, including costs to consumers.

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Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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