

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

**SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN (CREP) PHASE
ONE REPORT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW:

This is a request for the Board of Supervisors (Board) to consider and accept the Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan (CREP) Phase One Report. On April 10, 2013 (3), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to 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. On September 11, 2013 (4), staff returned with a work plan and the Board continued the item to September 25, 2013 (1). On September 25, 2013 (1), the Board directed the CAO to initiate Phase One of the comprehensive renewable energy work plan and return to the Board within 14 months of executing all required consultant service contracts; established appropriations of \$300,000; directed the Director of Planning & Development Services (PDS) to form a Renewable Energy Advisory Committee; and directed staff to prepare a “pipelining” provision for renewable energy permit applications (Attachment A).

Based on the Board’s direction, staff is providing the completed CREP Phase One Report (Report) (Attachment B) and seeking direction on which recommendations, if any, should be considered for a CREP Phase Two; the Board can choose one option, some, or none at all.

During Phase One, 17 recommendations were identified for the County of San Diego (County) to consider as part of a long-range strategic renewable energy plan. Staff, with input from the Director-appointed Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), determined that 11 of the 17 consultant recommendations could be the most effective for the Board to consider in a CREP Phase Two. On October 14, 2016, the Planning Commission considered the Report and concurred with 11 consultant recommendations with two modifications as described in this Board Letter (refer to Attachment C for the Planning Commission Staff Report).

Eight of the 11 consultant recommendations supported by the Planning Commission would require no additional appropriations. The remaining three recommendations would require consultant services, which would require Board approval of detailed scopes of work, including costs, schedules, and appropriations of funds. The Planning Commission did not support the final six recommendations, and, if directed by the Board to complete them, would require staff to prepare work programs and cost estimates for the Board’s consideration.

To address the “pipelining” provision directed by the Board, staff determined there are two existing regulations in the County’s Zoning Ordinance and California Government Code that provide “pipelining” protection for discretionary renewable energy permit applications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting the CREP Phase One Report; there will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years to complete CREP Phase One.

There is no fiscal impact associated with directing Phase Two of the CREP. There are no additional costs associated with initiating the recommendations that would be undertaken by County staff; there are no additional costs associated with staff preparing detailed work plans, cost estimates and schedules for any items that require consultant services. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

If the Board approves further studies as part of CREP Phase Two, the estimated cost is \$900,000 in one-time funding that would be requested from Fiscal Year 2018-19 General Fund fund balance for preparing the Community Choice Aggregation feasibility study (estimated cost of \$200,000), the microgrid feasibility study (estimated cost of \$200,000) and the design and development guidelines/overlay district (estimated cost of \$500,000). If the Board approves other studies requiring consultant services, then any associated costs would be estimated through preparation of work plans.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission considered the consultant Report and recommended that the Board consider 11 of the 17 recommendations with modifications to items 1 and 4 shown in italics below for CREP Phase Two.

1. Prepare a Community Choice Aggregation Feasibility Study: *As the County reviews Community Choice Aggregation, the feasibility study should be evaluated by a third party, include a review of Direct Access and include a review of the role of the utilities.*
2. Track Community Solar and Wind Initiatives in the County.
3. Prepare a Microgrid Feasibility Study.
4. Prepare Renewable Energy Design and Development Guidelines and Zoning Regulations Applicable to the Unincorporated County: *An approach to the energy overlay zone should include an analysis of the environmental impacts, quality of life impacts and cost/benefit impacts.*
5. Increase the County’s Renewable Energy Generation, Transmission, Use and Storage.
6. Develop Strategies to Address Barriers to Alternative Fuel Deployment.
7. Promote Vetted Renewable Energy Finance Mechanisms, such as Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs, Bonds, Peer-to-Peer Lending or Crowdfunding, among others.

8. Develop and Implement a Renewable Energy Education and Outreach Strategy.
9. Develop and Implement a Strategy to Support Renewable Energy Legislation that Benefits San Diego County.
10. Establish a Sustainability Task Force within the County's Existing Organizational Framework.
11. Participate in the Creation of a New Regional Energy Network.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning & Development Services (PDS) recommends the following actions:

1. Find in accordance with Section 15262 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that today's actions are statutorily exempt from CEQA because they involve feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that the Board has not approved, adopted or funded and have no legally binding effect on later activities; and find in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) that today's actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the general rule since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that today's actions may have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Accept the CREP Phase One Report.
3. Provide direction on which, if any, recommendations should be considered for a Phase Two of the CREP.
4. Find that the County's Zoning Ordinance and California Government Code provide "pipelining" protection for discretionary renewable energy project applications.

1.1 ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Horn, seconded by Supervisor Cox, the Board accepted the CREP Phase One Report and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to consider the following for Phase Two of the CREP (Phase One Report Recommendations 1-7):

1. Establish a Sustainability Task Force within the County's Existing Organizational Framework.
2. Track Community Solar and Wind Initiatives in the County.
3. Increase the County's Renewable Energy Generation, Transmission, Use and Storage.
4. Develop Strategies to Address Barriers to Alternative Fuel Deployment.
5. Promote Vetted Renewable Energy Finance Mechanisms, such as Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs, Bonds, Peer-to-Peer Lending or Crowdfunding, among others.
6. Develop and Implement a Renewable Energy Education and Outreach Strategy.
7. Develop and Implement a Strategy to Support Renewable Energy Legislation that Benefits San Diego County.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, Gaspar, Horn

ABSENT: Roberts

1.2 ACTION:

Supervisor Jacob made a motion to approve the Planning Commission recommendation to prepare a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Feasibility Study with an evaluation by a third party, and include a review of Direct Access and the role of the utilities.

(This motion failed due to lack of second.)

1.3 ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Jacob, seconded by Supervisor Gaspar, the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to return to the Board in 12 months with a status update on other CCA feasibility studies in other jurisdictions in the state.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, Gaspar, Horn

ABSENT: Roberts

1.4 ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Cox, seconded by Supervisor Gaspar, the Board took action as recommended by the Department of Planning and Development Services adopting the following:

1. Found in accordance with Section 15262 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines that today's actions are statutorily exempt from CEQA because they involve feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions that the Board has not approved, adopted or funded and have no legally binding effect on later activities; and find in accordance with Section 15061(b)(3) that today's actions are exempt from CEQA pursuant to the general rule since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that today's actions may have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Found that the County's Zoning Ordinance and California Government Code provide "pipelining" protection for discretionary renewable energy project applications.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, Gaspar

NOES: Horn

ABSENT: Roberts

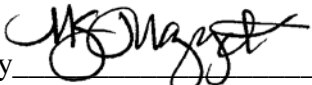
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State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

DAVID HALL
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



By 
Marvice E. Mazyck, Chief Deputy