

From: [Jan Dietrick](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item No. 64 Support for Exhibit 6 Factors on Suitable AG and OS Lands and Priority Areas (PL23-0075)
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:51:58 AM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

We commend the Planning Department and Ascent Environmental for this proposal for assessing sites for renewable energy and storage projects. We are not experts and have no conflicts of interest in the issues, but from what we know the suggestions submitted in comment from Wellhead Electric make sense to

- a) Adjust the energy storage GIS evaluation scoring methodology to add an **additional '2' points to the geographic areas immediately under and along the Santa Clara Substation to Mandalay SCE transmission lines.**
- b) Direct staff to include the three uses as Accessory Uses in OS (Open Space) and AG zoning with appropriate development standards (size, location, fire control, visual, etc.) and move an Accessory Use zoning code amendment forward in advance of the proposed code amendments that require a SOAR vote.
- c) Direct County Executive Officer Savet Johnson to notice County staff in various departments to prioritize working with the VRSD and Wellhead as we jointly explore project feasibility that involves with Fire Department, RMA, Public Works Watershed Management, and other offices in the coming months.

We agree with the list of factors in Exhibit 6 for including limited battery storage in SOAR AG and OS areas and disagree with commenters asking that projects be submitted to the voters in an election. That takes time we do not have for clean energy development.

The entire planet in every jurisdiction must find every means to transition from polluting to clean energy as soon as possible to mitigate the climate crisis. We must act from our own local initiative, because state and national governments are captured by the fossil fuel industry. We cannot waste time implementing proposals that have been carefully assessed according to the proposed criteria. There will be controversies, but the much higher priority for the entire world is to stop the use of polluting energy as fast as we can.

I commend two recent articles by a highly qualified national Sierra Club volunteer think tank to help guide planners in considerations for agrivoltaics siting decisions:

Agrivoltaics Combines Production of Agriculture and Solar

Power: <https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/team-news/2023/06/agrivoltaics-combines-production-agriculture-and-solar-power>

Best Practices for Agrivoltaics Land-use Planning and

Regulations: <https://content.sierraclub.org/grassrootsnetwork/team-news/2023/09/best-practices-agrivoltaics-land-use-planning-and-regulations>

Agrivoltaic

Resources: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dtBIKOacYYwOdBLKXXhj9cH->

[nuRlPTRtQDt8a4JKyTw/edit?usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/doodles/nuRlPTRtQDt8a4JKyTw/edit?usp=sharing)

We additionally take this opportunity to express our sense of urgency to develop a countywide plan for community microgrids. We request that the county advocate for master metering to enable faster development of energy resilience for apartment dwellers by a law to remove the current costly barriers to rooftop generation and storage in multi-unit structures. We expect a law to this end in the upcoming legislative session.

Finally, we urge you to demand that SCE stop advocating to the PUC for all of their long-held policy barriers to the development of community microgrids, including Transmission Access Charges, interconnection delays, and other schemes they continue to perpetrate that have blocked the potential for developers of community microgrids in Ventura County and the rest of SCE territory and all of California.

Sincerely,
Jan Dietrick, Policy Team Leader
350 Ventura County Climate Hub