

EXHIBIT 1, PC-2

Planning Commission Resolution 24-04

County-Initiated Proposed Ordinance Amending
Articles 2, 5, 7, and 19 of the Ventura County Non-
Coastal Zoning Ordinance to Include a Definition,
Use Category, and Acres Limitation for Phase I of
the Renewable Energy Program

Case No. PL24-0019

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Planning Commission Resolution

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency

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RESOLUTION 24-04 FOR PL24-0019 REGARDING PROPOSED COUNTY-INITIATED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 2, 5, 7 AND 19 OF THE VENTURA COUNTY NON-COASTAL ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION FOR “ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES” AND INCLUDE A DEFINITION, USE CATEGORY, AND ACREAGE LIMITATION FOR “RENEWABLE ENERGY STORAGE” FACILITIES IN CERTAIN ZONES; AND RELATED FINDING THAT ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2024, the Ventura County Planning Commission (“Commission”) held a legally noticed public hearing to consider a county-initiated ordinance amending Articles 2, 5, 7, and 19 of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to implement Phase I of the Renewable Energy Program (collectively, “Proposed Amendments”); and to consider a finding that adoption of the Proposed Amendments is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);

WHEREAS, the Commission considered all written and oral testimony from County staff and the public on this matter;

WHEREAS, after the close of the public hearing, Commissioner Sandlin moved to approve staff’s recommended actions, with a revision to the definitions of “energy production and storage from renewable resources” and “renewable energy storage” in Article 2 pursuant to the revised definitions set forth in Planning staff’s March 21, 2024, PowerPoint presentation to the Planning Commission;

WHEREAS, the motion also included a recommendation that the Board of Supervisors (Board): 1) consider directing Planning staff to further study potential job impacts as the result of energy storage projects in the Industrial zones, including potential job losses and/or job gains, 2) consider limiting the acreage available for energy storage projects in the Industrial zones, and 3) require, in Phase II of the Renewable Energy Program, that energy storage facilities be located adjacent to, or as close as possible to, existing electrical infrastructure in the AE, OS, and RA zones. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McPhail;

WHEREAS, the motion carried 5-0; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the following actions be taken by the Board with respect to the Proposed Amendments:

1. **CERTIFY** that the Board has reviewed and considered the Board letter and all exhibits thereto, the Planning Commission staff report and all exhibits thereto, and

all other materials and public comments received during the public comment and hearing processes;

2. **FIND**, on the basis of the entire record and as set forth in Section B of the Planning Commission Staff Report, that adoption of the Proposed Amendments to the NCZO (Exhibit 3) is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15308 and 15061(b)(3) because the Proposed Amendments consist of regulations for the benefit and protection of the environment and because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the Proposed Amendments may cause a significant effect on the environment; and **FIND** that no substantial evidence exists precluding the use of the above categorical exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15308) based on the presence of unusual circumstances or any other exception set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2;
3. **FIND**, on the basis of the entire record and as set forth in Sections A, B, C and D of the Planning Commission staff report, that the Proposed Amendments to the NCZO (Exhibit 3) are consistent with the goals, policies and programs of the Ventura County General Plan and good planning practices and are in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare;
4. **ADOPT** the proposed ordinance amending Articles 2, 5, 7, and 19 of the NCZO (Exhibit 3), except that the definitions for “energy production and storage from renewable sources” and “renewable energy storage” in Article 2 shall be revised and replaced with the revised definitions set forth in Planning staff’s March 21, 2024, PowerPoint presentation to the Planning Commission; and
5. **SPECIFY** that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is the custodian, and 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 is the location, of the documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which these decisions are based.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the Board: 1) consider directing Planning staff to further study potential job impacts as the result of energy storage projects in the Industrial zones, including potential job losses and/or job gains, 2) consider limiting the acreage available for energy storage projects in the Industrial zones, and 3) require, in Phase II of the Renewable Energy Program, that energy storage facilities be located adjacent to, or as close as possible to, existing electrical infrastructure in the AE, OS, and RA zones.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission’s reasons for the above-stated recommendations to the Board, and the relationship between the Proposed Amendments, are specified in Sections A, B, and C of the Planning Commission staff report and exhibits thereto. As a general summary, the Proposed Amendments would implement Phase I of the Renewable Energy Program as directed by the Board (Exhibit 3). The Planning Commission finds that the Proposed Amendments recognize that renewable energy production and storage are integral to healthy communities and environmental preservation by helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and allow for climate change resilience planning. The Proposed Amendments are consistent with the

General Plan and help further various policy objectives that seek to address climate change by supporting the growth of renewable energy production and storage.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution reflecting the actions taken by the Ventura County Planning Commission at a public hearing regarding the above-described matter on March 21, 2024.



Dave Ward, AICP, Secretary to the
Ventura County Planning Commission