

NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Citizens invited to participate in solar energy workshop

SAN BERNARDINO – A special workshop to discuss and obtain public input on possible amendments to County regulations for solar energy development will be conducted by the County Land Use Services Department on Tuesday, September 10, 2013. Citizens who have an interest in solar energy development are encouraged to participate and voice their ideas and concerns.

In June, the Board of Supervisors approved a temporary moratorium on commercial solar energy projects for up to 10 months while County staff drafts proposed amendments to the renewable energy chapter of the Development Code. The County is working to balance the concerns of residents impacted by these projects and protection of the desert environment with the interests of solar project developers and the need for renewable energy. Last June, the County was awarded a \$700,000 grant from the California Energy Commission to incorporate renewable energy development policies into its general plan.

“An ordinance amending the Development Code is needed to provide standards and guidelines to work with pending completion of the Renewable Energy Element in 2015,” said County Planning Director Terri Rahhal. “We invite the public and the industry to participate in the development of this ordinance.”

The workshop will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Covington Chambers on the first floor of the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue in San Bernardino.

Citizens may also participate in the workshop via interactive video from the Bob Burke Joshua Tree Government Center, located at 63665 Twentynine Palms Highway in Joshua Tree or the Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center, 15900 Smoke Tree Street in Hesperia.