

ATTACHMENT H: ENERGY ELEMENT AMENDMENT FINDINGS OF APPROVAL

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

The Board of Supervisors (Board) finds that the Comprehensive Plan Energy Element amendment is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Please see Attachment I, Notice of Exemption, to the Board Agenda Letter for August 27, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, for additional details.

2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In compliance with Section 35.104.060 of the County Land Use and Development Code, prior to the approval or conditional approval of an application for an Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, the review authority shall first make all of the following findings as applicable.

2.1 The request is in the interests of the general community welfare.

The Board finds that the proposed amendment to the Energy Element is in the interests of the general community welfare. The proposed amendment will update the Energy Element to ensure that it is current with the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP). This will allow the County to more effectively address the causes and effects of climate change to the benefit of the general community welfare.

2.2 The request is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the requirements of the State planning and zoning laws, and this Development Code.

The Board finds that the proposed Energy Element amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, the requirements of the State planning and zoning laws, and the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). The proposed amendment is consistent with all applicable policies of the County Comprehensive Plan, including the Community Plans. The proposed amendment will update Policy 8.3 and Research Action 8.3.1 of the Energy Element for consistency with the 2030 CAP. These updates will ensure that the Energy Element is current with the County's latest efforts to increase energy efficiency and combat the causes and effects of climate change.

The proposed amendment is also consistent with the LUDC and other sections of Chapter 35 of the County Code (Zoning). The proposed amendment to the Energy Element will update Policy 8.3 and Research Action 8.3.1 to be consistent with the 2030 CAP. These updates will not change any adopted land uses, zoning, or development standards within Chapter 35 of the County Code.

2.3 The request is consistent with good zoning and planning practices.

The Board finds that the proposed amendment is consistent with good zoning and planning practices. The proposed amendment will update the Energy Element to be consistent and current with other County documents, such as the 2030 CAP. The proposed amendment does not change any zoning regulations and does not raise environmental or other planning issues.

2.4 If the request is for an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, then the review authority shall also find that the request is deemed to be in the public interest.

The Board finds that the proposed amendment is in the public interest. The Energy Element amendments implement the 2030 Climate Action Plan, which identifies actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions throughout the County in order to meet state-required emission reduction mandates (set via Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 32, and Assembly Bill 1279) as well as the County’s 50% GHG emissions reduction target. The reduction of GHG emissions improves air quality and lowers certain types of pollutants, both of which benefit the public. The 2030 Climate Action Plan outlines the County’s commitment and strategy to reduce GHG emissions, as well as to protect the built environment, public health and welfare, and natural resources from the vulnerabilities caused by changing climate conditions.