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#7

de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Michael Chiacos <mchiacos@cecmail.org>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 4:29 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob
Cc: Sigrid Wright
Subject: CEC SUPPORT for Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance
Attachments: CEC comments - Utility Scale Solar Ordinance County of SB.pdf

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Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) supports renewable energy growth in the County of Santa Barbara and supports the changes suggested by staff for the Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance. In particular, we appreciate the emphasis on streamlining the permitting process for solar, clarification that the definition of "utility-scale" excludes any solar on built environments, such as parking lots and buildings, and allowing utility-scale solar on AG-II and PU zoning. CEC further supports that the County investigates allowing utility-solar on AG-1 properties, with appropriate review and safeguards for impacts.

CEC also encourages the County to advertise these efforts to make Santa Barbara County more solar friendly to solar developers, particularly those responding to recent and future Requests for Proposals from power procurers such as Central Coast Community Energy, who are increasing efforts to purchase from local and smaller utility-scale solar power projects. The County should also highlight the world class solar resource in Cuyama Valley, particularly with the severe overdrafting of groundwater problems there. Recent advances and cost declines in battery storage are allowing most new utility-scale solar projects to be paired with battery storage, producing projects that can dispatch solar power into the evening or as needed. This enables larger projects than previously were possible due to transmission constraints.

New solar development will lead to increased resiliency, lower greenhouse gas emissions, job growth, and enhanced revenue for the County. CEC hopes the County will move quickly to adopt these ordinance changes.

Sincerely,

Michael Chiacos
Director of Energy and Climate Programs
Community Environmental Council
1219 State Street, Suite A, Santa Barbara CA 93101
(805) 963-0583 x204 | (805) 284-4179 (Cell)

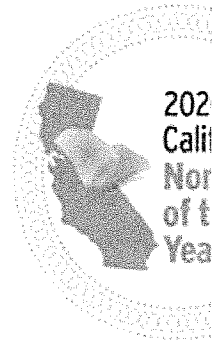
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CEC advances rapid and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. See our [impact report](#) to learn why we are a 2020 California Nonprofit of the Year, a 2020 City of Santa Barbara Climate Hero, and a recipient of the highest possible ratings from Charity Navigator and Guidestar.

CEC (por sus siglas en inglés) avanza soluciones rápidas y equitativas a la crisis climática. Vea nuestro informe de impacto para saber por qué somos la Organización Sin Fines de Lucro del Año 2020 de California, el 2020 Ciudad de Santa Bárbara Héroe del Clima y tenemos las calificaciones más altas posibles en Charity Navigator y Guidestar.

Community Environmental Council

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July 12, 2021
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Utility-Scale Solar Ordinance: **SUPPORT**

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