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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Group 2*

**From:** slbroberg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sharon Broberg  
 <slbroberg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2026 9:53 AM  
**To:** Villalobos, David  
**Subject:** Support responsible clean energy updates to Santa Barbara County's zoning ordinance

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Assistant Supervisor David Villalobos,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendments to the County's land use and zoning ordinance that would create clearer, fairer pathways for responsibly sited solar and energy storage projects.

Santa Barbara County has a real opportunity to advance public health, environmental justice, and long-term energy resilience. While the County's unincorporated areas could produce up to 2,925 megawatts of solar energy, current rules only allow a tiny fraction of that potential to be considered. The proposed amendments would remove arbitrary barriers by allowing solar in appropriate industrial zones and ensuring projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, rather than being ruled out before discussion even begins.

Expanding access to local solar and energy storage is especially important as energy demand grows and extreme heat events worsen. Relying on fossil-fuel peaker plants—such as the Ellwood facility—is harmful, inefficient, and outdated, contributing to poor air quality and preventable health impacts. Solar paired with storage offers a cleaner, quieter solution that strengthens grid reliability, reduces pollution, and provides value year-round, not just during a few peak demand hours.

These ordinance updates also support a stronger local economy. Utility-scale clean energy projects can generate long-term property tax revenue to fund schools, first responders, roads, and essential services without raising our taxes. As Santa Barbara County transitions away from oil, it's important that we also create new opportunities for the workers who have powered our communities for generations. Supporting responsibly sited solar and energy storage projects means creating more high-skill, family-sustaining jobs—often union jobs—while maintaining strong local oversight through Conditional Use Permits, safety standards, environmental review, and public engagement.

I urge you to support these thoughtful ordinance amendments and help ensure Santa Barbara County can responsibly capture the many benefits of clean energy while maintaining local control. Thank you for your leadership and for considering community input on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
 Mrs. Sharon Broberg  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93103-1661  
 slbroberg@gmail.com

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** rangeraleg@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Edwards  
<rangeraleg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 9, 2026 5:34 PM  
**To:** Villalobos, David  
**Subject:** Support responsible clean energy updates to Santa Barbara County's zoning ordinance

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At one time, I was working at a high school that used tax payer dollars to keep the lights on. I'm definitely happy seeing more public facilities moving away from the dependence on oil and electricity. Santa Barbara County is the land of Sunshine. Let's use this powerful resource.

Sincerely,  
Karen Edwards

I urge you to support these thoughtful ordinance amendments and help ensure Santa Barbara County can responsibly capture the many benefits of clean energy while maintaining local control. Thank you for your leadership and for considering community input on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Ms Karen Edwards  
Santa Ynez, CA 93460-1048  
rangeraleg@aol.com