

**ATTACHMENT F: RESOLUTION AMENDING THE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE ELEMENT, AN ELEMENT OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RESOLUTION NO.: 26-\_\_\_\_\_

Case No. 26GPA-00005

**WHEREAS**, on December 20, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-566, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara (County) adopted the Land Use Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Planning and Development Department has proposed Ordinance Amendments, Case No. 24ORD-00028, Case No. 24ORD-00029, and Case No. 24ORD-00030 to revise the requirements and regulations regarding solar energy systems and facilities within the unincorporated area of the County, including utility-scale solar facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments to the Land Use Element are consistent with the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, including the unchanged portions of the Land Use Element, and the requirements of State planning, zoning, and development laws; and

**WHEREAS**, public agencies, California Native American Indian Tribes, civic, education, and other community groups, public utility companies, and citizens have been provided the opportunity for involvement pursuant to Section 65351 of the Government Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the County initiated consultations with Native American tribes as required by Government Code Section 65352.3 and 65352.4; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Planning Commission has held a duly noticed public hearing, as required by Government Code section 65353, on the proposed amendment and has transmitted its written recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in compliance with Government Code section 65855; and

**WHEREAS**, in compliance with Government Code section 65855, the Board of Supervisors has considered the County Planning Commission's written recommendation, including the reasons for the recommendation and the relationship of the proposed amendment to the applicable general and specific plans, in taking this action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has held a duly noticed public hearing, as required by Government Code section 65355 on the proposed amendment, at which hearing the proposed amendment was explained and comments taken.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The above recitations are true and correct.
2. The Board of Supervisors now finds that it is in the interest of the orderly development of the County and important to the preservation of health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the County, to adopt the following amendments to the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- a) Delete Policy 15, “Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Policy,” including all implementing procedures, as follows:

~~15. Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Policy.~~

~~As the Cuyama Valley Rural Region has the highest level of solar insolation in the County, conversion of agricultural lands for the development of Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities in the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region shall be allowed as a means of balancing Comprehensive Plan goals and policies that encourage the use of renewable energy and preservation of agricultural lands. To limit agricultural conversions, utility-scale solar photovoltaic facilities are limited to 600 acres by the electrical transmission/distribution system capacity available as of the date of adoption of this policy.~~

~~Implementing Procedures:~~

- ~~a. Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities may be conditionally allowed with discretionary approval of a Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Overlay, on Agricultural II (A-II) and Agricultural Commercial (AC) land use designated lands, in the Agriculture II (AG-II) zone, within the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region, consistent with the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones, and in conformance with the Land Use Development Code permit approvals and related development standards.~~
- ~~b. The extent of such conversion is limited to a maximum of 600 acres on Agricultural II (A-II) and Agricultural Commercial (AC) land use designated lands, in the Agriculture II (AG-II) zone within the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region.~~

- b) Delete the “Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Overlay” description and criteria, as follows:

~~Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Overlay: The purpose of this overlay is to conditionally allow Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities on land with an Agricultural II (A-II) or Agricultural Commercial (AC) land use designation in the designated rural areas of the Cuyama Valley, not including Existing Rural Developed Neighborhoods. The Overlay furthers the Comprehensive Plan, Energy Element Goal 5 and Policies 5.2, 5.4, 5.13, and 5.13.2 that encourage the use of alternative/renewable energy and the development of related businesses in Santa Barbara County.~~

~~Any application or proposal for a Comprehensive Plan amendment to designate an area on eligible land in the Cuyama Valley as Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facility Overlay shall satisfy the following criteria:~~

~~The application or proposal shall be accompanied by an application for a Conditional Use Permit for solar photovoltaic energy production in compliance with all applicable zoning ordinances.~~

~~The proposed site shall be located within the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region on land designated Agriculture II (A-II), or Agricultural Commercial (AC) if consistent with the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones, and zoned Agricultural II (AG-II).104~~

- c) Amend the Land Use Element definition of “Rural Area” to remove the reference to Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities and to include “solar energy generation,” as follows:

**Rural Area:** An area shown on the land use map within which development is limited to agriculture and related uses, mineral (including oil) extraction and related uses and activities, ~~Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities if located in the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region~~ solar energy generation, recreation (public or private), low density residential and related uses and uses of a public or quasi-public nature. The minimum lot size permitted within this area is 40 acres, with the sole exception of any parcel(s) to be owned and used solely by a public agency, consistent with the “Public Facilities” Policies of this Element. Existing smaller lot neighborhood developments are permitted within the Rural Area only in designated locations.

- d) Amend the definition of “Urbanization or Urban Development” to remove references to “Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities if located in the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region” as follows:

Urbanization or Urban Development shall mean:

1. Any type of commercial or industrial use, excepting only those limited uses which may be permitted within the Rural and Inner-Rural Areas under the Coastal Dependent Industry designation, the "Overlay Symbols" of Mineral Resource Area or Spa, any of the "Overlay Symbols for Rural Areas Only" (Mineral Resource Industry, Agricultural Industry, Waste Disposal Facility, Petroleum Resource Industry, ~~Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities if located in the Rural Area of the Cuyama Valley Rural Region~~), and/or the Conditional Use

- e) Delete the Land Use Element glossary definitions of “Solar Photovoltaic System” and “Utility-Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities,” as follows:

~~Solar Photovoltaic System: A type of Solar Energy System that uses semiconductor technology to directly convert sunlight into electricity, including thin film and crystalline silicon technology.~~

~~Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Facilities: Facilities that are connected to the electrical grid on the utility side of the electric meter and are built for the primary purpose of generating and selling wholesale power.~~

3. Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code section 65357(b), the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to make the documents amending the Land Use Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, including the diagrams and text, available to the public for inspection.
4. The Chair and the Clerk of this Board are hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to reflect the above mentioned action by the Board of Supervisors.

5. Pursuant to the provision of Government Code section 65357, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized and directed to send endorsed copies of said amendments to the planning agency of each city within this County.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026 by the following vote

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

By \_\_\_\_\_  
BOB NELSON, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
RACHEL VAN MULLEM  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Counsel