

Selected Portions of SGMP Dealing with Renewable Energy Infrastructure

[Emphasis and Highlighting Added by SMA]

Though not completely created, the SGMP envisioned a financial infrastructure district to promote residential and commercial renewable energy improvements so that these improvements could be made at a reasonable cost to property owners. This idea quite likely led to creating the “Commercial Solar” use in Appendix B.

3.2.5 INFRASTRUCTURE

A key to attracting and keeping both existing industries and the target industries described above is the development of twenty-first century infrastructure within the County. Without adequate infrastructure, other community and economic activities are weakened and increasingly difficult to support. In assessing current strengths and weaknesses related to infrastructure, the County has identified regional infrastructure development in broadband, renewable energy and agriculture infrastructure, as key to advancing the local economy into the future.

3.2.5.2 RENEWABLE ENERGY

To offset the high cost of energy production, distribution and consumption the County desires to foster a "green grid" infrastructure. Focusing on energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the development of green energy production, distribution and consumption within the County itself, the County is currently working to make these infrastructure improvements more likely to occur through the development of a Renewable Energy Financing District. The District, created to provide viable financing options to address the barrier of high upfront costs of renewable energy development, offers an alternative financing method with long-term and low cost financing, including repayment through a special assessment on property tax bills. In addition to a benefit to industry, this district will also allow residential and commercial property owners to be able to make renewable energy improvements in an accessible and affordable manner. Property owners will be able to opt into the district, therefore making participation a voluntary measure.