



IMPERIAL COUNTY SEEKS BALANCE BETWEEN AGRICULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

TWO COMMUNITY MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014

The County is updating the 2006 “*Geothermal/Alternative Energy and Transmission Element*” of its General Plan. The General Plan is the blueprint that guides development over the next two decades. The County possesses a unique diversity of renewable energy resources in addition to some of the richest, most productive agricultural land in California. Updating the General Plan Element will allow the County to further its goals to sustain agriculture, improve the environment, and achieve expanded economic opportunities created by the generation and transmission of renewable energy.

The County received funding from the California Energy Commission’s Renewable Energy and Conservation Planning Grant which is being used to conduct the update.

Some of the challenges that the project team will face include

- **Mapping** the locations where existing renewable energy resources and where the conditions are favorable for generating renewable energy.
- **Identifying** the most suitable areas for renewable energy projects that ensure that valuable farmland and sensitive habitats are not disturbed.
- **Targeting** areas around or under the Salton Sea for renewable energy development and/or habitat conservation.
- **Defining appropriate transmission corridors.**
- **Protecting** areas containing important biological, cultural and natural resources.

Public input is critical to the success of the update. Along with an ad-hoc Technical Advisory Group representing a wide range of interests and expertise, there will be three sets of interactive community workshops. The public is encouraged to attend.

The two community meetings will be held at the following times and locations.

- 10:00 a.m. at the Calipatria Council Chambers, 125 N. Park Avenue, Calipatria, CA
- 2:00 p.m. at the Niland Chambers of Commerce, 8031 Highway 111, Niland, CA

Please attend the community meeting that is most convenient, as the content and format will be identical. For more information, contact Andy Horne, Deputy County Executive Officer, at 760-482-4727, or by email at andyhorne@co.imperial.ca.us or visit the project website at www.icpds.com (CEC ALTERNATIVE ENERGY UPDATE).