



California County Planning Directors Association

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California has historically led the nation in the field of environmental protection and the development of new technology. Nowhere is this more evident than in the area of solar energy development, where our entrepreneurial spirit and State law have come together to create a demand for solar energy facilities and a host of energy development proposals to meet that demand. This demand has posed several challenges for implementation, specifically, WHERE should solar energy facilities best be located?

With this reality in mind, and with the help of over 100 people from a broad coalition, the California County Planning Director's Association (CCPDA) embarked on an effort to develop a guidance document, including a model ordinance, that could be used by local governments to assist in their efforts to provide a streamlined regulatory framework for the installation of solar energy facilities while protecting farmlands and sensitive environmental habitats. As most solar energy facilities have been proposed for unincorporated areas of the state, this guide should be particularly helpful to Counties as they review and consider such facilities in the context of protecting important farmland and sensitive habitat. It may also be helpful to cities and counties in other states who are wrestling with similar competing challenges.

Thanks to all who helped to produce this document. We at the California Planning Director's Association hope you find them valuable as you work to assist the state in its effort to lead the nation in the development and installation of solar energy facilities.

Sincerely,



Chris Stephens
CCPDA President

CCPDA stands for the advancement of comprehensive county land use planning through shared professional, educational and consultative activities.