



increases will create an additional demand for air transportation. Servicing this demand for aviation facilities will be hampered, however, by encroaching incompatible uses such as residences. The intent of the following policies is to provide for safe air operations, provide a safety and noise buffer around airports, and to comply with Federal Aviation Administration and Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission regulations.



These guidelines provide design and modification of poles, cross arms, and wire placements to effect adequate separation of energized hardware; insulation of wires and other hardware where sufficient separation cannot be attained; and management of eagle perching. In addition, all transmission lines facilities should avoid crossing ridge tops to avoid bird and tower line collisions.

Policies:

- LU 14.1 Allow airport facilities to develop and operate in order to meet existing and future needs in appropriate locations respecting potential noise and safety impacts.
- LU 14.2 Minimize impacts to those areas surrounding airports by careful planning, including compliance with the following: (AI 3)
 - a. Airport Land Use Plan for Riverside County
 - b. Comprehensive Land Use Plan for adjacent airports
 - c. Relevant Area plans

Wind Energy Resources

Energy resources provide the power necessary to operate and maintain the quality of life enjoyed by most Riverside County residents. Many types of power generating facilities are present or will be built within the planning horizon; however, the potential aesthetic, land use, noise, and ecology issues associated with the development of wind turbines necessitates additional policy direction in order to ensure the continuation of the quality of life in the County. Wind turbines, also referred to as Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS), should generally be located away from natural hazards, critical habitat and community development type land uses.

Policies:

- LU 15.1 Prohibit wind turbines within Community Development Foundation Component areas, and within Open Space-Conservation Habitat, Rural Residential, and Open Space-Recreation Land Use Designations. (AI 1, 3)
- LU 15.2 Require wind turbines to be set back from alignments of multipurpose trails as designated on Figure C-5 of the Circulation Element. Setbacks will be determined on a project by project basis. (AI 3)
- LU 15.3 Require wind turbines to be set back from County Regional Parks and sensitive environmental areas. Setbacks will be determined on a project by project basis. (AI 3)
- LU 15.4 Prohibit wind turbines on lands in excess of 25% slope.



- LU 15.5 Restrict lands in excess of 25% slope from uses associated with wind turbine development, such as access roads, except in specific instances where site-specific investigation indicates that no adverse impacts or increased hazard would result, and that visual impacts can be mitigated. (AI 3)
- LU 15.6 Prohibit wind turbines located astride earthquake faults or lineaments. (AI 3)
- LU 15.7 Restrict locating structures in areas of potential landslides and mudflows. Where avoidance is not feasible, use of shear keys, and/or removal and replacement of unstable soils should be implemented for landslide areas. Setback requirements from surrounding uses, including roads or utilities and/or diversion walls, should be used to mitigate impacts from mudflow prone areas. (AI 3)
- LU 15.8 Prohibit wind turbines within 1/4 mile of riparian areas or springs in order to protect areas where wildlife concentrations occur. (AI 3)
- LU 15.9 Restrict the placement of wind turbines within 2 miles of residential development unless the applicant supplies documentation that the machine(s) will not produce low frequency impulsive noise. (AI 3)
- LU 15.10 Require wind turbines to operate at less than 65 db(A) and at less than 60 db(A) when installed adjacent to noise-sensitive land uses. (AI 3)
- LU 15.11 Ensure that site designs and operations provide for adequate security and safety to lessen the possibilities and impacts of accidents, vandalism, and environmental hazards. (AI 3)
- LU 15.12 Require the design of transmission lines and towers to conform to the guidelines for raptor protection described in the Raptor Research Report No. 4, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981 to minimize the potential of collisions and electrocution of raptors. (AI 3)
- LU 15.13 Require the design and location of wind energy developments to mitigate visual impacts. Issues to be reviewed may include, but are not limited to the following: (AI 3)
 - a. Color of turbines;
 - b. Location and design of associated facilities such as roads, fencing, utility lines, substations and maintenance buildings to minimize intrusion or disruption of the landscape;
 - c. Use of foreground vegetation planting to screen or provide visual separation of turbine arrays;
 - d. Rerouting or placing of utility lines underground where feasible near roads, viewpoints and visual features;
 - e. Aligning of new transmission lines closely with existing transmission corridors;
 - f. Minimizing of disturbed ground and roadway, and restoring of the surface to natural vegetation;
 - g. Screening of low structures by native scrub;



County of Riverside General Plan - *Hearing Draft*

Land Use Element

- h. Prohibition of brand names or advertising associated with wind turbines visible from any scenic highways or key viewpoints;
- i. Need for interpretation and/or visitors center located at the edge of the viewshed of turbines.

LU 15.14 Require the following mitigation measures for wind development on sites within 1 mile of official or eligible State or County Scenic Highways designated (Figure C-7, Circulation Element) by Riverside County, and sites within those areas identified as “critical” and “very critical” by Environmental Impact Report No. 158. Any wind development on these sites would require site-specific visual analysis, although a number of small sites could have a single combined visual analysis. The visual analysis would select appropriate mitigation from the following list for each site, depending on proposed turbine types, densities, and siting. (AI 3)

- a. No wind turbine will be sited on slopes in excess of 25% to prevent disturbance and degradation of landforms, and visual scarring by cut and fill, sidecasting, retaining walls, trenching, and vegetation removal; avoid skyline and ridgeline location, except where small numbers of turbines are sited on ridgelines to increase their distinctiveness or accentuate topographic shapes; avoid partial topographic screening of turbines from key viewpoints, to maximize distinctiveness and comprehension; and ensure that the scale of wind turbine neither dwarfs nor clutters the topographic feature.
- b. Arrays of turbines should be set back proportionally from scenic highways and key viewpoints; turbines with unusual designs should be limited to small clusters and sited to accentuate natural features or increase visual interest; mixed turbine arrays should be avoided unless designed to complement natural features.
- c. Wind turbines should be set back from scenic highways and viewpoints; separate clusters or arrays of turbines to create distinct “free zones” between groups; set back individual turbines far enough from scenic highways and key viewpoints so they do not obscure or overwhelm distinctive skylines; set back large turbines from small important landmarks so that they do not overwhelm the landform; for short distances bring small or medium machines close to the roadside to focus views down the highway.
- d. Coordinate color schemes for all developments; avoid mixing colors within a particular array unless to subordinate a particular turbine type or to provide safety markings; limit use of color patterns as accent for key clusters or individual turbines; for aviation safety use a white turbine with two orange bands.