

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor John J. Benoit

SUBMITTAL DATE:
Feb. 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Support of Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (House of Representatives Bill 596 and Senate Bill 279)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Support H.R. 596 which, as currently drafted, proposes to return a portion of the revenues collected from wind and solar projects on federal lands to counties where projects are located; and
2. Conditionally support S. 279 and pursue amendments to ensure consistency with H.R. 596; and
3. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to forward the Board's position of support of H.R. 596 and conditional support of S. 279 to the bill's authors, the Riverside County federal legislative delegation and our Washington D.C. advocates.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act proposes to establish a pilot competitive leasing program for wind and solar energy projects on federal public lands and return a full 25 percent of the collected bonus bids, royalties, rentals, fees or other payments to counties where projects are located.

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John J. Benoit

John J. Benoit
Fourth District Supervisor

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Not applicable	Budget Adjustment: 0
	For Fiscal Year: 0

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Benoit, seconded by Supervisor Tavaglione and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: None
 Date: February 25, 2014
 xc: Supvr. Benoit, E.O. 12812

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: *Raquele Foster*
Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: _____ **District:** _____ **Agenda Number:** _____

3-50

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

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BACKGROUND (continued):

This landmark, bipartisan legislation can provide revenue to the county as renewable energy projects are developed on federal land, contributing to the delivery of critical government services and the development of much-needed capital projects. Riverside County is well-suited for renewable energy development and contains the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone, which is the largest of the Bureau of Land Management's identified solar energy zones, covering nearly 148,000 acres.

Additionally, 25 percent of the royalties or bonuses will be allocated to states, 25 percent will be deposited in the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund, 15 percent will be directed to the state offices of the Bureau of Land Management and the regional office of the Forest Service, and the remaining 10 percent to the general fund of the Treasury to reduce the federal budget deficit. The Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund will protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to federal lands and waters for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

The Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act was introduced in Congress in early 2013 as two measures, H.R. 596 and S. 279. I support H.R. 596, as currently drafted.

The U.S. Senate measure, S. 279, should be amended to clarify a concern about the distribution of revenues from projects straddling multiple counties. S. 279 states that 25 percent of the revenues shall be paid "to the 1 or more counties within the boundaries of which the income is derived." The text of H.R. 596 addresses this split of amounts more clearly, specifying that 25 percent shall be paid "to the counties within the boundaries of which the royalties or bonuses are derived, to be allocated among such counties based on the percentage of covered land from which such royalties or bonuses are derived in each county." I suggest S. 279 be amended to include this more clearly stated language in H.R. 596.

I respectfully request my colleagues' concurrence to support H.R. 596, as currently drafted, and provide conditional support of S. 279, pending amendments.

Impact on Citizens and Businesses

H.R. 596 and S. 279 could have a positive impact on citizens and businesses, as revenue could be generated for county services and capital projects.

SUPPLEMENTAL:

Additional Fiscal Information

Not applicable

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS (if needed, in this order):

A. BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

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B. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

NUMBER	AMOUNT	PERCENT	DESCRIPTION

(Additional description and details of new change order(s) – one or two paragraphs for each.)

C. PERSONNEL CHANGE and ORDINANCE 440 REPORT