

ATTACHMENT E

General Plan Policies supporting alternative energy and climate change

- **Land Use Policy 7.2:** Support and participate in countywide, regional and other multi-agency planning efforts related to housing, tourism, air quality, open space, green infrastructure, recreations, agriculture, habitat conservation, energy, emergency preparedness and flood protection.
- **Community Character Policy CC-4.1:** Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, extracted underground metals, minerals and other non-renewable resources.
- **Community Character Policy CC-4.4:** Encourage all new construction to be zero net energy by combining building energy efficiency design features with on-site clean distributed generation so as to result in no net purchases from the electricity or gas grid.
- **Community Character Policy CC-4.5:** Encourage individual and community-based wind and solar energy systems.

Public Facilities GOAL PF0-10: Sources of Energy. Provide opportunities for the development of energy alternatives.

- **Public Facilities Policy PF-10.1:** Explore "community choice aggregation" as a means of facilitating the purchase of electrical energy at the local level for community needs.
- **Public Facilities Policy PF-10.2:** Streamline the permitting process for the production of energy alternatives (including but not limited to photovoltaic, solar, wind, biofuels, and biomass) to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.
- **Public Facilities Policy PF-10.3:** Provide financial and regulatory incentives for the installation of alternative energy and alternative energy conservation measures in all development approvals.
- **Public Facilities Policy PF-10.4:** Provide financial and regulatory incentives for the installation of alternate energy and other alternate energy conservation measures for agriculture.
- **Public Facilities Policy PF-12.3:** Design, construct, and operate facilities that employ renewable energy resources, or reduce the use of fossil fuel for their operations and transport needs.
 - **Action PF-A64:** Amend the County Code to streamline permitting requirements for small community power systems that utilize clean resource-based renewable energy (e.g. wind, solar, and biodiesel).
 - **Action PF-A68:** Promote, and require where feasible, use of sustainable renewable energy sources to power homes, businesses, agriculture, and infrastructure.
- **Agriculture Policy AG-2.7:** Encourage farmers and agricultural businesses to prepare for opportunities and adversities that may result from climate change.
- **Agriculture Policy AG-3.21:** Promote best management practices in agriculture operations (including animal operations) to reduce emissions, conserve energy and water, and utilize alternative energy sources.

Education GOAL ED-5: Economic Sustainability. Encourage local industry to adapt to the expected effects of climate change and minimize greenhouse gases and other emissions.

- **Economic Development Policy ED-5.11:** *In all agricultural, industrial, and commercial endeavors, promote use of solar technology, water reuse systems, biomass systems, and other systems to capture alternative sources of energy.*

Conservation GOAL CO-8: Climate Change. *Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for adaptation to the future consequences of global climate change.*

- **Conservation Policy CO-8.3:** *Prepare appropriate strategies to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts.*
- **Conservation Policy CO-8.4:** *Encourage all businesses to take the following actions, where feasible: replace high mileage fleet vehicles with hybrid and/or alternative fuel vehicles; increase the energy efficiency of facilities; transition toward the use of renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources.*
- **Conservation Policy CO-8.5:** *Promote GHG emission reductions by supporting carbon efficient farming methods; installation of renewable energy technologies; protection of grasslands, open space, oak woodlands, riparian forest and farmlands from conversion to other uses; and development of energy efficient structures.*
- **Conservation Policy CO-8.7:** *Integrate climate change planning and program implementation into County decision making.*
 - **Action CO-A110:** *Amend the Zoning Code to streamline permitting for the production of biofuels, biomass, solar, wind and other energy alternatives to reduce dependency on fossil fuels.*

General Plan Policies supporting the preservation of agricultural resources

GOAL LU-2: Agricultural Preservation. *Preserve farmland and expand opportunities for related business and infrastructure to ensure a strong local agricultural economy.*

- **Land Use Policy LU-2.3:** *Prohibit the division of land in an agricultural area if the division is for non-agricultural purposes and/or if the result of the division will be parcels that are infeasible for farming.*
- **Land Use Policy LU-2.4:** *Vigorously conserve, preserve, and enhance the productivity of the agricultural lands in areas outside of adopted community growth boundaries and outside of city SOIs.*
- **Land Use Policy LU-7.2:** *Support and participate in countywide, regional and other multi-agency planning efforts related to housing, tourism, air quality, open space, green infrastructure, recreation, agriculture, habitat conservation, energy, emergency preparedness and flood protection.*
- **Land Use Policy LU-7.3:** *Coordinate with other stakeholder agencies and entities to continue local and regional planning efforts to preserve agriculture, open space and natural resources while meeting housing needs, basic infrastructure and service levels, County economic development goals and County fiscal objectives.*

GOAL AG-1: Preservation of Agriculture. *Preserve and defend agriculture as fundamental to the identity of Yolo County.*

- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.1:** *Protect and enhance the county's four key agricultural sectors. This includes: (1) retaining existing growers and processors of crops; (2) encouraging the growth of emerging crops and value-added processing; (3) supporting small and organic producers and their ability to serve visitors; and (4) enhancing the transfer of new technologies into practical applications for seeds, crops, fuels, alternative energy, food processing, etc.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.3:** *Prohibit land division of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.4:** *Prohibit land use activities that are not compatible within agriculturally designated areas.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.5:** *Strongly discourage the conversion of agricultural land for other uses.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.6:** *Continue to mitigate at a ratio of no less than 1:1 for the conversion of farmland and/or the conversion of land designated or zoned for agriculture, to other uses.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.8:** *Regulate and encourage removal of incompatible land uses and facilities from agriculturally designated lands.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.10:** *Protect agricultural lands from urban encroachment by limiting the extension of urban service facilities and infrastructure, particularly sewers.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.12:** *Prohibit new residential or suburban subdivisions in areas designated for agricultural use.*

- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.14:** *Preserve agricultural lands using a variety of programs, including the Williamson Act, Farmland Preservation Zones, conservation easements, an Agricultural Lands Conversion Ordinance and the Right-to-Farm Ordinance.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-1.15:** *Advocate for maintenance and improvement of the Williamson Act Land Conservation (Agricultural Preserve) Program.*

GOAL AG-2: Natural Resources for Agriculture. *Protect the natural resources needed to ensure that agriculture remains an essential part of Yolo County's future.*

- **Agriculture Policy AG-2.5:** *Support high value and intensive farming practices on appropriate agricultural soils. Prime soils and other productive agricultural land outside of growth boundaries shall be preserved wherever feasible.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-2.7:** *Encourage farmers and agricultural businesses to prepare for opportunities and adversities that may result from climate change.*
- **Agriculture Policy Ag-2.10:** *Encourage habitat protection and management that does not preclude or unreasonably restrict onsite agricultural production.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-2.14:** *Recognize the valuable role that agriculture plays in mitigating the effects of climate change, including permanent crops that sequester carbon for long periods of time and the use of farming methods that reduce the use of fossil fuels and pesticides.*
- **Agriculture Policy AG-2.15:** *Encourage the establishment of agricultural mitigation banks in appropriate locations that provide strategic protection of high value farmland.*

GOAL AG-3: Healthy Farm Economy. *Promote a health and competitive farm economy to expand the County's agricultural base.*

- **Agriculture Policy AG-3.2:** *Allow uses that support agriculture, such as agricultural commercial uses, agricultural industrial uses, direct product sales, processing, farm-based tourism, agricultural research, and farm worker housing, on agricultural land subject to appropriate design review and development standards.*
- **Conservation Policy CO-3.2:** *Preserve and enhance those biological communities that contribute to the County's rich biodiversity including blue oak and mixed oak woodlands, native grassland prairies, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitat, agricultural lands, heritage valley oak teres, remnant valley oak groves, and roadside tree rows.*