

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF KITTITAS
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

Ordinance No. 2018- 003

An Ordinance Extending a Moratorium on Accepting Applications for Solar Projects That Qualify As Major Alternative Energy Facilities within Kittitas County

- WHEREAS,** Strong interest has developed in the creation of solar projects within Kittitas County and its agricultural areas; and
- WHEREAS,** Agricultural industry provides a large portion of the economic base within Kittitas County; and
- WHEREAS,** Major alternative energy facilities include hydroelectric plant, solar farm, or wind farm as indicated within KCC 17.61.010(9); and
- WHEREAS,** Concern has been expressed in public hearings and public comments that solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities are planned for lands used for agriculture; and
- WHEREAS,** RCW 36.70A.390 allows adoption of a moratorium on land use activities for sixty (60) days without holding a public hearing; and
- WHEREAS,** On January 10, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously called for an immediate moratorium on all applications for solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities; and
- WHEREAS,** A public hearing must be held within sixty (60) days of the moratorium's enactment and findings of fact must be made to support the action; and
- WHEREAS,** After due notice the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on March 9, 2017 at 6 p.m. where public testimony was received in regards to the moratorium; and
- WHEREAS,** After consideration of the staff report, public comment, and evidence submitted, the Board ordered that all applications for solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities not be accepted for (6) months from January 10, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, According to RCW 36.70A.390, a moratorium may be effective for up to one (1) year when a work plan is developed for related studies; and

WHEREAS, A work plan was developed and adopted with Ordinance No. 2017-004; and

WHEREAS, After due notice the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on July 10, 2017 at 6 p.m. where public testimony was received regarding the moratorium and proposed work plan; and

WHEREAS, After consideration of the staff report and work plan, public comment, and evidence submitted, the Board decided that the moratorium for solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities shall be extended for an additional six months.

WHEREAS, A Solar Facilities Citizen Advisory Committee was formed at Resolution No. 2017-133 in accordance with the adopted work plan; and

WHEREAS, The Solar Facilities Citizen Advisory Committee has met six times and conducted one community open house in order to draft standards and criteria for siting of solar facilities, but the standards are not yet ready for hearing or adoption; and

WHEREAS, After due notice the Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on January 3, 2018 at 6 p.m. where public testimony was received regarding the moratorium; and

WHEREAS, After consideration of the staff report, public comment, and evidence submitted, the Board decided that the moratorium for solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities shall be extended for an additional six months.

NOW THE BOARD FINDS:

1. A potentially high number of proponents for solar farms have shown interest in the development of solar energy facilities within the Kittitas County valley.
2. Large numbers of large solar energy facilities may have an impact upon the agricultural activity within the valley, which is a prime industry within the County.
3. The Board desires standards and/or criteria for the placement of such facilities.
4. A citizen advisory committee has been working on standards and siting criteria, but needs more time to complete its work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED, that the moratorium on applications for solar projects that qualify as major alternative energy facilities shall be extended until July 10, 2018, or until standards and/or criteria are adopted, whichever occurs first.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of January, 2018.

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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Chairman




Vice-Chairman



Commissioner




Julie A. Kjorsvik

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Neil Caulkins,
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney