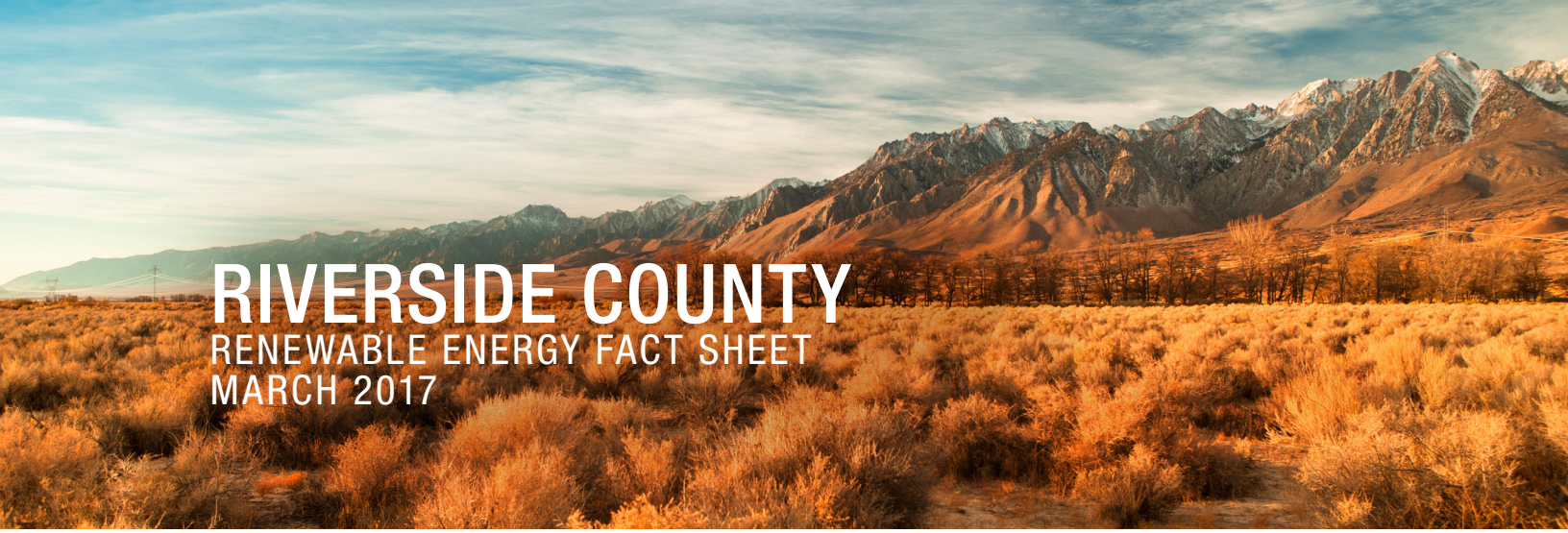

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET
MARCH 2017

OVERVIEW

Riverside County is home to one of the largest solar photovoltaic projects in the world, the 550 megawatt (MW) Desert Sunlight project. It is also home to California's largest inland body of water, the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is a diverse, commercially viable renewable energy resource with the potential to generate over 3,000 MW of renewable energy. The Salton Sea is also home to more than 400 species of birds and has a greater diversity of avian species than the Florida Everglades. [1]

POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT

Riverside County's Planning Department oversees renewable energy development in the County. In July 2014, the County initiated its eRED Planning Program. The program aims to "coordinate and encourage eligible renewable energy resource development (eRED) in the county at the General Plan level."

The eRED Planning Program is meant to help the County develop a General Plan Amendment that can serve as a robust framework of policies and data addressing renewable energy resources. It aims to support the development and expansion of geothermal, solar and other renewable energy resources in the Salton Sea region and facilitate an environmental restoration strategy for that area. Additionally, eRED can be used to help coordinate solar energy resource development in the far eastern desert portion of the County in conjunction with the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The eRED Planning Program will contribute to helping California achieve its long-term renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

PROJECTS AND GENERATING CAPACITY

The Energy Commission's December 2016 Renewable Energy Tracking Progress report shows that Riverside County (incorporated and unincorporated areas) had 74 wholesale renewable energy projects on-line with a total generating capacity of 2,195 MW In addition, there were over 45,000 distributed generation systems, like rooftop solar, capable of providing 357 MW of capacity, installed at homes and buildings in the county. Also, there are 14 solar PV projects with a combined capacity of 1,508 MW with environmental permits in the county that could become operational in the future.

EFFORTS TIED TO DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP)

Riverside County is one of seven counties working with state and federal agencies on the development of the DRECP, which is a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts. The DRECP is a landscape-scale, multi-agency planning effort for 22.5 million acres in California's desert. It will provide for the conservation of desert ecosystems while facilitating the

1 Redlands Institute, Salton Sea: California's Everglades, 2002.

appropriate development of renewable energy projects.

Riverside County was part of the Stakeholder Committee that informed the plan's development, and it submitted comments on the draft DRECP and environmental study released in September 2014.

It was one of five counties—along with Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino—in the DRECP area that applied for and received a Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Grant (RECPG) from the Energy Commission. Under MOUs signed with the state and in a manner consistent with goals set forth in a planning agreement, these five counties formed cooperative relationships to effectively plan for and promote renewable energy development in a way that advances the counties' and state's renewable energy policies and initiatives.

Riverside County is using a $699,996 grant to develop its eRED Planning Program. The program will support the development of a proposed amendment to its General Plan, including revisions to the Multipurpose Open Space Element, Land Use Element, Area Plans and other areas of the General Plan to facilitate eligible renewable energy resource development.

More information on renewable energy in Riverside County can be found on the web pages of its Planning Department.

On-line Renewable Energy Projects in Riverside County (as of October 30, 2016)*

	Utility-Scale Capacity (>20 MW)		Distributed-Scale Capacity (1-20 MW)		Behind-the-Meter Capacity (MW)
Type	**No. of Projects**	**Total MW**	**No. of Projects**	**Total MW**	**Total MW**
Bioenergy	1	54	2	5	
Small Hydro	1	30	5	20	
Solar PV	5	1,036	25	101	
Solar Thermal	1	250	-	-	
Wind Energy	15	557	19	142	
Total	**23**	**1,927 MW**	**51**	**268 MW**	**357 MW**

* The information provided in this table is based on data from the Quarterly Fuel and Energy Report (QFER), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) RPS Project Status Table, Energy Commission S2/S5 Forms, CPUC "Currently Interconnected Data Set" (March 2016), and SB1 Solar Program Status Reports.

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