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RESOLUTION 86-2023

A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON WASHINGTON COUNTY'S ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL SCALE WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS IN ALL UNINCORPORATED PORTIONS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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WHEREAS, on October 3, 2023 via Resolution 79-2023, the Board of County Commissioners imposed a temporary moratorium until November 30, 2023 on the approval for applications for wind and solar facilities to provide County staff time to prepare application forms and internal procedures; and

WHEREAS, on July 25th, 2023 via Resolution 68-2023, the Board of County Commissioners imposed a temporary moratorium until September 26, 2023 on the approval for applications for wind and solar facilities to provide County staff time to prepare application forms and internal procedures; and

WHEREAS, on May 23rd, 2023 via Resolution 61-2023, the Board of County Commissioners imposed a temporary moratorium until July 25, 2023 on the approval for applications for wind and solar facilities to provide County staff time to prepare application forms and internal procedures; and

WHEREAS, small-scale wind energy conversion systems (also referred to as on-site wind energy conversion systems) are defined in the County's Wind Energy Conversion Systems Zoning Regulations to be:

A wind energy conversion system less than 80 feet in total height with the blade fully extended (tip height) not to include on site building structures intended to generate electric power from wind solely for the use of the site on which the system is located. Small-scale WECS are primarily intended to provide on-site power, but may contribute surplus energy to the grid.

WHEREAS, small-scale WECSs are not regulated by the County's Wind Energy Conversion Systems Zoning Regulations, and are instead subject to the County's Small Scale Electrical Generation Wind Towers a Use by Special Review Regulations;

WHEREAS, the County is currently investigating whether the definition of Small-scale WECs needs to be updated to address new industry-standard heights, and therefore, the County Commissioners desire to impose a temporary moratorium until January 31, 2024 to provide the County time to determine whether a revision to the definition serves the best interests of the citizens of Washington County.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO:

1. All findings set forth in Resolution 61-2023 are hereby incorporated herein.
2. The moratorium set forth in Resolution 61-2023 for approval of applications for small-scale WECSs is hereby extended to July 25th, 2023 unless earlier terminated or further extended.
3. The moratorium set forth in Resolution 68-2023 for approval of applications for small-scale WECSs is hereby extended to September 26th, 2023 unless earlier terminated or further extended.
4. The moratorium set forth in Resolution 79-2023 for approval of applications for small-scale WECSs is hereby extended to November 30, 2023 unless earlier terminated or further extended.
5. A temporary moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications for small-scale WECSs is hereby imposed until January 31, 2024.

APPROVED this 5th day of December, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO



Lea Ann Laybourn, Chair




Kent Vance, Commissioner



Gisele Jefferson, Commissioner





Annie Kuntz, Clerk and Recorder