



Community Planning & Permitting

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BUSINESS MEETING

April 26, 2022 at 10:30AM
Via Zoom

Authorization under Article 16-100.A of the Boulder County Land Use Code for Text Amendments to the Land Use Code related to Accessory Ground-Mounted Solar Uses

Staff:

Alisa Childress, Long Range Planner, Community Planning & Permitting Department
Hannah Hippely, Long Range Planning Manager, Community Planning & Permitting Department

Public testimony will not be taken – action requested

SUMMARY

Staff requests Board authorization to pursue text amendments to the Land Use Code related to ground-mounted accessory solar energy systems, which are addressed in Article 4-516(K). The purpose of the Code amendment is to remove the requirement for Site Plan Review or Site Plan Review Waiver for small, accessory ground-mounted solar energy projects that meet certain parameters. The purpose of the text amendment is both to further reduce the barriers to the installation of onsite solar energy systems and to focusing planning reviews on the types of applications where review has the most impact. The Accessory Solar Energy System use was added to the Land Use Code in November 27, 2018 and ground mounted systems have been reviewed through the Site Plan Review Waiver process since that time. These applications are generally approved with little controversy and staff believes that if adequate parameters are established in the Land Use Code the Site Plan Review Waiver process can be eliminated.

Staff intends to update relevant content in Articles 4 (Zoning), including Article 4-516.K Accessory Solar Energy System, of the Land Use Code and will make any other revisions necessary to integrate the changes. Some organizational changes and updates to the existing language may also needed to make the Code easier to navigate and utilize.

ACTION REQUESTED

Staff requests the Board of County Commissioners authorize staff to pursue the text amendments to the Boulder County Land Use Code related to ground-mounted accessory solar energy systems and any related content and provisions.