



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

**Conservation, Development and Planning**

1195 Third Street, Suite 210  
Napa, CA 94559  
www.co.napa.ca.us

Main: (707) 253-4417  
Fax: (707) 253-4336

**Hillary Gitelman**  
Director

To: Jeff Sharp, Planning Div.	From: Eric Banvard, Building Div.
Date: October 11, 2010	Re: Small Wind Energy Systems Ord.

The development of a Small Wind Energy System, as described in the proposed ordinance, would require the application and approval of a permit from the Building Division. Approval of the building permit would need to comply with Title 15 of the Napa County Code in regards to the system's engineering and structural soundness. As a result any proposed Small Wind Energy System would need to meet the regulations for building construction set forth in the California building and electrical codes. These regulations would require the submittal of standard drawings and engineering analysis for any tower or support structure associated with a proposed system and its related accessory structures. The required structural drawings and analyses must be certified by a professional structural or civil engineer licensed by this state as necessary.

The Building Division recommends that the proposed ordinance be amended to remove the need to provide detailed engineering and structural drawings as a part of the Planning Division's application process. These documents are costly to provide during the entitlement stage and are not needed for Planning's review and approval of a proposed project. Public health and safety concerns related to the structural soundness of a proposed system's tower and accessory structures are not compromised as those issues will be addressed during the building permit process.