

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

The public may testify about additions and changes to the Chase County zoning regulations at a hearing scheduled for May 11 at the courthouse. The hearing will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the commissioners' meeting room.

The biggest difference is the addition of regulations concerning wind energy, both small and commercial. Regulations concerning adult entertainment establishments were also added.

Small wind energy systems are defined as those installed to reduce the on-site consumption of utility-supplied electricity.

On property of between one-half and one acre, the tower must be no taller than 80 feet and not to exceed a noise level of 60 dBA.

On property of one acre or more, there is no limitation on tower height, except as imposed by FAA regulations. The noise level may be exceeded during short term events such as utility outages and/or severe wind storms.

Small wind turbines must have been approved under the Emerging Technologies program of the California Energy Commission, or any other small wind certification Program recognized by the American Wind Energy Association.

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