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August 10, 2020

Honorable Mayor Marchand
City of Livermore
1052 S Livermore Ave
Livermore, CA 94550
Via email: lmercier@trivalleyconservancy.org

Executive Director
Laura Mercier

RE: Solar Policy Development in North Livermore

Dear Honorable Mayor Marchand and Livermore City Council,

On behalf of the Tri-Valley Conservancy (“TVC”), I am writing to raise concerns about Alameda County’s (“County”) lack of guiding policies related to the permitting of solar projects in the rural areas of the County.

TVC’s mission is to protect agriculture, sensitive habitats, and scenic lands while promoting opportunities for public recreation and wildlife protection. Since our founding over 25 years ago, we have protected more than 4,200 acres of agricultural and open space land and connected over 50 miles of hiking and walking trails.

Although our organization cannot comment on the current proposed project without the presence of an Environmental Impact Report, we are concerned that the County should not be accepting any project proposals for solar without a solar policy.

The County has a responsibility to ensure that sufficient guiding policies are adopted before approving *any* projects, to minimize potential impacts and guarantee the public voice is heard. The County was directed by their Supervisors to complete a Solar Mapping Project that would have allowed the County to evaluate the impacts of solar projects on agriculture, biodiversity, visual impact, and other factors and determine suitable locations for their construction. This was not completed.

Our local governments have an obligation to protect and enhance the scenic and natural qualities of our area for the benefit of the entire community. This can only be achieved by encouraging the adoption of a comprehensive solar policy derived from the results of the Solar Mapping Project.

We ask for the City to request that the County of Alameda complete the Solar Mapping Project and adopt a comprehensive Solar Policy for the rural part of the County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laura Mercier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laura Mercier, Executive Director and Tri-Valley Conservancy Board of Directors