



March 4, 2021

Chris Bazar, Director
Alameda County Community Development Agency
224 West Winton Avenue, Room 110
Hayward, CA 94544

Re: Development and Adoption of Solar Policies

Dear Mr. Bazar:

In a letter to you dated August 27, 2020, we urged Alameda County to develop solar policies that carefully balance development of renewable, utility-scale solar facilities with crucial City and County shared open space and agricultural preservation policies and objectives. We understand the Board's Transportation and Planning Committee directed staff to continue developing these policies at their October 19, 2020 meeting.

Subsequently on October 21, City staff sent a related letter to the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments requesting that the Board of Zoning Adjustments continue both North Livermore solar projects at their hearing on October 22 to a future date after County solar policies are adopted and the two projects can be analyzed for consistency with the new solar policies.

The Livermore City Council held additional discussions regarding the solar farm regulation and in a letter dated November 24, 2020, recommended the County consider the following criteria in the development of solar policies:

1. **Aesthetics** – preserve key viewsheds and screen solar facilities
2. **Power generation** – prioritize the most efficient and highest power generation yield for the land being used.
3. **Carbon sequestration** - solar facilities should sequester at least as much carbon as the agricultural or grassland area they are replacing, for example, through new or enhanced on-site landscaping.
4. **Agricultural biodiversity** - preserve and enhance on-site biodiversity to the greatest extent feasible (amphibians, bees, butterflies, etc.)
5. **Siting** – locate solar facilities close to power transmission and storage facilities for efficiency and to minimize infrastructure needs (i.e. next to PG&E facilities)
6. **End of life strategy** – require a plan that identifies how the project will return the land to a 'natural state' with the least impact when the solar use terminates
7. **Resource use** - use products (panels) that were made in the least environmentally harmful way (efficient manufacturing processes) and with the lowest lifecycle carbon emissions

8. **Recyclability** – require that solar facility components be highly recyclable (i.e. 90%)

Again, we ask that Alameda County expeditiously develop and adopt comprehensive solar plans and policies through an open public process, and that this comprehensive set of policies be adopted prior to the County taking action on any utility scale-solar facilities. We understand that County staff continues to coordinate with stakeholders on the draft solar policies and anticipates review by the Agriculture Advisory Committee this spring. County staff is also exploring further community engagement and appropriate environmental review before returning to the Board of Supervisors.

The City continues to fully support renewable energy policies and projects that are necessary to mitigate and adapt to climate change and that create sustainable, clean energy sources. Renewable energy projects, including solar, help meet State renewable energy targets and support the City's adopted Climate Action Plan implementation strategies, which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter, please don't hesitate to contact our Community Development Director, Paul Spence at (925) 960-4474 or our Planning Manager, Steve Stewart at (925) 960-4468 or scstewart@cityoflivermore.net, with any questions or concerns. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



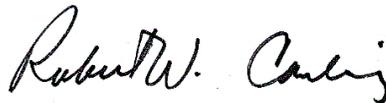
Bob Woerner
Mayor



Trish Munro
Vice Mayor



Gina Bonanno
Council Member



Robert Carling
Council Member



Brittni Kiick
Council Member

cc: Marc Roberts, City Manager
Paul Spence, Community Development Director
Steve Stewart, Planning Manager
Steve Riley, Principal Planner
Tricia Pontau, Associate Planner
Susan Frost, Project Coordinator