

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Livermore Community Solar Farm Project

TO: State Clearinghouse, State Responsible Agencies, State Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, and Interested Organizations and Parties.

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Livermore Community Solar Farm Project in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15087.

SUMMARY: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Alameda County Planning Department (County), as lead agency for the Project, has completed a Draft EIR in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve the public Notice of Availability (NOA) of a Draft EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the Draft EIR for a 45-day period, commencing on March 6th, 2020 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on April 21st, 2020, after which a final EIR will be prepared containing comments and responses to comments that, together with the DEIR, will form the final EIR. The final EIR will be used by the Alameda County Planning Commission in its consideration of approval of the proposed Livermore Community Solar Farm Project.

PROJECT TITLE: Livermore Community Solar Farm Project.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located in the northeast area of unincorporated Alameda County. Regional access to Alameda County is provided via Interstate-80 (I-80), I-880, I-680, and I-580. Direct access to the project site is provided via the I-580 interchange at North Livermore Avenue. The proposed project is located on a 71.64-acre site assigned Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 902-0002-003 and is bounded by agricultural land to the north, south, and west, and single-family housing to the east. In addition, a PG&E power station is located opposite North Livermore Avenue from the project site on the corner of North Livermore Avenue and May School Road. Local access to the project site is provided via Manning Road, May School Road, and North Livermore Avenue.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would develop a 58.7-acre solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with a capacity of 6 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) on the 71.64-acre parcel located at 4871 North Livermore Avenue in Alameda County. Construction of the proposed project is expected to occur in two phases over a one-year period. Phase I would be located on the southern portion of the project site adjacent to May School Road, with an area of 30.8 acres. Phase 2 would be located on the northern portion of the project site adjacent to North Livermore Avenue, encompassing 27.9 acres. Water for project operation and irrigation would be obtained from a fire hydrant located approximately 2.8 miles southeast of the project site at the corner of Ames Street and Martingale Lane in the City of Livermore. All water would be delivered to the project site via a 5,000-gallon water truck to replenish onsite subsurface water

tanks dedicated for this purpose; no connections to municipal water or sewer service are proposed, nor would any on-site wells be utilized. The project would include the eventual decommissioning and removal of the facility and would not require a change in General Plan land use designation or Zoning.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Project would have significant impacts in the following environmental areas:

- Aesthetics (landscaping plants to screen the proposed solar arrays)
- Air Quality (air pollution from ground disturbing construction activities)
- Biological Resources (sensitive species and seasonal wetlands)
- Cultural Resources (cultural and/or tribal cultural resources and human remains)

All of these impacts can be reduced to less than significant levels after mitigation is implemented.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The 45-day public review period for the Draft EIR is from **March 6, 2020 to April 21, 2020**. The Draft EIR will be available on March 6, 2020 for review at following location and/or electronically:

Alameda County Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544

Martinelli Center
3585 Greenville Road
Livermore, CA 94550

And on the County's website:
<http://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/landuseprojects/currentprojects.htm>

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received no later than April 21, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Please send written comments to:
Alameda County Planning Department
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111
Hayward, CA 94544
ATTN: Damien Curry, Planner III

Please include a return address and contact name with your written comments. You are also encouraged to email your comments to damien.curry@acgov.org with "Livermore Community Solar Farm EIR" as the subject.

BOARD HEARING: Although CEQA does not require formal hearings at any stage of the environmental review process (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15202[a]), it does encourage "wide public involvement, formal and informal...in order to receive and evaluate public reactions to environmental issues" (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15201) and requires the lead agency to provide the public with the opportunity to provide comments. The County, as lead agency,

circulated a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR (SCH # 2018092012) for the proposed project on January 11, 2019. The NOP was distributed for a 30-day comment period that ended on February 11, 2019. In addition, the County held a public scoping meeting on January 29, 2019, to solicit input on the scope and focus of the EIR. Comments received on the NOP and during the public scoping meeting were considered in the preparation of the EIR. Appendix A of the DEIR contains the NOP, and written comments received on the NOP.

The DEIR incorporates public and agency responses to the NOP. Like the NOP, the DEIR is being circulated for review and comment by appropriate agencies, as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification. In accordance with Section 15205(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County has scheduled a 45-day public review period for the DEIR, ending on April 21, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Within that 45-day period, the County will hold one public hearing to request comments on the DEIR, at the following time and place.

Monday, April 20, 2020, at 3:00 PM.
224 West Winton Avenue, Public Hearing Room
Hayward, California

The meeting facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If special translation or signing services or other special accommodations are needed, please contact Maria Palmeri at 510-670-5400 or maria.palmeri@acgov.org at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR, the County will prepare a final EIR, incorporating all comments received during the public comment period, for consideration by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments, at a date for which notice shall be provided. As required by CEQA (Section 21092.5), the final EIR, including written responses to the comments submitted by public agencies, will be available at least 10 days prior to certification.