



**Contra
Costa
County**

To: Board of Supervisors
From: John Kopchik, Director, Conservation & Development Department
Date: May 24, 2022

Subject: PROPOSED REZONE AND LAND USE PERMIT FOR BYRON COMMERCIAL SOLAR FACILITY

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- OPEN the hearing on the E-Group Commercial Solar Energy Generation Facility Project, ACCEPT public testimony, and CLOSE the Public Hearing.
- DENY the E-Group Solar Energy Facility Project, including a rezoning to the solar energy generation (-SG) combining district and a land use permit to establish a commercial solar energy generation facility (County File Nos. CDRZ21-03259 and CDLP21-02010).
- ADOPT the attached findings in support of the decision to deny the project.
- FIND that the denial of the proposed project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15270 (projects that are disapproved).
- DIRECT the Department of Conservation and Development to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.
- GRANT the appeals of Save Mount Diablo and the East Bay Regional Parks District, which had appealed the planning commission's decision to direct Conservation and Development staff to process the project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The applicant has paid the initial application deposit, and is obligated to pay supplemental fees to cover any and all additional staff time and materials costs associated with the application processing.

BACKGROUND:

See attachment "Exhibit A" for Background Section.

☐ APPROVE

☒ OTHER

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **05/24/2022** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
Diane Burgis, District III Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: May 24, 2022

Monica Nino, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: June McHuen, Deputy

Contact: 925-655-2879 Adrian Veliz

cc:

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the project is not denied, Conservation and Development staff would continue to process the proposed commercial solar facilities project, including conducting environmental review of the project as required by CEQA.

ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit A - Background and Discussion of Appeal Points

Exhibit B - Findings For Denial

Exhibit C - Appeals of CPC Decision

Exhibit D - Applicants Response to Appeals

Exhibit E - Project Plans

Exhibit F - Figures

Exhibit G - Renewable Resources Potential Study

Exhibit H - California County Planning Directors Association Solar Energy Facility Permit Streamlining Guide

Exhibit I - A Path Forward (UC Berkeley)

Exhibit J - A New Solar Landscape (UCLA, UC Berkeley)

[Link to the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community](#)

Exhibit L - Site Plan Slope Percentage Exhibit

Exhibit M - Simulation Presented by Applicant to CPC

Exhibit N - Site Photos

Exhibit O - Solar Insolation Map

Exhibit P - Biological Resource Assessment

Exhibit Q - CPC Staff Report Recommending Denial

PowerPoint Presentation