

Planning Commission Mtg. DEC 18 2019 Agenda Item # 7B

December 17, 2019

County of Napa, Planning Department 1195 Third Street, Napa, CA 94559

Dear Mr. McDowell and Mr. Kennings,

I am writing this letter to share how the Soscol Ferry Solar Project located in the Napa Industrial Park can be leveraged on behalf of job seekers in Napa County. The Workforce Alliance of the North Bay believes this project represents an opportunity to introduce local residents to job opportunities in the solar and renewable energy field, one of the fastest growing occupational clusters in the region. After speaking to Mr. Aaron Halimi, we have confidence that we will be able leverage the project to provide real work experience for residents that may be looking to start careers in the industry. In line with this project, the Workforce Alliance of the North Bay intends to partner with Renewable Properties in the following ways:

- 1. WANB will coordinate with project representatives to design a work experience engagement of up to three months where RPCS would be the employer of record.
- 2. WANB will advertise locally as well as with our network of community partners to bring in job seekers that are interested in learning more about or breaking into the construction or solar industry.
- 3. WANB can have its local job center, CareerPoint Napa, screen local job seeking caseloads for job seekers that are interested in a paid work experience engagement and assist with training costs of eligible individuals.

After speaking with the project representatives, we believe that the contractors for this project are committed to a local workforce and leveraging the project as a training pipeline of future workers in the solar and renewable energy field. Further, they have shown considerable interest in partnering with us on a new workforce initiative to "intrigue, inform and inspire" young members of our community in solar and renewable energy occupations. As such they will partner with us on an eighth grade career exploration fair in March 2020 and their employees will conduct career talks at our Brightfutures career center at Vintage High School. Please visit www.brightfuturesnorthbay.org to learn more.

Ultimately, we believe this project represents a good first step toward continued development of job seekers with the requisite skills necessary in the solar and renewable energy field and we look forward to working with project representatives in the future.

Sincerely,

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Bruce Wilson, Executive Director