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Public Comments

Chief Executive Officer,
Minh Tran

Good Morning Minh,

We, as concerned citizens, would like to address a few issues regarding the American Canyon solar application.

While boldly stating that they will approve the project at the next meeting, three of the Planning Commission members, Whitmer, Hansen, and Mazotti, appeared to recognize the need for “future” regulations. Commissioners Gallagher and Chair Cottrell also firmly cited the importance of a “plan” created by the County Planners and the constituents together.

Our question is, when will this joint process start?

In a confusing and troubling statement, Commissioner Whitmer announced,

I think that we “gotta” begin building solar and figure out where those things go, so, hopefully during the Climate Action Plan, we can have those discussions and figure out some ways of doing the land use analysis to pre-zone where future solar applications should go and maybe more importantly for us, where they should not go. Because I, again, don’t believe that every location or application that comes forward is necessarily an appropriate application. But I am in favor of this particular application and plan to support it when it comes back to the Commission.

This statement connotes that the County plans to approve the AC project, learn from probable mistakes, and *perhaps*, create some regulations in the future.

For months the community has emphatically stated that the time for regulations is now. We have started the process on our own and are creating a draft document for the County's input and approval. We are educating ourselves on the specific characteristics of Napa County and that which we can learn from nearby county ordinances that have been in place for several years.

With this in mind, we are asking for an extension of the November 28, solar discussion and vote. We need time to work together to form a plan that benefits the entire community, rather than a few County Officials with personal agendas.

Furthermore, as we have seen in the past, the holidays are not a good time to undertake politically controversial issues. We would like to see the date moved to the end of January or later.

We look forward to hearing from you, Minh. We are happy to meet with you in person to further discuss this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Laura Tinthoff on behalf of Napa Residents for Smart Planning

15 October 2018

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Napa County Planning, Building
& Environmental Services

Napa County Planning Commission

Why even consider "solar farms" outside of urbanized Napa County?

I keep thinking of all the solar energy going to waste in the massive tracts of paved parking lots all over our cities. These stretches of pavement purely for the use of parking cars have already diminished our ability to counter rising CO2 emissions. We have eliminated any chance for a plant to grow, let alone a field of grass. Not to mention those lots add to urban heat generation. It's even possible local businesses could earn money by generating electricity in their parking lots while also providing their customers shade.

Very sincerely,
Sean Chapman
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