

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Community and Economic Development
Department of Planning and Building

Norman L. Allinder, AICP
Director *NLA*

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- Mail Stop G
- Madera, CA 93637
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- mc_planning@madera-county.com

PLANNING COMMISSION DATE: May 6, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: #3

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRJ | #2014-002 | General Plan Amendment and a Rezone for a solar facility and future expansion of the County Governmental Campus. |
| GP | #2014-002 | |
| CZ | #2014-002 | |
| APN | #035-221-001, 035-221-015, 016, 017 | Applicant: Madera County Owner: Madera County |
| CEQA | ND #2014-10 | Mitigated Negative Declaration |

REQUEST:

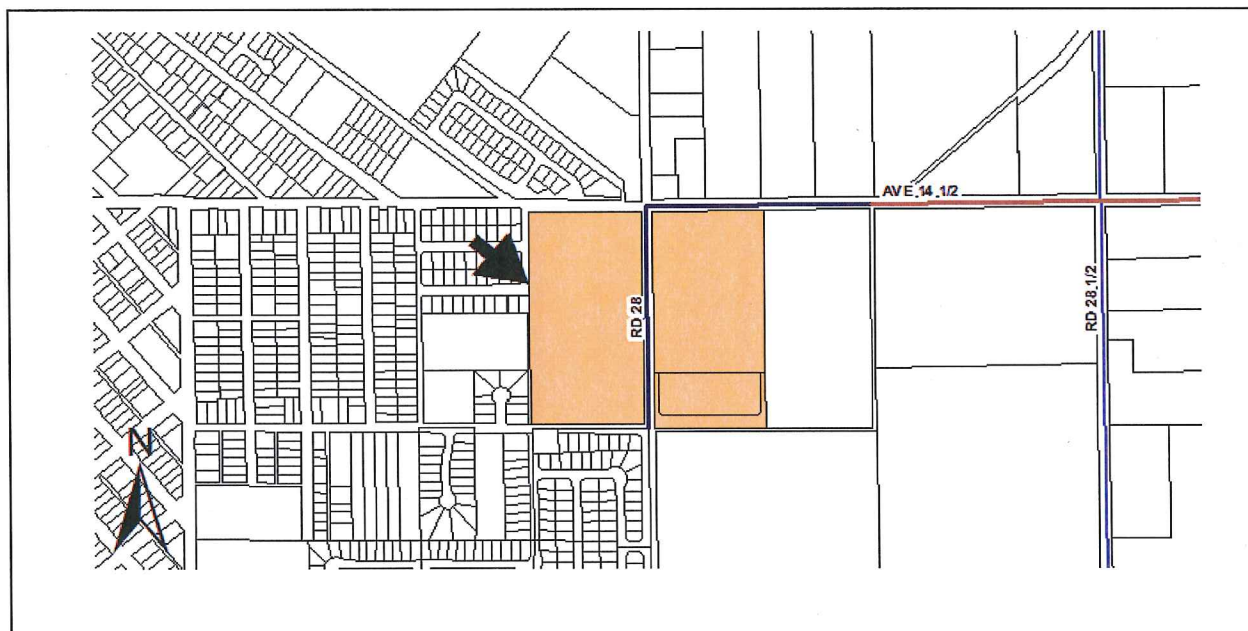
The applicant is requesting a General Plan Amendment and a Rezoning to permit the construction of a solar facility for the County jail complex, and to permit the future expansion of the existing County Government Campus.

LOCATION:

The property is located on the east and west side of Road 28 at its intersection with Avenue 14 1/2 in Madera.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

A Mitigated Negative Declaration (ND #2014-10) and mitigation monitoring program has been prepared and is subject to approval by the Planning Commission.



RECOMMENDATION: Approval of the project (PRJ 2014-002), Mitigated Negative Declaration (ND 2014-10), and the mitigation monitoring program.

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION (Exhibit A):

SITE: MDR (Medium Density Residential) Designation

SURROUNDING: PI (Public Institution), and LDR (Low Density Residential)

PROPOSED: PI (Public Institution) Designation

ZONING (Exhibit B):

SITE: ARE-40 (Agricultural Rural Exclusive 40-Acre) District

SURROUNDING: IA (Institutional Area), and RRS (Rural Residential Single Family) Districts

LAND USE:

SITE: Farming, and Government Offices

SURROUNDING: Governmental Offices, and Single Family Residences.

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 38 Acres

ACCESS (Exhibit A): Access is via Road 28.

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ACTIONS:

The subject properties have a conditional use permit (#2009-009) which permitted the construction of the Madera County Central Garage facility on parcel number 032-221-016.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The request is for a General Plan Amendment and a Rezone to permit the construction of a solar facility to serve the existing jail complex, and allow for the future expansion of the County campus. This project would create consistency between the current use of the property (i.e., Governmental Central Garage complex), and the General Plan and Zoning of the subject properties.

ORDINANCES/ POLICIES:

California Government Code Section 65358(a) establishes authority for amending the General Plan by the Board of Supervisors.

Section 18.110.010 of the Madera County Zoning Ordinance provides the authority under California Government Code Section 65804 to amend or change zoning district boundaries by the Board of Supervisors.

Section 18.48.010 of the Madera County Zoning Ordinance outlines the permitted uses within the IA (Institutional Area) zone.

ANALYSIS:

The properties are located on the east and west side of Road 28 at its intersection with Avenue 14 ½ in Madera. The project consists of a General Plan Amendment and Rezone to allow for the construction of a 1.4MW ground-mounted solar facility which will directly serve the existing County jail and juvenile hall facilities located on the adjacent parcel. The properties on the east side of Road 28 directly south of this proposal are home to the existing County Government Complex, along with the Madera County Superintendent of School offices. Those properties are currently planned and zoned as Public Institution. This project would create consistency in the area with the existing uses

such as the Central Garage facility, and the construction of a solar facility to provide power to the existing jail and juvenile hall facility.

The solar facility, as proposed will consume approximately 10.2 acres of the 18.96 acre property on the west side of Road 28. This property is currently in agricultural production with grapes, the remaining 8.76 acres will remain in agricultural production for the foreseeable future. The ground mounted solar arrays will be approximately 6'3" tall measured from the ground to the highest part of the array. There will be minimal water consumed as a part of this project with the majority of the water being utilized as dust suppression during construction. It is assumed that the arrays will be washed once a year utilizing the existing water source on-site which would consume approximately 5,600 gallons of water per year. This is a significant reduction from the current consumption of the grape vineyards. The traffic associated with the solar facility will be negligible with the existing level of traffic in the area.

The subject properties in the vicinity of the project site range in size from a 6,000 square foot lot to 48.93 acres. The project was circulated to outside agencies thought to be impacted or regulating the development of the proposed project. This includes but not limited to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Conservation, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Water Resources, City of Madera, Madera Unified School District, all Native American Tribes in the region, and the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District.

The Planning Department received comment letters from the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (SJAPCD), and the Department of Conservation. The SJAPCD supplied a set of generic comments to the project; it does not appear that the project triggers any criteria pollutant levels, or District Rule 9510.

WILLIAMSON ACT:

The property is currently enrolled within the Williamson Act. The contract is currently in non-renewal and is set expire on March 1, 2015. No development of a permanent nature can occur on the properties until the contract has expired.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

The project proposes a General Plan Amendment to PI (Public Institution) which is consistent with the existing use of the property, the proposed Rezone to IA (Institution Area), and the goals and policies within the adopted General Plan. If approved the project would be creating consistency between the existing Governmental Central Garage facility and County of Madera's General Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

The analysis provided in this report supports approval of Mitigated Negative Declaration ND #2014-10 and Project #2014-002 as presented subject to the following conditions and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

CONDITIONS:

See attached conditions of approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Exhibit A, General Plan Map
2. Exhibit B, Zoning Map
3. Exhibit C, Assessor's Map
4. Exhibit D, Site Plan Map
5. Exhibit E, Aerial Map
6. Exhibit F, Topographical Map
7. Exhibit G, Operational Statement
8. Exhibit H, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Letter
9. Exhibit I, California Department of Conservation Letter
10. Exhibit J, Road Department Comment Letter
11. Exhibit K, CEQA Initial Study
12. Exhibit L, MND #2014-10 & Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program

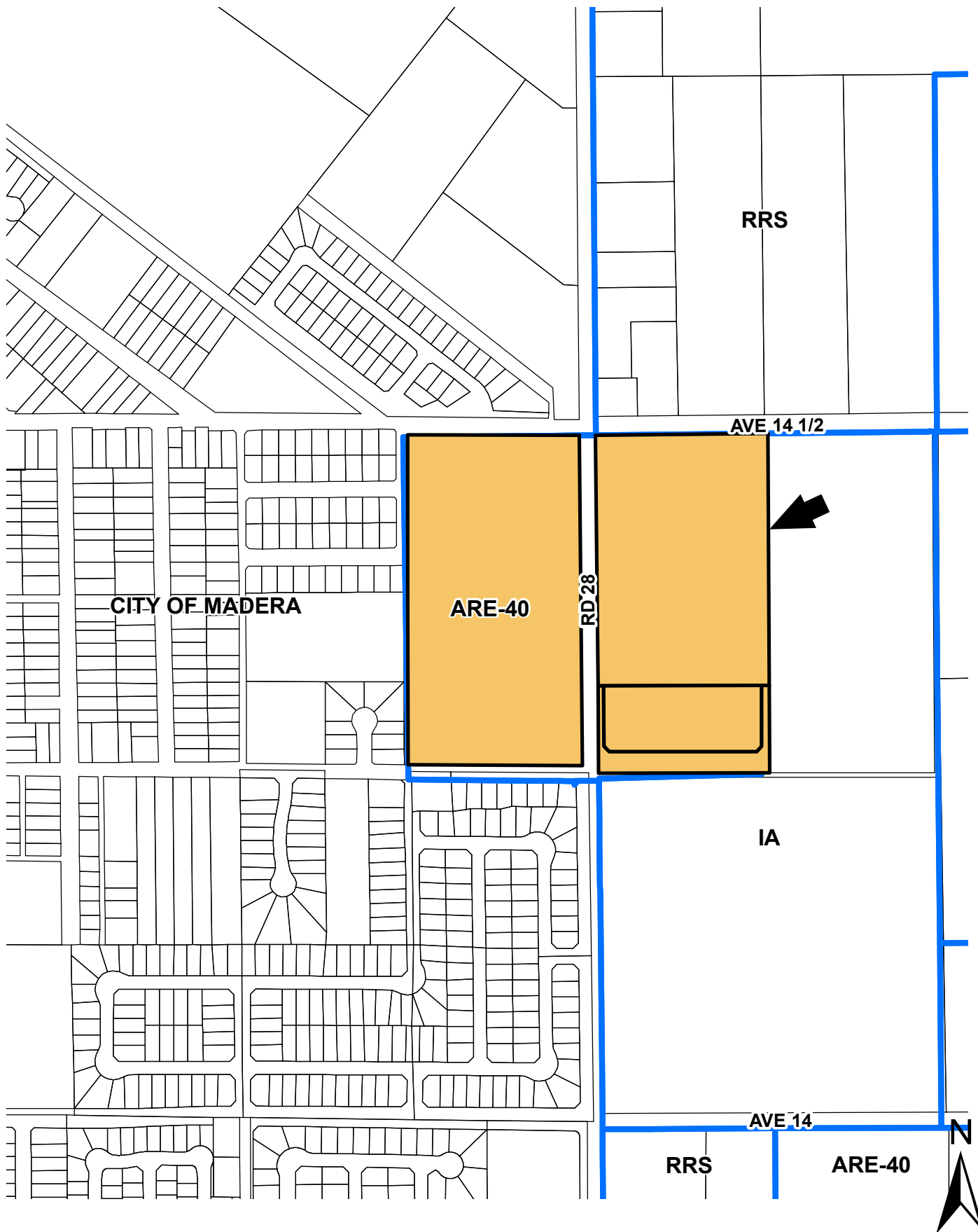
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

PROJECT NAME: Madera County - Project - Madera (035-221-001, 035-221-015, 016, and 017)
PROJECT LOCATION: On the east and west side of Road 28 at its intersection with Avenue 14 1/2 Madera
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: General Plan Amendment from MDR (Medium Density Residential) to PI (Public Institution) and a Rezone from ARE-40 (Agricultural Rural Exclusive 40-Acre) to IA (Institution Area) District.
APPLICANT: Madera County
CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE NUMBER: Luz Gonzales 559-675-7703

| No. | Condition | Department/Agency | Verification of Compliance | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| | | | Initials | Date | Remarks |
| Engineering | | | | | |
| 1 | Prior to the start of any construction projects, the applicant shall secure a Building Permit from the Engineering Department. All construction shall meet the standards of all applicable Codes. All plans must be prepared by a licensed architect or registered civil engineer. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Environmental Health | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Fire | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Planning | | | | | |
| 1 | Shall comply with all mitigation measures as listed in mitigation monitoring and reporting program. | | | | |
| 2 | Prior to development beyond the construction of the solar facility a landscape plan must be submitted to and approved by the Planning Director. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |



GENERAL PLAN MAP

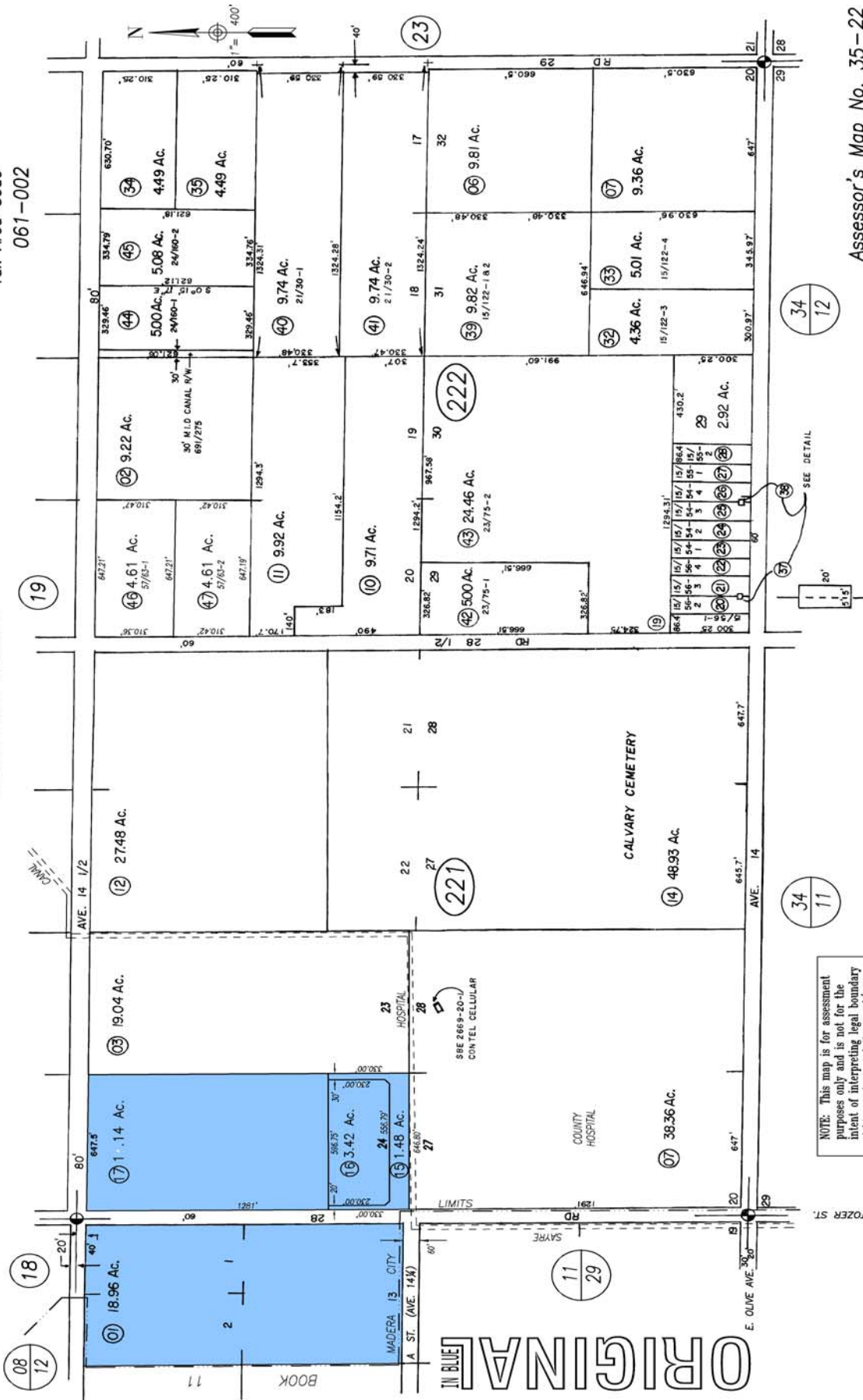


ZONING MAP

35-22

Tax Area Code
061-002

POR. SEC. 19&20 T.11S. R18E. M.D.B.&M.
LANKERSHIM COLONY



Assessor's Map No. 35-22
Madera Outside
Madera Unified
County of Madera, Calif.
1955

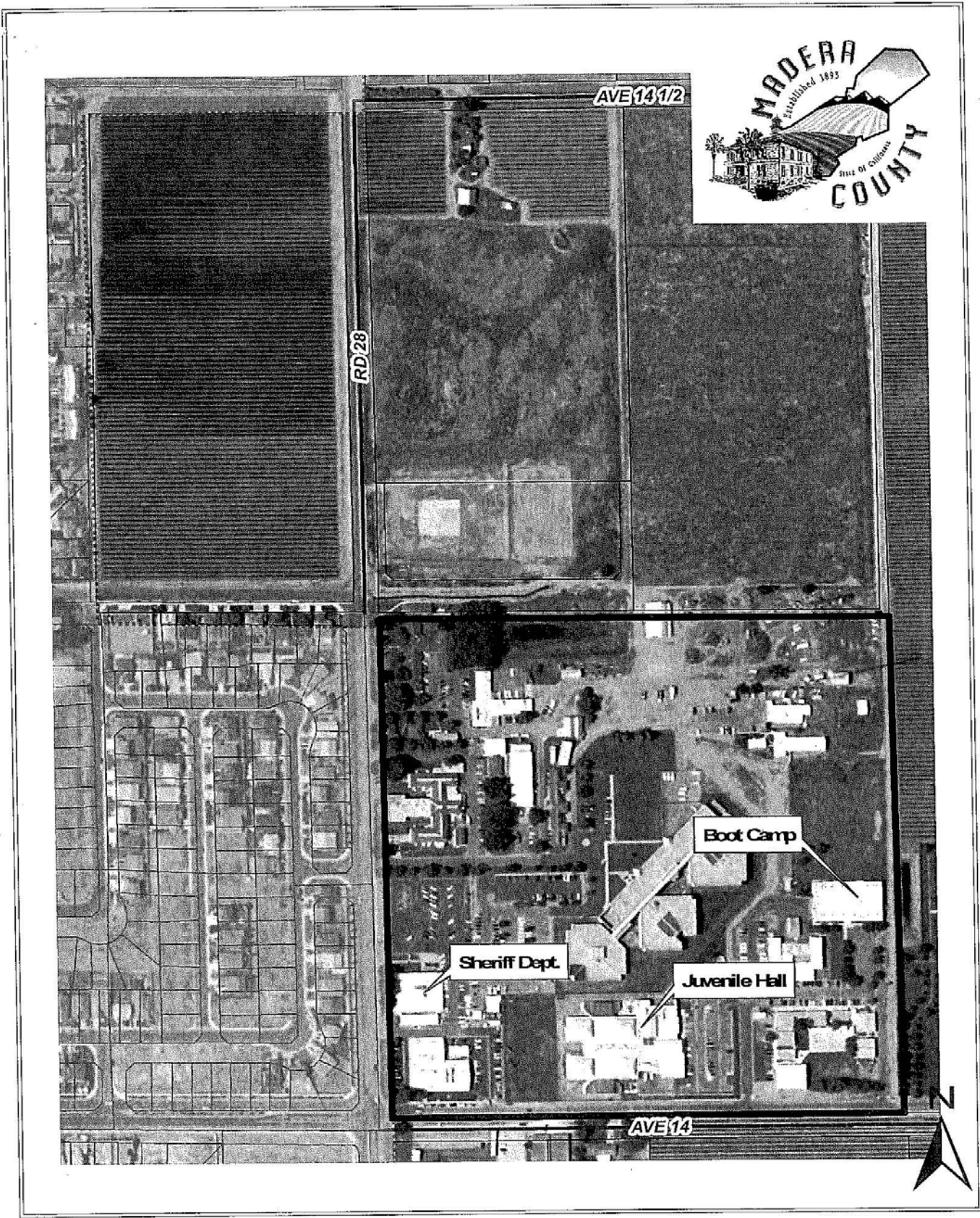
WELL SITE DETAIL
(PARCELS 37 & 38)
SCALE 1" = 40'

©2002 Madera County Assessor, All Rights Reserved

NOTE: This map is for assessment purposes only and is not for the intent of interpreting legal boundary rights, zoning regulations and/or legality of land division laws.

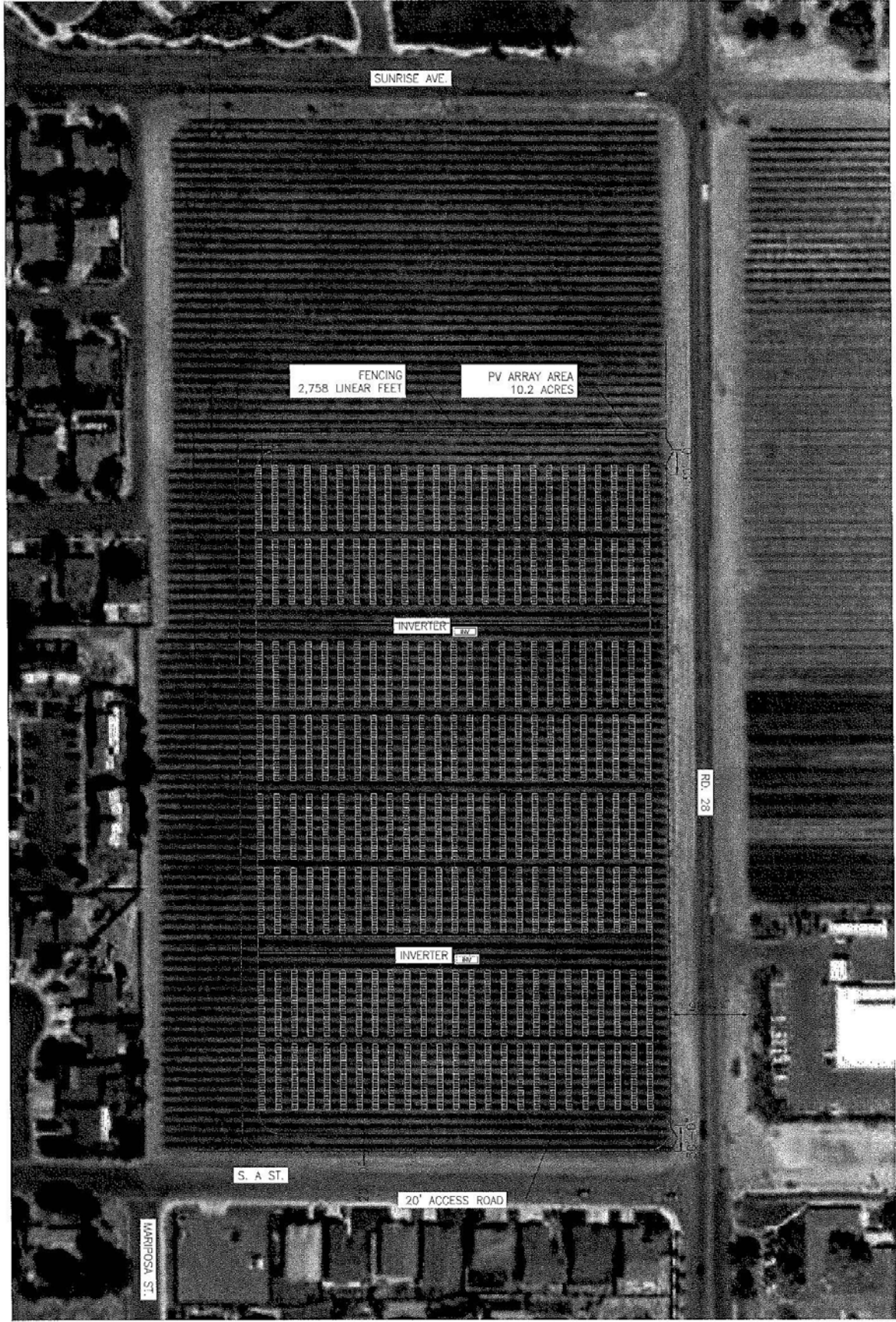
NOTE- Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipse.
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

10302-1-17
-2-47 C&R

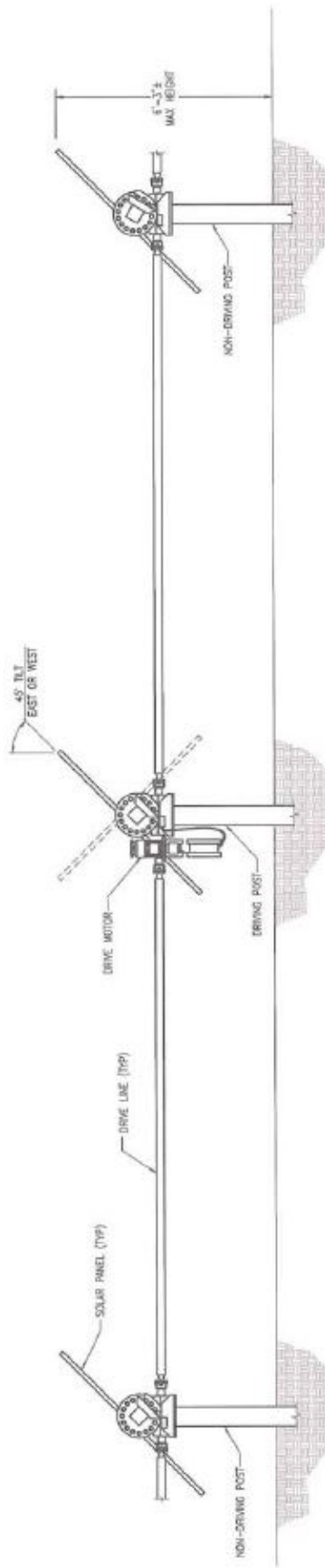
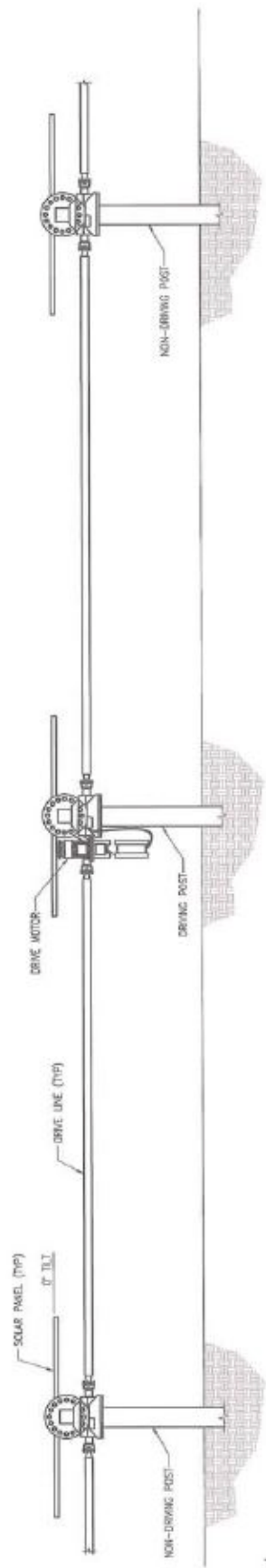


AERIAL MAP

OVERALL MAP

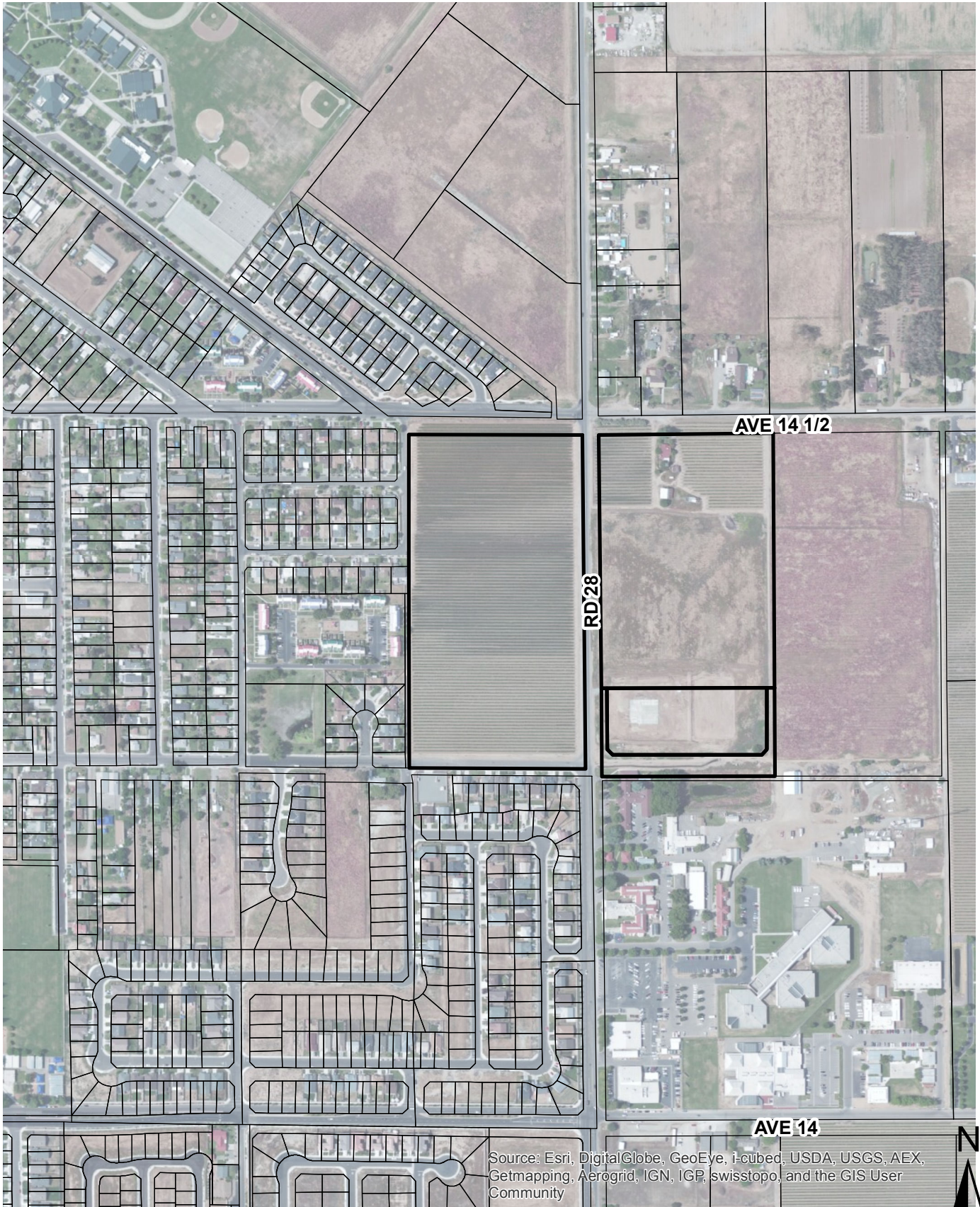


SOLAR LAYOUT

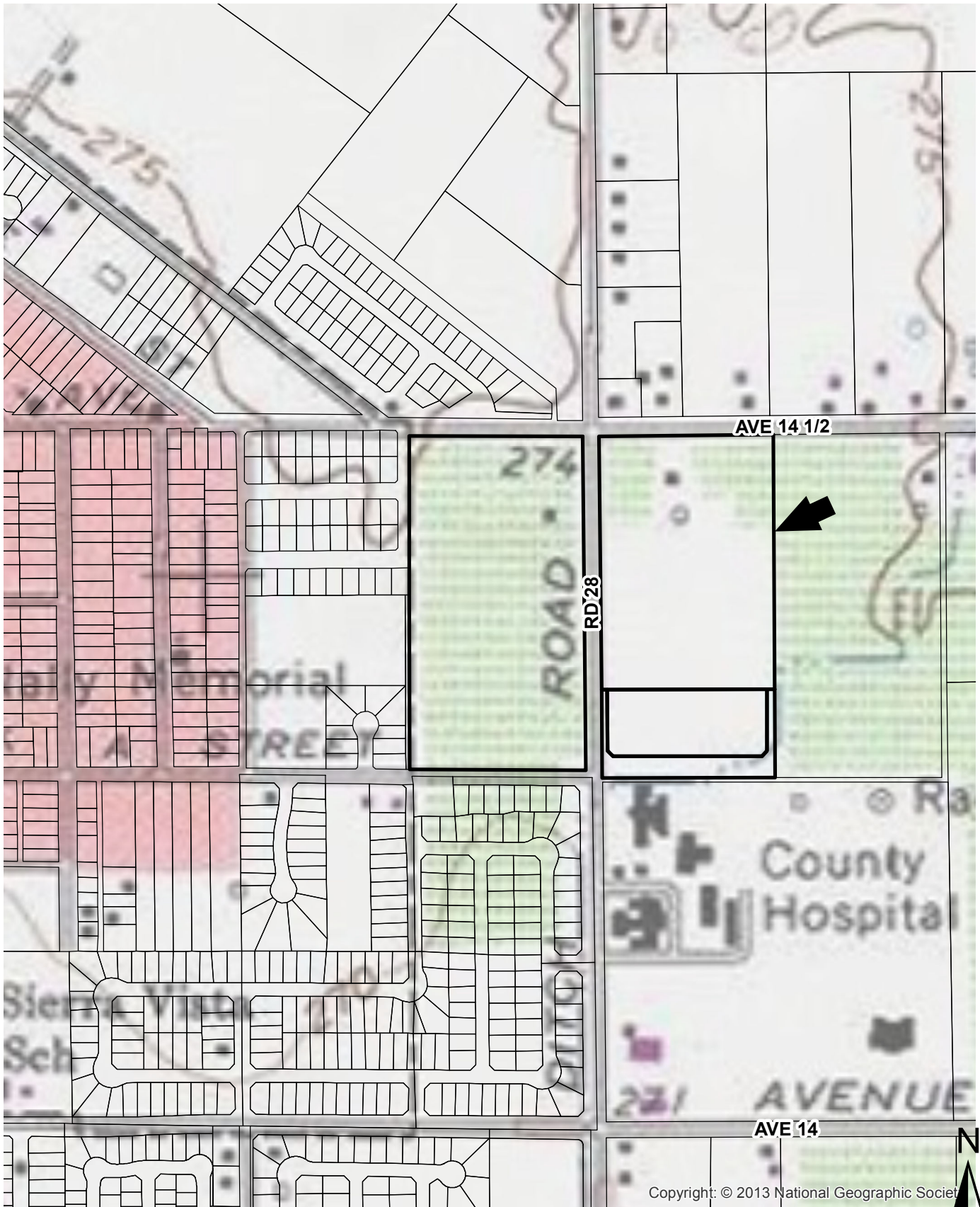


A AUTOMATIC ARRAY STOWAGE (HIGH WINDS)
SCALE: NTS
REF.

SOLAR ELEVATION



AERIAL MAP



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

**MADERA COUNTY PLANNING
DEPARTMENT**
2037 W. CLEVELAND AVENUE MS-G, MADERA CA,
93637

OPERATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT CHECKLIST

It is important that the operational/environmental statement provides for a complete understanding of your proposal. Your operational/environmental statement must be typed or written in a legible manner on a separate sheet(s) of paper. DO NOT SUBMIT THIS CHECKLIST AS YOUR STATEMENT.

NOTE: Your response to this operation statement must include:

1. Each question as it appears on the form.
2. Your complete answer to each question. Incomplete or illegible responses will not be accepted.

1. Please provide the following information:

Assessor's Parcel Number: 035-221-001

Applicants Name: Eric Fleming/County Administrative Officer

Address: 200 West Fourth Street, Madera, CA 93637

Phone Number: 559-675-7703

2. Describe the nature of your proposal/operation (please be specific).

Install approximately 1.4MW of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array(s) located in the open field across Road 28. The array(s) will utilize a single-axis tracker with 33% ground coverage ratio. The array(s) will be two separate systems, each with its own metering – one serving the Correctional Facility and the other serving the Juvenile Hall Facility.

3. What is the existing use of the property?

Agriculture

4. What products will be produced by the operation? Will they be produced on-site or at some other location? Are these products to be sold on-site? Explain.

Power will be generated by the solar PV arrays and transported to tie into the electrical panels to offset power consumed by the Correctional Facility and the Juvenile Hall Facility.

5. What are the proposed operational time limits?

Months (if seasonal): 12 Months

Days per week: 7 Days

Hours (from 12am to 12pm):

(When sun is shining power will be generated. System(s) will be connected 24/7)

Total hours per day: 24 hours

6. Will there be any special activities or events? N/A

Frequency:

Hours:

Are these activities indoors or outdoors?

7. How many customers or visitors are expected? None

Average number per day:

Maximum number per day:

What hours will customers/visitors be there?

8. How many employees will there be? N/A

Current:

Future:

Hours they work:

Do any live on-site? If so, in what capacity (i.e., caretaker)?

9. What equipment, materials, or supplies will be used and how will they be stored? **If** appropriate, provide pictures or brochures.

Solar PV arrays will include the following equipment:

- Solar Panels
- Single Axis Tracking System
- Inverter(s)
- 12kV Transformer(s)
- Combiner Boxes
- Disconnects and Switchgear

10. Will there be any service and deliver vehicles? N/A

Number:

Type:

Frequency:

11. Number of parking spaces for employees, customers, and service/delivery vehicles. Type of surfacing on parking area.
N/A

12. How will access be provided to the property/project? (Street name)

Access to property via Road 28

13. Estimate the number and type (i.e., cars, trucks) of vehicular trips per day that will be generated by the proposed development.

Development will not produce any additional vehicular trips per day.

14. Describe any proposed advertising including size, appearance, and placement.

N/A

15. Will existing buildings be used or will new buildings be constructed? Indicate which building(s) or portion(s) of will be utilized and describe the type of construction materials, height, color, etc. Provide floor plan and elevations, if appropriate.

There is no existing building on the property and no new building will be constructed. Property will be used for new solar PV array(s). See attached Layout Drawing and Sample Elevation Drawing for view of PV arrays.

16. Is there any landscaping or fencing proposed? Describe type and location.

A 6' high chain link fence is proposed around the solar array. See attached layout drawing.

17. What are the surrounding land uses to the north, south, east, and west boundaries of the property?

See attached Layout Drawing

North: Directly north will remain a significant amount of the existing open farmland. Approx. 450' north across Sunrise Road there is residential and additional farmland.

South: Approx. 60' across South A Street is residential

East: Approx. 100' across Road 28 is additional farmland

West: Approx. 118' and behind xx' block wall is residential

18. Will this operation or equipment used generate noise above existing parcels in the area?

No additional noise will be generated. There is noise associated with the new electrical equipment rated at approximately 45 dB at 16 ft. The closest private parcel is at least 300' to the south and 300' to the west of the location of this equipment. At those distances, the sound level will be less than 20 dB, which is about the threshold of normal human hearing. In other words, no one will hear a thing.

19. On a daily or annual basis, estimate how much water will be used by the proposed development, and how is water to be supplied to the proposed development (please be specific).

Water is only necessary when performing the annual panel washing as part of the preventive maintenance for the solar arrays. The water will come from a water spigot that is already onsite or via a water truck. No additional water service will be necessary. (Guestimate of 5,600 gallons/year)

20. On a daily or weekly basis, how much wastewater will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of? N/A
21. On a daily or weekly basis, how much solid waste (garbage) will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of? N/A
22. Will there be any grading? Tree removal? (please state the purpose, i.e., for roads, building pads, drainage, etc.) Existing vineyards will need to be removed and minimal grading will be performed in order to accommodate installation of new solar arrays.
23. Are there any archeological or historically significant sites located on this property? If so, describe and show location on site plan.
N/A
24. Locate and show all bodies of water on application plot plan or attached map.
None.
25. Show any ravines, gullies, and natural drainage courses on the property on the plot plan.
None
26. Will hazardous materials or waste be produced as part of this project? If so, how will they be shipped or disposed of?
N/A (Solar panels are recyclable as E-Waste)
27. Will your proposal require use of any public services or facilities? (i.e., schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?)
N/A
28. How do you see this development impacting the surrounding area?
No impacts.
29. How do you see this development impacting schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?
No impacts.
30. If your proposal is for commercial or industrial development, please complete the following: N/A
- Proposed Use(s)
Square Feet of Building Area(s)
Total Number of Employees
Building Height(s)
31. If your proposal is for a land division(s), show any slopes over 10% on the map or on an attached map.
N/A



March 14, 2014

Matt Treber
County of Madera
Planning Department
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Project: PRJ#2014-002, County of Madera-Project-BdS-Madera (035-221-001-000)

District CEQA Reference No: 20140137

Dear Mr. Treber:

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has reviewed the project referenced above consisting of a proposal to install 1.4 MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PC) arrays located at 200 West Fourth Street in Madera, California. The power generated will be transported to tie into the electrical panels to offset power consumed by the Correctional Facility and the Juvenile Hall Facility. The District offers the following comments:

1. Based on information provided to the District, project specific emissions of criteria pollutants are not expected to exceed District significance thresholds of 10 tons/year NOX, 10 ton/year ROG, and 15 tons/year PM10. Therefore, the District concludes that project specific criteria pollutant emissions would have no significant adverse impact on air quality.
2. Based on information provided to the District, the proposed project does not meet the definition of a development project. Therefore, the District concludes that the proposed project is not subject to District Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review).
3. The proposed project may be subject to District Rules and Regulations, including: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants). The above list of rules is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. To identify other District rules or regulations that apply to this project or to obtain information about District permit requirements, the applicant is strongly encouraged to contact the District's Small Business Assistance Office at (559) 230-5888. Current District rules can be found online at: www.valleyair.org/rules/1ruleslist.htm.

Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

Northern Region
4800 Enterprise Way
Modesto, CA 95356-8718
Tel: (209) 557-6400 FAX: (209) 557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: (559) 230-6000 FAX: (559) 230-6061

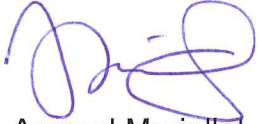
Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308-9725
Tel: 661-392-5500 FAX: 661-392-5585

4. The District recommends that a copy of the District's comments be provided to the project proponent.

If you have any questions or require further information, please call Angel Lor, at (559) 230- 5808.

Sincerely,

David Warner
Director of Permit Services



for: Arnaud Marjollet
Permit Services Manager

DW: al

Cc: File



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Managing California's Working Lands

EXHIBIT I

DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE conservation.ca.gov

March 17, 2014

Via Email: mc_planning@madera-county.com

Mr. Matt Treber
Madera County
Planning Department
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue
Madera, Ca 93637

EARLY CONSULTATION- PRJ #2014-002, COUNTY OF MADERA- PROJECT-BdS-MADERA (035-220-001-000)

Dear Mr. Treber:

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural conservation programs. The Division has reviewed the application referral for the subject project and offers the following comments and recommendation with respect to the proposed project's potential impacts on agricultural land and resources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of a proposed amendment to the General Plan from MDR (Medium Density Residential) to PI (Public Institutional) for a 38 acre parcel located at the intersection of Road 28 and Avenue 14 ½. A zone change from ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive, 40 Acre) District to IA (Institution Area) District is also proposed.

The General Plan amendment and zone change will allow for the installation of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array that will provide solar power to the adjacent Correctional Facility and Juvenile Hall Facility. The arrays, which will generate approximately 1.4 MW, will cover approximately 10.2 acres of the western 18.96 acre portion of the 38 acre parcel.

DIVISION COMMENTS

WILLIAMSON ACT

According to information provided by the County to the Department as part of the annual Open Space Subvention Act reporting for this Fiscal Year, a portion of the project site

(the western 18.96 acres) is subject to a Williamson Act contract which will expire on March 01, 2015 via non-renewal. Pursuant to Government Code (GC) §51246(a) if a notice of non-renewal is served "the existing contract shall remain in effect for the balance of the period remaining since the original execution or the last renewal of the contract, as the case may be." Therefore, any use of the property, while the contract is still in effect, is required to be consistent with the principles of compatibility as outlined in GC§ 51238.1. Additionally, statute requires the General Plan and zoning applied to contracted lands to be consistent with, and allow agricultural uses (GC §51230).

Section 15063 (d)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an Initial Study to provide a brief explanation of the environmental effects and requires evidence that would support the Lead Agency's determination of significant impacts. Therefore, it is recommended the environmental document include a discussion within the impact analysis regarding the conflict with the Williamson Act contract which remains in effect (GC §51246) and the requirements of GC §51238.1 for compatibility with the Williamson Act.

The Williamson Act allows uses that are compatible with agriculture to be located on contracted lands. Statute provides latitude for non-agricultural uses to be considered compatible uses. However, this latitude has never been so great as to make uses that are not inherently related to, or beneficial to, the agricultural or open-space character of contracted land permissible under the compatible use provisions of the Williamson Act.¹

The footprint of a solar facility and the fact that it does not allow for the continuation of agricultural operation of the land, make it inconsistent with many different sections of the Act. As outlined in the application materials, the installation of the solar panels will require the existing, producing, grape vines to be removed. The Department views GC §51238, which cites the compatibility of gas, electric, water, communication, or agricultural labor housing facilities in an agricultural preserve, as referring to those structures which have minimal impact on the land, and which are necessary for the needs of a community. The Department has consistently interpreted this section to describe overhead power lines, electrical substations, underground communication lines, and water lines, all of which take up a minimal amount of land.

A solar facility that will be providing power to adjacent correctional facilities does not meet the definition of agricultural use. Nor is it consistent with the definition of an open space use. In addition, GC §51242 requires that land enrolled in a Williamson Act contract be devoted to agricultural use.

If the County wishes to approve the project (general plan amendment, zone change, and solar facility), it is recommended that it be conditioned on the expiration of the contract either via non-renewal or cancellation. In other words, the general plan amendment and zone change would not become effective and no grading or building could occur for the solar facility until such time as the contract expires.

Non-renewal is the Department's preferred method of Williamson Act contract termination. If the County wishes to move forward with this project prior to the contract expiring via non-renewal, the appropriate alternative, under statute (GC§ 51282) is cancellation.

¹ SB 985, Chapter 1018, Statutes 1999, Section 1(j)

IMPACTS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Per the 2012 Important Farmland Map for Madera County, produced by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the project site contains approximately 4 acres of land designated as Urban and Built Up while the remaining 34 acres is considered Important Farmland and is designated as follows:

- *Prime Farmland- approximately 25 acres*
- *Farmland of Statewide Importance- approximately 5 acres*
- *Unique Farmland- approximately 4 acres*

The conversion of Important Farmlands is a material consideration for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Therefore, the Division recommends the environmental document address the projects impacts on Important Farmland.

The Department recommends the following items be considered and discussed in the environmental document, when analyzing the project's impacts on Important Farmlands:

- Type, amount, and location of farmland (Prime, Unique, and Farmland of Statewide Importance) conversion that may result directly and indirectly from project implementation.
- Impacts on current and future agricultural operations; e.g., land-use conflicts, increases in land values and taxes, etc.
- Incremental project impacts leading to cumulative impacts on agricultural land.

Impacts on agricultural resources may be both quantified and qualified by use of established threshold of significance (CEQA Guidelines §15064.7). As such, the Division has developed a California version of the USDA Land Evaluation Site Assessment (LESA) Model. The California LESA model is a semi-quantitative rating system for establishing the environmental significance of project specific impacts on farmland. The model may also be used to rate the relative value of alternative project sites. The LESA Model is available on the Division's website at:

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/Pages/qh_les_a.aspx

MITIGATION MEASURES

Pursuant to CEQA Guideline § 15370, mitigation includes measures that "avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate, or compensate" for the impact. The loss of agricultural land represents a permanent reduction in the State's agricultural land resources. Although direct conversion of agricultural land may be an unavoidable impact under CEQA analysis, mitigation measures, including compensatory mitigation, must be considered and adopted if feasible.

The Department understands that various factors can affect the feasibility of potential mitigation measures. Because agricultural conservation easements have become more commonly accepted by jurisdictions at the local and state level, they are an available mitigation tool that should be considered. The Department highlights this measure because of its acceptance and use by lead agencies as an appropriate mitigation measure under CEQA. As such, the Division recommends that the County examine

whether permanent agricultural easements will protect a portion of those remaining land resources and lessen project impacts in accordance with CEQA Guideline §15370.

Mitigation via agricultural conservation easements can be implemented by at least two alternative approaches: the outright purchase of easements or the donation of mitigation fees to a local, regional, or statewide organization or agency whose purpose includes the acquisition and stewardship of agricultural conservation easements. The California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) and the California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP) are two sources of information on the mechanisms and fees associated with conservation easements as well as their use in mitigating for agricultural land conversion. Their web site addresses are:

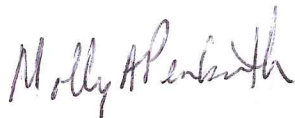
<http://www.calandtrusts.org>
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CFCP/Pages/Index.aspx>

The conversion of agricultural land should be deemed and impact of at least regional significance. Hence, the search for replacement lands need not be limited strictly to lands within the surrounding area, but should be roughly equivalent in proximity, acreage, and agricultural characteristics to the affected property.

Of course, the use of conservation easements is only one form of mitigation that should be considered. Any other feasible mitigation measures should also be considered.

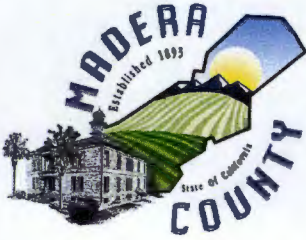
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Early Consultation Request for PRJ #2014-002. Please provide this Department with the date of any hearings for this particular action, and any staff reports pertaining to it. If you have questions regarding our comments, or require technical assistance or information on agricultural land conservation, please contact Heather Anderson, Environmental Planner by phone at (916)324-0869 or via email at Heather.Anderson@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Molly A. Penberth, Manager
Division of Land Resource Protection
Conservation Program Support Unit

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MADERA COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY Road Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Treber – Planning Department

FROM: Jason Chandler – Road Department

DATE: March 14, 2014

SUBJECT: PRJ NO. 2014-002 / MADERA COUNTY

The Road Department has reviewed the above-noted project to build and operate a solar panel array. The Road Department recommends approval with the conditions listed below. The project site is located along the west side of Road 28 and on the south side of Avenue 14 ½. The General Plan has the site shown as MDR (Medium Density Residential) and will be changed to PI (Public Institutional). It is currently Zoned as ARE-40 (Agricultural, Rural, Exclusive 40 Acres) and will be changed to IA (Institutional Area District).

Access will be a long Road 28 which is designated as 100 ft Arterial road requiring a minimum road right-of-way width of 50 ft. There is currently only 30 ft of right of way thus requiring an additional 20 ft to be Grant Deeded to the County.

All driveway approaches accessing the site shall be built to a Commercial County Standard.

Any construction within the County road right-of-way will require an Encroachment Permit from the Road Department.

THE ROAD DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

1. As a condition of approval of the PRJ, the applicant shall grant deed a strip of land 20 ft wide contiguous to Road 28.
2. As a condition of this PRJ, the applicant shall construct the driveway approach to a commercial standard.
3. Prior to any construction within the right of way, the applicant is required to apply for and obtain an Encroachment Permit from the Road Department. Once this permit is secured, the applicant may commence with construction (*ST-24B, ST-25, 26 and 27*).

Environmental Checklist Form**Title of Proposal:** Project 2014-002 Madera County**Date Checklist Submitted:** 4/8/2014**Agency Requiring Checklist:** Madera County Planning Department**Agency Contact:** Matt Treber, Senior Planner**Phone:** (559) 675-7821

Description of Initial Study/Requirement

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have significant effects on the environment. In the case of the proposed project, the Madera County Planning Department, acting as lead agency, will use the initial study to determine whether the project has a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, Guidelines (Section 15063[a]), an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence (such as results of the Initial Study) that a project may have significant effect on the environment. This is true regardless of whether the overall effect of the project would be adverse or beneficial. A negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND) may be prepared if the lead agency determines that the project would have no potentially significant impacts or that revisions to the project, or measures agreed to by the applicant, mitigate the potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The initial study considers and evaluates all aspects of the project which are necessary to support the proposal. The complete project description includes the site plan, operational statement, and other supporting materials which are available in the project file at the office of the Madera County Planning Department.

Description of Project:

The project is a proposal to amend the area now shown as MDR (Medium Density Residential) Designation to PI (Public Institution) Designation, and a Rezone from ARE-40 (Agricultural Rural Exclusive 40-Acre) District to IA (Institution Area) Designation for a solar facility and County Campus complex. This project will create consistency between the General Plan and existing land uses on the project site.

Project Location:

The project is located on the east and west side of Road 28 at its intersection with Avenue 14 1/2 (Multiple Situs Addresses), Madera.

Applicant Name and Address:

Madera County
200 W. 4th Street
Madera, CA 93637

General Plan Designation:

MDR – Medium Density Residential

Zoning Designation:

ARE-40 - Agricultural Rural Exclusive-40 Acre

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Government Offices, Residential, Agricultural

Other Public Agencies whose approval is required:

None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Click here to enter text.
Prior EIR or ND/MND Number

Signature

Date

| I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitiga- tion Incorpor- ation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The project site is not located in an area which would have an effect on a scenic vista. There are no identified scenic vistas within the vicinity of the project site that could be impacted

(b) No Impact

The project site is not located within a state scenic highway.

(c) No Impact

The project site has been heavily disturbed with urban development surrounding the project site on two sides. The vacant portion of the property has been in agriculture production or disked routinely.

(d) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The development of a solar facility would not create a new source of substantial light or glare, however if new governmental office construction were to occur it may have a substantial increase in lighting however mitigation measures have been incorporated to mitigate the impact to a less than significant impact.

General Information:

A nighttime sky in which stars are readily visible is often considered a valuable scenic/visual resource. In urban areas, views of the nighttime sky are being diminished by "light pollution." Light pollution, as defined by the International dark-Sky Association, is any adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste. Two elements of light pollution may affect city residents: sky glow and light trespass. Sky glow is a result of light fixtures that emit a portion of their light directly upward into the sky where light scatters, creating an orange-yellow glow above a city or town. This light can interfere with views of the nighttime sky and can diminish the number of stars that are visible. Light trespass occurs when poorly shielded or poorly aimed fixtures cast light into unwanted areas, such as neighboring property and homes.

Light pollution is a problem most typically associated with urban areas. Lighting is necessary for nighttime viewing and for security purposes. However, excessive lighting or inappropriately designed lighting fixtures can disturb nearby sensitive land uses through indirect illumination. Land uses which are considered "sensitive" to this unwanted light include residences, hospitals, and care homes.

Daytime sources of glare include reflections off of light-colored surfaces, windows, and metal details on cars traveling on nearby roadways. The amount of glare depends on the intensity and direction of sunlight, which is more acute at sunrise and sunset because the angle of the sun is lower during these times.

III. **AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resource Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Protection (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant Impact

The current location of the proposed solar facility is in grape production however the conversion of approximately 12.5 acres of land into a solar facility would have a less than significant impact. The other properties involved in the application do not contain any prime, unique, or farmland of statewide importance.

(b) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The property is subject to a Williamson Act contract. A notice of non-renewal has been filed and the Williamson Act Contract is set to expire on March 1, 2015. Any development on the property prior to March 1, 2015 must be of a temporary nature.

(c) No Impact

The subject properties are located on the valley floor with the nearest forest land approximately 40 miles to the northeast.

(d) No Impact

See C.

(e) No Impact

Please see A-C .

General Information

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965--commonly referred to as the Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.

The Department of Conservation oversees the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California's agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance. The program's definition of land is below:

PRIME FARMLAND (P): Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S): Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

UNIQUE FARMLAND (U): Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include nonirrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L): Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

GRAZING LAND (G): Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.

URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D): Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

OTHER LAND (X): Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</p> <p>a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?</p> <p>b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?</p> <p>c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?</p> | <p>Potentially Significant Impact</p> | <p>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</p> | <p>Less Than Significant Impact</p> | <p>No Impact</p> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion may have insignificant air quality impacts during the construction of the facility. There will be no long term obstruction or conflict with implementing any applicable air quality plan by approval of the project.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future governmental office expansion may have insignificant air quality impacts during the construction of the facility. The project does not have the potential to violate any air quality standard.

(c) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future governmental office expansion may have insignificant air quality impacts during the construction of the facility. There will be no cumulatively considerable increase of any criteria pollutant of air quality plan by approval of the project.

(d) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and potential governmental office expansion may have insignificant air quality impacts during the construction of the facility. There will be no significant or long-term impact to sensitive receptors.

(e) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion may have insignificant air quality impacts during the construction of the facility. There will be no significant objectionable odors by approval of the project.

General Information

Global Climate Change

Climate change is a shift in the “average weather” that a given region experiences. This is measured by changes in temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global climate is the change in the climate of the earth as a whole. It can occur naturally, as in the case of an ice age, or occur as a result of anthropogenic activities. The extent to which anthropogenic activities influence climate change has been the subject of extensive scientific inquiry in the past several decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recognized as the leading research body on the subject, issued its Fourth Assessment Report in February 2007, which asserted that there is “very high confidence” (by IPCC definition a 9 in 10 chance of being correct) that human activities have resulted in a net warming of the planet since 1750.

CEQA requires an agency to engage in forecasting “to the extent that an activity could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. An agency cannot be expected to predict the future course of governmental regulation or exactly what information scientific advances may ultimately reveal” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15144, Office of Planning and Research commentary, citing the California Supreme Court decision in Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of the University of California [1988] 47 Cal. 3d 376).

Recent concerns over global warming have created a greater interest in greenhouse gases (GHG) and their contribution to global climate change (GCC). However at this time there are no generally accepted thresholds of significance for determining the impact of GHG emissions from an individual project on GCC. Thus, permitting agencies are in the position of developing policy and guidance to ascertain and mitigate to the extent feasible the effects of GHG, for CEQA purposes, without the normal degree of accepted guidance by case law.

| IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a substantial adverse effect on any candidate, sensitive, or special status species as identified in any local, regional, state, or federal plans. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(b) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(c) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a substantial adverse impact on wetlands. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(d) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not substantially interfere with the movement of migratory fish and wildlife. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(e) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will

not conflict with any local policies or ordinance protecting biological resources. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(f) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not conflict with any provisions of a habitat conservation plan or any other approved plans in place to protect fish and wildlife. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

General Information

Special Status Species include:

- Plants and animals that are legally protected or proposed for protection under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);
- Plants and animals defined as endangered or rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15380;
- Animals designated as species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Animals listed as “fully protected” in the Fish and Game Code of California (§3511, §4700, §5050 and §5515); and
- Plants listed in the California Native Plant Society’s (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

A review of both the County’s and Department of Fish and Game’s databases for special status species have identified the following species:

| Species | Federal Listing | State Listing | Dept. of Fish and Game Listing | CNPS Listing |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| California tiger salamander | Threatened | Threatened | SSC | |
| Burrowing Owl | None | None | SSC | |
| Northern hardpan Vernal Pool | None | None | | |
| Hoary Bat | None | None | | |
| Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard | Endangered | Endangered | FP | |
| Molestan Blister Beetle | None | None | | |
| Madera Leptosiphon | None | None | | 1B.2 |
| Hairy Orcutt grass | Endangered | Endangered | | 1B.1 |

List 1A: Plants presumed extinct

List 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.

List 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere

List 3 Plants which more information is needed – a review list

List 4: Plants of Limited Distributed - a watch list

Ranking

1.1 – Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)

1.2 – Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

1.3 – Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

Effective January 1, 2007, Senate Bill 1535 took effect that has changed de minimis findings procedures. The Senate Bill takes the de minimis findings capabilities out of the Lead Agency hands and puts the process into the hands of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formally the California Department of Fish and Game). A Notice of Determination filing fee is due each time a NOD is filed at the jurisdictions Clerk's Office. The authority comes under Senate Bill 1535 (SB 1535) and Department of Fish and Wildlife Code 711.4. Each year the fee is evaluated and has the potential of increasing. For the most up-to-date fees, please refer to http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/ceqa/ceqa_changes.html.

The Valley elderberry longhorn beetle was listed as a threatened species in 1980. Use of the elderberry bush by the beetle, a wood borer, is rarely apparent. Frequently, the only exterior evidence of the elderberry's use by the beetle is an exit hole created by the larva just prior to the pupal stage. According to the USFWS, the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat is primarily in communities of clustered Elderberry plants located within riparian habitat. The USFWS stated that VELB habitat does not include every Elderberry plant in the Central Valley, such as isolated, individual plants, plants with stems that are less than one inch in basal diameter or plants located in upland habitat.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a substantial adverse effect on any historical resource. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(b) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a substantial adverse effect on any agricultural resources. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(c) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in any direct or indirect paleontological resources. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(d) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in any disturbance of human remains. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

General Information

Public Resource Code 5021.1(b) defines a historic resource as "any object building, structure, site, area or place which is historically significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California." These resources are of such import, that it is

codified in CEQA (PRC Section 21000) which prohibits actions that “disrupt, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property of historical or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social groups; or a paleontological site except as part of a scientific study.”

Archaeological importance is generally, although not exclusively, a measure of the archaeological research value of a site which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory.
- Can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions.
- Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind.
- Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity (i.e. it is essentially undisturbed and intact).
- Involves important research questions that historic research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

Reference CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 for definitions.

Most of the archaeological survey work in the County has taken place in the foothills and mountains. This does not mean, however, that no sites exist in the western part of the County, but rather that this area has not been as thoroughly studied. There are slightly more than 2,000 recorded archaeological sites in the County, most of which are located in the foothills and mountains. Recorded prehistoric artifacts include village sites, camp sites, bedrock milling stations, pictographs, petroglyphs, rock rings, sacred sites, and resource gathering areas. Madera County also contains a significant number of potentially historic sites, including homesteads and ranches, mining and logging sites and associated features (such as small camps, railroad beds, logging chutes, and trash dumps.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

Discussion:

(a-i) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in any risk or substantial adverse effects in regards to earthquakes, strong seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, or landslides. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(a-ii) No Impact

See a-i.

(a-iii) No Impact

See a-i.

(a-iv) No Impact

See a-i.

(b) No Impact

See a-i

(c) No Impact

See a-i.

(d) No Impact

See a-i.

(e) No Impact

See a-i.

General Information

Madera County is divided into two major physiographic and geologic provinces: the Sierra Nevada Range and the Central Valley. The Sierra Nevada physiographic province in the northeastern portion of the county is underlain by metamorphic and igneous rock. It consists mainly of homogenous types of granitic rocks, with several islands of older metamorphic rock. The central and western parts of the county are part of the Central Valley province, underlain by marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks.

The foothill area of the county is essentially a transition zone, containing old alluvial soils that have been dissected by the west-flowing rivers and streams which carry runoff from the Sierra Nevada's.

Seismicity varies greatly between the two major geologic provinces represented in Madera County. The Central valley is an area of relatively low tectonic activity bordered by mountain ranges on either side. The Sierra Nevada's, partly within Madera County, are the result of movement of tectonic plates which resulted in the creation of the mountain range. The Coast Ranges on the west side of the Central Valley are also a result of these forces, and continued movement of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates continues to elevate the ranges. Most of the seismic hazards in Madera County result from movement along faults associated with the creation of these ranges.

There are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. The County does not lie within any Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone for surface faulting or fault creep.

However, there are two significant faults within the larger region that have been and will continue to be, the principle sources of potential seismic activity within Madera County.

San Andreas Fault: The San Andreas Fault lies approximately 45 miles west of the county line. The fault has a long history of activity and is thus a concern in determining activity in the area.

Owens Valley Fault Group: The Owens Valley Fault Group is a complex system containing both active and potentially active faults on the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada Range. This group is located approximately 80 miles east of the County line in Inyo County. This system has historically been the source of seismic activity within the County.

The *Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the state prison project near Fairmead identified faults within a 100 mile radius of the project site. Since Fairmead is centrally located along Highway 99 within the county, this information provides a good indicator of the potential seismic activity which might be felt within the County. Fifteen active faults (including the San Andreas and Owens Valley Fault Group) were identified in the *Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation*. Four of the faults lie along the eastern portion of the Sierra Nevada Range, approximately 75 miles to the northeast of Fairmead. These are the Parker Lake, Hartley Springs, Hilton Creek and Mono Valley Faults. The remaining faults are in the western portion of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as within the Coast Range, approximately 47 miles west of Fairmead. Most of the remaining 11 faults are associated with the San Andreas, Calaveras, Hayward and Rinconada Fault Systems which collectively form the tectonic plate boundary of the Central Valley.

In addition, the Clovis Fault, although not having any historic evidence of activity, is considered to be active within quaternary time (within the past two million years), is considered potentially active. This fault line lies approximately six miles south of the Madera County line in Fresno County. Activity along this fault could potentially generate more seismic activity in Madera County than the San Andreas or Owens Valley fault systems. However, because of the lack of historic activity along the Clovis Fault, there is inadequate evidence for assessing maximum earthquake impacts.

Seismic ground shaking, however, is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County because of the County's seismic setting and its record of historical activity (General Plan Background Element and Program EIR). The project represents no specific threat or hazard from seismic ground shaking, and all new construction will comply with current local and state building codes. Other geologic hazards, such as landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, and liquefaction have not been known to occur within Madera County.

According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, groundshaking is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County. The valley portion of Madera County is located on alluvium deposits, which tend to experience greater groundshaking intensities than areas located on hard rock. Therefore, structures located in the valley will tend to suffer greater damage from groundshaking than those located in the foothill and mountain areas.

Liquefaction is a process whereby soil is temporarily transformed to a fluid form during intense and prolonged ground shaking. According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, although there are areas of Madera County where the water table is at 30 feet or less below the surface, soil types in the area are not conducive to liquefaction because they are either too coarse in texture or too high in clay content; the soil types mitigate against the potential for liquefaction.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion may result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties

(b) No Impact

See a.

General Information

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: The potential effect of greenhouse gas emission on global climate change is an emerging issue that warrants discussion under CEQA. Unlike the pollutants discussed previously that may have regional and local effects, greenhouse gases have the potential to cause global changes in the environment. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions do not directly produce a localized impact, but may cause an indirect impact if the local climate is adversely changed by its cumulative contribution to a change in global climate. Individual development projects contribute relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases that when added to other greenhouse gas producing activities around the world would result in an increase in these emissions that have led many to conclude is changing the global climate. However, no threshold has been established for what would constitute a cumulatively considerable increase in greenhouse gases for individual development projects. The State of California has taken several actions that help to address potential global climate change impacts.

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, outlines goals for local agencies to follow in order to bring Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels (a 25% overall reduction) by the year 2020. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) holds the responsibility of monitoring and reducing GHG emissions through regulations, market mechanisms and other actions. A Draft Scoping Plan was adopted by CARB in order to provide guidelines and policy for the State to follow in its steps to reduce GHG. According to CARB, the scoping plan's GHG reduction actions include: direct regulations, alternative compliance mechanisms, monetary and non-monetary incentives, voluntary actions, and market-based mechanisms such as a cap-and-trade system.

Following the adoption of AB 32, the California State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 375, which became the first major bill in the United States that would aim to limit climate change by linking directly to "smart growth" land use principles and transportation. It adds incentives for projects which intend to be in-fill, mixed use, affordable and self-contained developments. SB 375 includes the creation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) through the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in order to create land use patterns which reduce overall emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Incentives include California Environmental Quality Act streamlining and possible exemptions for projects which fulfill specific criteria.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a significant hazard to the public through the routine transport or disposal of hazardous waste. The project does not involved any known hazardous waste, nor is it conceivable that in the future it will be associated with any hazardous waste. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties

(b) No Impact

See a.

(c) No Impact

See a.

(d) No Impact

The property is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

(e) No Impact

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport.

(f) No Impact

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

(g) No Impact

The project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project site has adequate access to a through road.

(h) No Impact

The project site is not located in a wildland area impacted by wildland fires.

General Information

Any hazardous material because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical properties, pose a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety, or the environment the California legislature adopted Article I, Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code, Sections 25500 to 25520 that requires any business handling or storing a hazardous material or hazardous waste to establish a Business Plan. The information obtained from the completed Business Plans will be provided to emergency response personnel for a better-prepared emergency response due to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and/or hazardous waste.

Business owners that handle or store a hazardous material or mixtures containing a hazardous material, which has a quantity at any one time during the year, equal to or greater than:

- 1) A total of 55 gallons,
- 2) A total of 500 pounds,
- 3) 200 cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure of compressed gas,
- 4) any quantity of Acutely Hazardous Material (AHM).

Assembly Bill AB 2286 requires all business and agencies to report their Hazardous Materials Business Plans to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) information electronically at <http://cers.calepa.ca.gov>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in a significant impact upon the areas water quality standards, substantially deplete groundwater supplies, or alter the existing drainage pattern significantly. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(c) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(d) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(e) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(f) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(g) No Impact

The proposed project is will not place housing within a 100-year flood zone.

(h) No Impact

The proposed project is not within a 100 year flood zone and therefore would have no impact.

(i) No Impact

See a.

(j) No Impact

See a.

General Information

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Valley Floor include high salinity (total dissolved solids), nitrate, uranium, arsenic, methane gas, iron, manganese, slime production, and dibromochloropropane with the maximum contaminant level exceeded in some areas. Despite the water quality issues noted above, most of the groundwater in the Valley Floor is of suitable quality for irrigation. Groundwater of suitable quality for public consumption has been demonstrated to be present in most of the area at specific depths.

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Foothills and Mountains include manganese, iron, high salinity, hydrogen sulfide gas, uranium, nitrate, arsenic, and methylbutylethylene (MTBE) with the maximum concentration level being exceeded in some areas. Despite these problems, there are substantial amounts of good-quality groundwater in each of the areas evaluated in the Foothills and Mountains. Iron and manganese are commonly removed by treatment. Uranium treatment is being conducted on a well by the Bass Lake Water Company.

A seiche is an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay or estuary producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes or changes in barometric pressure. A tsunami is an unusually large sea wave produced by seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption (from the Japanese language, roughly translated as "harbor wave"). According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. As this property is not located near any bodies of water, no impacts are identified.

The flood hazard areas of the County of Madera are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare. These flood losses are caused by uses that are inadequately elevated, floodproofed, or protected from flood damage. The cumulative effect of obstruction in areas of special flood hazards which increase flood height and velocities also contribute to flood loss.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project result in:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The proposed project does not have the potential to divide an established community.

(b) No Impact

The proposed project will not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation.

(c) No Impact

The project site is not within a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. There will be no impact.

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| XI. | MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project result in: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitiga- tion Incorpor- ation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
| | a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The proposed project is not located within an area with the potential for this project to result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

(b) No Impact

See a.

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| XII. | NOISE – Would the project result in: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitiga- tion Incorpor- ation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
| | a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in significant exposure to or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(c) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(d) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will result in a temporary increase in periodic ambient noise levels during construction; however a mitigation measure has been incorporation into the project. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(e) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(f) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

General Discussion

The Noise Element of the Madera County General Plan (Policy 7.A.5) provides that noise which will be created by new non-transportation noise sources shall be mitigated so as not to exceed the Noise Element noise level standards on lands designated for noise-sensitive uses. However, this policy does not apply to noise levels associated with agricultural operations. All the surrounding properties, while include some residential units, are designated and zoned for agricultural uses. This impact is therefore considered less than significant.

Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g. demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation, erection). The United States Environmental Protection Agency has found that the average noise levels associated with construction activities typically range from approximately 76 dBA to 84 dBA Leq, with intermittent individual equipment noise levels ranging from approximately 75 dBA to more than 88 dBA for brief periods.

Short Term Noise

Noise from localized point sources (such as construction sites) typically decreases by approximately 6 dBA with each doubling of distance from source to receptor. Given the noise attenuation rate and assuming no noise shielding from either natural or human-made features (e.g. trees, buildings, fences), outdoor receptors within approximately 400 feet of construction site could experience maximum noise levels of greater than 70 dBA when onsite construction-related noise levels exceed approximately 89 dBA at the project site boundary. Construction activities that occur during the more noise-sensitive eighteen hours could result in increased levels of annoyance and sleep disruption for occupants of nearby existing residential dwellings. As a result, noise-generating construction activities would be considered to have a potentially significant short-term impact. However with implementation of mitigation measures, this impact would be considered less than significant.

Long Term Noise

Mechanical building equipment (e.g. heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and boilers), associated with the proposed structures, could generate noise levels of approximately 90 dBA at 3 feet from the source. However, such mechanical equipment systems are typically shielded from direct public exposure and usually housed on rooftops, within equipment rooms, or within exterior enclosures.

Landscape maintenance equipment, such as leaf blowers and gasoline powered mowers, associated with the proposed operations could result in intermittent noise levels that range from approximately 80 to 100 dBA at 3 feet, respectively. Based on an equipment noise level of 100 dBA, landscape maintenance equipment (assuming a noise attenuation rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance from the source) may result in exterior noise levels of approximately 75 dBA at 50 feet.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE FOR
NON-TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES***

| | | Residential | Commercial | Industrial (L) | Industrial (H) | Agricultural |
|-------------|----|-------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Residential | AM | 50 | 60 | 55 | 60 | 60 |
| | PM | 45 | 55 | 50 | 55 | 55 |
| Commercial | AM | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 60 |
| | PM | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 55 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Industrial (L) | AM | 55 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 60 |
| | PM | 50 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 55 |
| Industrial (H) | AM | 60 | 65 | 65 | 70 | 65 |
| | PM | 55 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 60 |
| Agricultural | AM | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 60 |
| | PM | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 55 |

*As determined at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards may be applied on the receptor side of noise barriers at the property line.

AM = 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
PM = 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM
L = Light
H = Heavy

Note: Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for pure tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g. caretaker dwellings).

Vibration perception threshold: The minimum ground or structure-borne vibrational motion necessary to cause a normal person to be aware of the vibration by such direct means as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation of moving objects. The perception threshold shall be presumed to be a motion velocity of one-tenth (0.1) inches per second over the range of one to one hundred Hz.

| Reaction of People and Damage to Buildings from Continuous Vibration Levels | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Velocity Level, PPV (in/sec) | Human Reaction | Effect on Buildings |
| 0.006 to 0.019 | Threshold of perception; possibility of intrusion | Damage of any type unlikely |
| 0.08 | Vibration readily perceptible | Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected |
| 0.10 | Continuous vibration begins to annoy people | Virtually no risk of architectural damage to normal buildings |
| 0.20 | Vibration annoying to people in buildings | Risk of architectural damage to normal dwellings such as plastered walls or ceilings |
| 0.4 to 0.6 | Vibration considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations | Architectural damage and possibly minor structural damage |

Source: Whiffen and Leonard 1971

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessi- | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

tating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

- c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will have no potential to induce substantial population growth, currently the property is planned as Medium Density Residential, and the proposed use will have a significant decrease on the potential of population growth.

(b-c) No Impact

The proposed project will not displace any residential structure or result in the need to construct any replacement housing units.

General Information

According to the California Department of Finance, in January of 2012, the County wide population was 152,074 with a total of 49,334 housing units. This works out to an average of 3.33 persons per housing unit. The vacancy rate was 11.84%.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | | | | |
| i) Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| v) Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a-i-v) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will result in a less than significant impact on public services. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

General Information

The proposed project site is within the jurisdiction of the Madera County Fire Department. Crime and emergency response is provided by the Madera County Sherriff's Department. The proposed project will have no impact on local parks and will not create demand for additional parks.

The Madera County Fire Department exists through a contract between Madera County and the CALFIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention) and operates six stations for County responses in addition to the state-funded CALFIRE stations for state responsibility areas. Under an "Amador Plan" contract, the County also funds the wintertime staffing of four fire seasonal CALFIRE stations. In addition, there are ten paid-call (volunteer) fire companies that operate from their own stations. The administrative, training, purchas-

ing, warehouse, and other functions of the Department operate through a single management team with County Fire Administration.

A Federal Bureau of Investigations 2009 study suggests that there is on average of 2.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population for all reporting counties. The number for cities had an average of 1.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population.

Single Family Residences have the potential for adding to school populations. The average per Single Family Residence is:

| Grade | Student Generation per Single Family Residence |
|--------|------------------------------------------------|
| K – 6 | 0.425 |
| 7 – 8 | 0.139 |
| 9 – 12 | 0.214 |

The Madera County General Plan allocates three acres of park available land per 1,000 residents' population.

XV. RECREATION

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a-b) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not result in significant impact upon the recreational services of the area or County as a whole. The project will not require the construction or expansion of new or existing recreational facilities.

General Information

The Madera County General Plan allocates three acres of park available land per 1,000 residents' population.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

transit?

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures or other standards, established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion has the potential to conflict with the surrounding street system. The Road Department has commented on the proposed project and provided mitigation measures to reduce the impact to a less than significant level.

(b) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

See a.

(c) No Impact

The project does not have to potential to impact air traffic patterns, the nearest airport is approximately four miles.

(d) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

See a.

(e) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

See a.

(f) No Impact

The proposed project does not conflict with any adopted policies or plans related to alternative transportation.

General Information

According to the Institute of Traffic Engineers (7th Edition, pg. 268-9) the trips per day for one single-family residence are 9.57.

Madera County currently uses Level Of Service “D” as the threshold of significance level for roadway and intersection operations. The following charts show the significance of those levels.

| Level of Service | Description | Average Control Delay (sec./car) |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A | Little or no delay | 0 – 10 |
| B | Short traffic delay | >10 – 15 |
| C | Medium traffic delay | > 15 – 25 |
| D | Long traffic delay | > 25 – 35 |
| E | Very long traffic delay | > 35 – 50 |
| F | Excessive traffic delay | > 50 |

Unsignalized intersections.

| Level of Service | Description | Average Control Delay (sec./car) |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| A | Uncongested operations, all queues clear in single cycle | < 10 |
| B | Very light congestion, an occasional phase is fully utilized | >10 – 20 |
| C | Light congestion; occasional queues on approach | > 20 – 35 |
| D | Significant congestion on critical approaches, but intersection is functional. Vehicles required to wait through more than one cycle during short peaks. No long-standing queues formed. | > 35 – 55 |
| E | Severe congestion with some long-standing queues on critical approaches. Traffic queues may block nearby intersection(s) upstream of critical approach(es) | > 55-80 |
| F | Total breakdown, significant queuing | > 80 |

Signalized intersections.

| Level of service | Freeways | Two-lane rural highway | Multi-lane rural highway | Expressway | Arterial | Collector |
|------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| A | 700 | 120 | 470 | 720 | 450 | 300 |
| B | 1,100 | 240 | 945 | 840 | 525 | 350 |
| C | 1,550 | 395 | 1,285 | 960 | 600 | 400 |
| D | 1,850 | 675 | 1,585 | 1,080 | 675 | 450 |
| E | 2,000 | 1,145 | 1,800 | 1,200 | 750 | 500 |

Capacity per hour per lane for various highway facilities

Madera County is predicted to experience significant population growth in the coming years (62.27 percent between 2008 and 2030). Accommodating this amount of growth presents a challenge for attaining and maintain air quality standards and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The increase in population is expected to be accompanied by a similar increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (61.36 percent between 2008 and 2030).

| Horizon Year | Total Population (thousands) | Employment (thousands) | Average Weekday VMT (millions) | Total Lane Miles |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 2010 | 175 | 49 | 5.4 | 2,157 |
| 2011 | 180 | 53 | 5.5 | NA |
| 2017 | 210 | 63 | 6.7 | NA |
| 2020 | 225 | 68 | 7.3 | 2,264 |
| 2030 | 281 | 85 | 8.8 | 2,277 |

Source: MCTC 2007 RTP

The above table displays the predicted increase in population and travel. The increase in the lane miles of roads that will serve the increase in VMT is estimated at 120 miles or 0.94 percent by 2030. This indicates that roadways in Madera County can be expected to become much more crowded than is currently experienced.

Emissions of CO (Carbon Monoxide) are the primarily mobile-source criteria pollutant of local concern. Local mobile-source CO emissions near roadway intersections are a direct function of traffic volume, speed and delay. Carbon monoxide transport is extremely limited; it disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, however, CO concentrations close to congested roadway or intersection may reach unhealthy levels, affecting local sensitive receptors (residents, school children, hospital patients, the elderly, etc.). As a result, the SJVAPCP recommends analysis of CO

emissions of at a local rather than regional level. Local CO concentrations at intersections projected to operate at level of service (LOS) D or better do not typically exceed national or state ambient air quality standards. In addition, non-signalized intersections located within areas having relatively low background concentrations do not typically have sufficient traffic volumes to warrant analysis of local CO concentrations.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) Less than Significant Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion will not exceed any wastewater treatment requirements, or result in construction impacts associated with any utility system to serve the properties.

(b) Less than Significant Impact

See a.

(c) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed development of a solar facility and future governmental office expansion will not require or result in significant construction impacts associated with a storm water facility.

(d) No Impact

The development as planned can be served entirely by existing water service, no new water entitlements will be required.

(e) No Impact

The project as planned has adequate wastewater treatment facility, and solid waste facilities to provide for the development of the properties.

(f) No Impact

See e.

(g) No Impact

See e.

General Discussion

Madera County has 34 County Service Areas and Maintenance Districts that together operate 30 small water systems and 16 sewer systems. Fourteen of these special districts are located in the Valley Floor, and the re-

maining 20 special districts are in the Foothills and Mountains. MD-1 Hidden Lakes, Bass Lake (SA-2B and SA-2C) and SA-16 Sumner Hill have surface water treatment plants, with the remaining special districts relying solely on groundwater.

The major wastewater treatment plants in the County are operated in the incorporated cities of Madera and Chowchilla and the community of Oakhurst. These wastewater systems have been recently or are planned to be upgraded, increasing opportunities for use of recycled water. The cities of Madera and Chowchilla have adopted or are in the process of developing Urban Water Management Plans. Most of the irrigation and water districts have individual groundwater management plans. All of these agencies engage in some form of groundwater recharge and management.

Groundwater provides almost the entire urban and rural water use and about 75 percent of the agricultural water use in the Valley Floor. The remaining water demand is met with surface water. Almost all of the water use in the Foothills and Mountains is from groundwater with only three small water treatment plants relying on surface water from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

In areas of higher precipitation (Oakhurst, North Fork, and the topographically higher part of the Coarsegold Area), groundwater recharge is adequate for existing uses. However, some problems have been encountered in parts of these areas due to well interference and groundwater quality issues. In areas of lower precipitation (Raymond-Hensley Lake and the lower part of the Coarsegold area), groundwater recharge is more limited, possibly requiring additional water supply from other sources to support future development.

Madera County is served by a solid waste facility (landfill) in Fairmead. There is a transfer station in North Fork. The Fairmead facility also provides for Household Hazardous Materials collections on Saturdays. The unincorporated portion of the County is served by Red Rock Environmental Group. Above the 1000 foot elevation, residents are served by EMADCO services for solid waste pick-up.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

| | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

(a) No Impact

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion has no potential to impact or degrade any wildlife species or population. The subject properties have been heavily disturbed with urban development and active agricultural cultivation occurring on the properties.

(b) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The development of a solar facility and future potential governmental office expansion does

have the potential for impact to be cumulatively considerable however mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce the impact to less than significant.

(c) No Impact

See a.

General Information

CEQA defines three types of impacts or effects:

- Direct impacts are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place (CEQA §15358(a)(1).
- Indirect or secondary impacts are reasonably foreseeable and are caused by a project but occur at a different time or place. They may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (CEQA §15358(a)(2).
- Cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (CEQA §15355(b)). Impacts from individual projects may be considered minor, but considered retroactively with other projects over a period of time, those impacts could be significant, especially where listed or sensitive species are involved.

**Documents/Organizations/Individuals Consulted
In Preparation of this
Initial Study**

Madera County General Plan

California Department of Finance

California Integrated Waste Management Board

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Caltrans website http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm accessed October 31, 2008

California Department of Fish and Game "California Natural Diversity Database" <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

Madera County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011 and 2012, with 2010 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2012

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

MND

RE: Project #2014-002 – Madera County

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The project is a proposal to amend the area now shown as MDR (Medium Density Residential) Designation to PI (Public Institution) Designation, and a Rezone from ARE-40 (Agricultural Rural Exclusive 40-Acre) District to IA (Institution Area) Designation for a solar facility and future expansion of governmental offices.

The project is located on the east and west side of Road 28 at its intersection with Avenue 14 ½ (Multiple Situs Available), Madera.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

No adverse environmental impact is anticipated from this project. The following mitigation measures are included to avoid any potential impacts.

BASIS FOR NEGATIVE DECLARATION:

1. See Attached

Madera County Environmental Committee

A copy of the negative declaration and all supporting documentation is available for review at the Madera County Planning Department, 2037 West Cleveland Avenue, Madera, California.

DATED:

FILED:

PROJECT APPROVED:

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT

MND # 2014-10

| No. | Mitigation Measure | Monitoring Phase | Enforcement Agency | Monitoring Agency | Action Indicating Compliance | Verification of Compliance | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | Initials | Date | Remarks |
| Aesthetics | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Any development of the properties must have all lighting downshielded to protect from night time glare. | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural Resources | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1. No development of a permanent nature can occur on the subject property under a Williamson Act Contract until March 1, 2015. | | | | | | | |
| Air Quality | | | | | | | | |
| Biological Resources | | | | | | | | |
| Cultural Resources | | | | | | | | |
| Geology and Soils | | | | | | | | |
| Hazards and Hazardous Materials | | | | | | | | |
| Hydrology and Water Quality | | | | | | | | |
| Land Use and Planning | | | | | | | | |
| Mineral Resources | | | | | | | | |

| No. | Mitigation Measure | Monitoring Phase | Enforcement Agency | Monitoring Agency | Action Indicating Compliance | Verification of Compliance | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | Initials | Date | Remarks |
| Noise | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | The construction of the solar facility and any expansion of the government facilities shall be restricted between the hours of 7am-7pm, Monday-Saturday. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Population and Housing | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Public Services | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Recreation | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Transportation and Traffic | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Madera County is required prior to development of the subject properties to grant deed a strip of land 20 feet wide contiguous to Road 28 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | A driveway approach to Commercial Standards must be constructed prior to any new development of the subject properties. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Utilities and Service Systems | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |