

## **2. Introduction**

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Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Chapter 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15378[a], the Livermore Community Solar Farm project is considered a “project” subject to environmental review as its implementation is “an activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.” The County of Alameda (County) is the Lead Agency for the project. The assessment in this Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is intended to inform the County’s decision-makers, other responsible agencies, and the public-at-large of the nature of the project and its effect on the environment.

### **2.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The proposed Project would develop a 58.7-acre solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with a capacity of 6 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) on the 71.64-acre parcel. Construction of the proposed Project is expected to occur in two phases over a one-year period. Phase I would be located on the southern portion of the subject property adjacent to May School Road and would encompass 30.8 acres. Phase 2 would be located on the northern portion of the subject property adjacent to North Livermore Avenue, and would encompass 27.9 acres. Water for Project operation and irrigation would be collected and stored from on-site stormwater and replenished from a fire hydrant located approximately 2.8 miles southeast of the subject property at the corner of Ames Street and Martingale Lane in the City of Livermore. All potable water would be delivered to the subject property approximately 80 times per year via a 10,000-gallon water truck; no connections to municipal water or sewer service are proposed. Seasonal grazing on the parcel would continue after the one-year construction period. The proposed Project would not require a change in General Plan land use designation or Zoning.

### **2.2 EIR SCOPE**

This EIR identifies and analyzes site specific potential environmental impacts of the project. The analysis discloses the changes to the environment resulting from construction and operation of the Livermore Community Solar Farm project. For a complete listing of environmental topics covered in this EIR, see Chapter 4, Environmental Evaluation, of the Draft EIR.

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### **2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

#### **2.3.1 DRAFT EIR**

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, the County of Alameda determined that the project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts and that an EIR would be required. In compliance with Section 21080.4 of the California Public Resources Code, the County circulated the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the project to the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) State Clearinghouse and interested agencies and persons on January 11, 2019 for a 30-day review period. The NOP solicited comments regarding the scope of the Draft EIR from identified responsible and trustee agencies, as well as interested parties.

The Draft EIR was available for review by the public and interested parties, agencies, and organizations for a 45-day comment period from March 6, 2020 to April 21, 2020. During the comment period, the public and responsible agencies were invited to submit written or e-mail comments on the Draft EIR to the Alameda County Planning Department. Written and/or verbal comments on the Draft EIR were also accepted at a Public Hearing held on April 20, 2020.

#### **2.3.2 FINAL EIR**

Upon completion of the public review period, Alameda County reviewed all comments received on the Draft EIR. This Final EIR includes written responses for each comment received during the public review period. This Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR, the comments received on the Draft EIR, and the responses to those comments, and describes any changes to the Draft EIR that have resulted from the comments received.

The Final EIR will be presented to the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments for certification as the environmental document for the project. All persons who commented on the Draft EIR will be notified of the availability of the Final EIR and the date of the public hearing before the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments on the project, and all responses to comments submitted on the Draft EIR by public agencies will be provided to those agencies at least 10 days prior to final action.

If the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments determines that the project may be approved, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments will certify the Final EIR and adopt and incorporate into the project all feasible mitigation measures identified in the EIR and may also require other feasible mitigation measures as conditions of approval.

However, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments may also find that the project does not satisfy the required findings for approval and decide to reject the project on that basis. In that case, the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments is not required to certify the Draft EIR. However, both the Draft EIR and project entitlements would be appealable to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, an elected body, who could then decide on both the EIR and project.

### 2.3.3 MITIGATION MONITORING

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires that the lead agency adopt a monitoring or reporting program for any project for which it has made mitigation findings pursuant to Public Resources Code 21081. Such a program is intended to ensure the implementation of all mitigation measures adopted through the preparation of an EIR. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project will be completed and available to the public prior to certification of this EIR.

## 2.4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This Final EIR is organized into the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1: Executive Summary.** Summarizes environmental consequences that would result from implementation of the project, describes recommended mitigation measures, and indicates the level of significance of environmental impacts before and after mitigation. Underline text in Table 1-1 represents language that has been added to the impacts and mitigation measures in the EIR; text in ~~striketrough~~ has been deleted from the EIR.
- **Chapter 2: Introduction.** Provides an overview describing the use and organization of this Final EIR.
- **Chapter 3: Revisions to the Draft EIR.** Contains corrections to the text and graphics of the Draft EIR. Underline text represents language that has been added to the EIR; text in ~~striketrough~~ has been deleted from the EIR.
- **Chapter 4: List of Commenters.** Lists the names of agencies and individuals who commented on the Draft EIR.
- **Chapter 5: Comments and Responses.** Presents comments received from agencies and the public on the Draft EIR alongside responses to each comment. Also contains “master responses” that provide comprehensive responses to key issues raised by several comments.
- **Appendix:** The appendix for this Final EIR contains the following:
  - Appendix E: Comment Letters. This appendix contains all comments received during the public review period for the Draft EIR in their original format.

The Draft EIR is available online and incorporated here by reference. It constitutes part of the Final EIR.

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