

November 12, 2024



Submitted to: Greg Plucker
Colusa County Community Development Agency
Colusa County as Lead Agency for Janus Solar Project

Submitted by: Bernadette Marsh

Sent via e-mail: gplucker@countyofcolusaca.gov

Dear Mr. Plucker:

This letter is submitted during the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) related to the proposed Janus Solar Project, for which Colusa County Community Development Agency is the lead agency.

Below are my comments regarding the DEIR:

1. The DEIR failed to adequately consider feasible alternatives to the project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act, also known as CEQA.

There are alternative areas within Colusa County that provide for a safer location of the proposed solar facility. There are other areas that would be more suited for solar energy projects, including land adjacent to the city of Colusa, where residential, commercial, and industrial customers could more appropriately benefit from this proposed project.

Given recent service unreliability of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and electric service disruptions due to public safety power shutoffs in anticipation of increased fire danger in rural wildland and rangeland areas of northern California (such as the proposed project site), the county should consider establishing a microgrid for Colusa.

Roof-top or individual residential solar installations are also not adequately addressed in the DEIR. As I personally have one on my own property, which produces reduced residential power and electric bills and allows co-grazing of sheep, I see substantial benefit in individual residential solar development. The analysis on this alternative is insufficient in the DEIR.

2. The DEIR failed to consider the cumulative impacts, especially in relation to reasonably foreseeable future projects in the adjacent area.

The location of the solar facility at the proposed project site will promote subsequent additional solar development in an area with known fire hazard, risk, and danger that is difficult to access by first responders. The DEIR fails to address the added resources needed to deal with additional solar developments in the western foothill area and the added pressure and environmental impacts that will reasonably and foreseeably occur.

3. The DEIR failed to adequately address significant environmental impacts, and the DEIR omitted necessary information and analysis.

My concerns relate to the health, safety, and wellbeing of Colusa County residents, the environment, as well as the workforce that would be required to install that facility. The dust mitigation, associated soil erosion, and the overall solar installation are not adequately described, and as such, the mitigation measures cannot be adequately assessed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and for your consideration of my comments during the public comment period.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Marsh