

Lake Herman Road Solar Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Errata Sheet January 15, 2020

This errata sheet presents, in ~~strike-through~~ and double-underline format, the revisions to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Lake Herman Road Solar Project (proposed project). The revisions to the IS/MND reflected in this errata sheet do not affect the adequacy of the environmental analysis contained in the IS/MND. Because the changes presented below would not result in any new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of an environmental impact identified in the IS/MND, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required.

Based on a technical memorandum from Garcia and Associates, dated January 10, 2020, City staff has initiated the following changes to the IS/MND for clarification purposes only.

Page 31 of the IS/MND is hereby revised as follows:

Based on the database search, a total of 17 special-status plant species have been recorded within the Project Area. Of 17 identified species, suitable habitat is present for only the following ten taxa: bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), California androsace (*Androsace elongata* ssp. *acuta*), big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*), big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa*), Jepson's coyote thistle (*Eryngium jepsonii*), Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*), pappose tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *parryi*), Parry's rough tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *rudis*), Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*), and two-forked clover (*Trifolium amoenum*). Related taxa with similar life history characteristics were not present in the project site, suggesting the absence of the 10 aforementioned special-status plants. Furthermore, the survey was conducted during peak blooming season for many of the special-status plants, and none of the special-status plants were observed.¹ Due to the disturbed nature of the grassland, the probability of special-status plants to occur is low. Although special-status plant species have not been previously documented on the project site and none were observed during the botanical survey, potential habitat is suitable for the aforementioned plant taxa. However, the habitat is suitable for the aforementioned plant taxa. exists on the site. Consequently, target species could inhabit the site over time. Should project construction begin on or after June 11, 2021, an additional pre-construction survey would be required in order to determine whether any special-status plants have inhabited the site. Thus, construction activities associated with the proposed project could result in adverse effects to special-status plant species.

The aforementioned revisions are for clarification purposes only, and do not affect the conclusions of the IS/MND.

¹ Garcia and Associates. *Biological Site Assessment for the RPCA Solar 4, LLC Lake Herman Solar Project Solano County, California* [pg. 14]. July 2019.

Mitigation Measure IV-2 on page 34 of the IS/MND is hereby revised as follows:

IV-2. *Prior to any ground disturbance on or after June 11, 2021, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey to identify any special-status plant species on the project site. A written summary of the survey results shall be submitted to the City of Benicia Community Development Department.*

If special-status plant species are observed on the project site during a preconstruction survey, individuals shall be marked (e.g., with flagging or construction fencing) and avoided during construction activities. Depending on the species, buffer zones around the plants may be established to avoid effects on special-status plants. Proof of buffer zones shall be submitted to the City of Benicia Community Development Department.

The aforementioned revisions are for clarification purposes only, and do not affect the conclusions of the IS/MND.



Garcia and Associates

Natural and Cultural Resources Consultants

140 Diamond Creek Place

Roseville, California 95747

January 10, 2020

To: Aaron Halimi, President
RP Napa Solar 4, LLC
Renewable Properties, LLC
655 Montgomery Street, Suite 1430
San Francisco, CA 94111

From: Susan Dewar, Senior Ecologist and Project Manager

**RE: Lake Herman Road Solar Project Response to Draft Initial Study/Mitigated
Negative Declaration**

Garcia and Associates (GANDA) would like to clarify the results and period of validity for the botanical assessment conducted in association with site surveys and background review for the *Biological Site Assessment for the RPCA Solar 4, LLC Lake Herman Solar Project, Solano County, California* (GANDA 2019). In association with this study, GANDA identified 17 special-status plant taxa with potential to occur on the project site. No special-status plant taxa have previously been documented on site, and none were observed during the botanical site assessment that occurred on June 11, 2019, during the peak bloom period for many of the potential species.

Though no special-status plant species have been previously documented on the project site, there is potential habitat for 17 special-status plant species, and therefore, target species could colonize the site over time. If construction disturbance does not occur prior to June 11, 2021, then a pre-construction survey targeting special-status plants should be conducted to ensure impacts are avoided.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Dewar, MS, PLA, QSD/P
Ecologist and Landscape Architect (CA Lic. #5640), Certified Arborist (ISA #WE-7374A)
Garcia and Associates
Cell: 530-521-2385