

I was deeply disappointed to read the Comment on LANDUSE-23-0122 Bailer Hill Solar Microgrid & Battery Storage Project submitted by the ARC on 3/12/24 to SJC planning and commissioners, and frankly shocked with the tonal change and withdrawn support compared to the draft that was submitted with the agenda for the 3/11/24 ARC meeting (draft attached).

- The ARC letter states:
  - "In general, the ARC supports agrivoltaic installations only when there is a net benefit to agriculture in San Juan County and all negative impacts are mitigated."
  - "No safeguards to ensure continued agricultural benefit throughout the lifetime of the project are provided" and "A contract should be maintained throughout the life of the project with a farmer."

These statements are disingenuous, and I was surprised to see them in the finished version of the document, especially as they weren't in the final working draft. These are not honest benchmarks, as they are unreachable for any project. No business or farm can meet these criteria, nor can any public work project. To suggest that this project, and any other future commercial solar project on the island must meet such standards for your support is antithesis to your stated mission of Listen, Advocate, and Advance.

I, as the farmer in question, cannot guarantee a 25yr contract. But frankly, neither can the landowner; all we can do is set a precedent to make it attractive and attainable for a farmer, whether running a market garden or as a grazer, to pick up and continue this agricultural contract.

- A no, or not now, or not here, or not perfect enough is a NO. Supporting a lack of action is a NO. And a no IS precedent.
- Residential solar helps, but this project alone will more than double all the rooftop solar energy production in the county. At the same time, this project will meet just under 1% of current county-wide electrical use. Electrical power use has, nationally, been relatively flat for the past 15 years but is expected to start growing at a rapid rate this year, with an alarming and expanding gap between electrical production and demand. Combine that with over 70% of all renewable energy projects across the USA being canceled because the local community wants it somewhere else, and we have a serious challenge ahead of us.
- The ARC letter came out within days of an ag summit imploring us to think about carbon and drastic and rapid carbon reduction. Electrifying everything and renewable energy are keystones of that process, and we cannot get there without local energy production. Many of you were volunteers or speakers at that conference. Speaking and organizing is the first step, but taking action is what

ultimately matters. Regardless of this project, your letter makes it clear that renewable energy production and meaningful climate mitigation belongs somewhere else and not here.

- The ARC letter shines a spotlight on us as a nominally progressive community balking at an opportunity to back our talk with action. I've had dozens of conversations already with folks who say they're all for renewable energy... just not here, where they'll have to see it. My response is where and when? Show me what is a reasonable solution now, not a handwavy hypothetical. This project isn't a one-and-done solution; we're going to need to reshape our local and regional energy landscape as quickly as possible, and it is going to take multiple projects to get there.
- We have, right now, many of the pieces in place to make this as successful a project as we can for the first of its kind in the county. It won't be perfect, and we'll learn and adjust along the way, but I'm proud of the work done to date and commend OPALCO for their efforts. If this project is rejected, it will take years to reassemble those pieces on another site, if it is possible at all.

I strongly urge each of you to take a moment and reflect. The letter you signed creates a strongly negative precedent. Your voice matters. Nothing in life is perfect, and we would not get anywhere if we waited for perfection. This is true in our personal life as well as in business.

Change is hard. Change takes courage and a step into uncertainty. Remember that OPALCO is us, a co-operative of almost all islanders; we have the opportunity to launch this project collectively and to do the best we can within a much larger global catastrophe. Stop kicking the can down the road and let's roll up our sleeves and take a stab at this together.

I hope you have the courage to change your position and become an honest and constructive participant in the change you say you want.

Your hopeful fellow farmer,  
Adam Greene

Co-owner, Oak Knoll Farm  
Co-owner, San Juan Woolworks