



SOLANO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM:

Agenda Item No. 2

TO: Zoning Administrator
FROM: Nedzlene Ferrario, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: SolAgra Use Permit unexercised extension (U-15-04)
DATE: March 16, 2017

I. Recommendation:

- A. **APPROVE** the request for a 1 year extension to exercise, pursuant to Section 28.106 (K) of the Solano County Zoning Code.

II. Discussion:

SolAgra, in collaboration with UC Davis, proposes to conduct research on 9.47 acres regarding the feasibility of growing crops beneath solar arrays. The 1MW electrical power production will be utilized on adjacent property owned by Reclamation District 501. The property is located at the south side of Highway 220, approximately 350 feet east of Highway 84, on Ryer Island. By unanimous vote, the Planning Commission approved the land use permit on December 3, 2015

According to the zoning code, if land use permits are not exercised within a year of approval, then the use permit shall expire and thereafter be null and void. However, a one year extension to exercise may be granted by the Zoning Administrator. Only one such extension may be granted.

As explained in the attached letter, the lack of availability of the project's tracker has caused a delay and caused a change to a new supplier and redesign of the project. Therefore, Planning staff recommends that the 1 year extension to exercise be granted to SolAgra.

Attachment

December 3, 2016

Mr. Bill Emlen
Director of Resource Management
Solano County
675 Texas Street, Suite 5500
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: Land Use Permit No. U-15-04
SUBJ: Project Status

Dear Mr. Emlen:

SolAgra Corporation has completed the field surveys, final soil testing and structural design for the Ryer Island Agricultural Research and Solar Demonstration Project. We will be submitting for a building permit to build the project during 2017.

Our solar/agricultural test program is nearing completion and will be ready for review by the Agricultural Advisory Committee after final review by Dr. Lieth and his colleagues at U.D. Davis. The PPA with RD-501 for power produced by the project will be concluded in early 2017.

We recently experienced a project delay relating to a supply-chain issue when our tracker supplier, PV Hardware was purchased by Gransolar ("GRS") of Madrid, Spain. The lack of availability of the tracker hardware caused us to change to a new tracker supplier. SolAgra has revised the design of the SolAgra Solar Platform™ to conform to the Helix tracker provided by SunPower. This revision is purely structural and will have no effect on the solar/agricultural testing and demonstration that will be done at Ryer Island.

Thank you for your continued cooperation on this project. If you have questions or comments, please call me at 415-720-5060.

Best regards,


Barry Sgarrella
Chief Executive Officer

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