



MAY 9 2011

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**
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MIKE WASSERMAN
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

TAB 108

May 4, 2011

California Transportation Commission
Commissioner Dario Frommer, Chair of the Board
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Frommer,

I am writing to share with you my support for the Solar Highways Project, a project being developed by Republic Cloverleaf Solar LLC ("Republic"). Finding ways to create renewable energy has become a priority for Santa Clara County over the past several years, and this project represents an opportunity to reuse remnant government land to create clean energy and bring 300 jobs to Santa Clara County. Besides creating renewable energy and jobs, this project will also offset 15,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, and 2.1 million vehicle miles per year.

As the Santa Clara County Supervisor for District 1, all of the interchanges that are a part of this project are located in my district. Two of the interchanges are not only in my district, but they are located in the unincorporated county. Before becoming a Supervisor, I was a Councilmember and Mayor of the Town of Los Gatos. As Mayor, I saw the growth and recognition of renewable energy; specifically solar energy. I have just recently become aware of Republic's project, and am hopeful it will succeed. Not only is this project an important one for sustainable energy creation, but it is an excellent example the great benefit public-private partnerships can produce.

It is my hope that this project not only succeeds, but is replicated throughout the state and the nation. The idea of turning remnant state-owned property into renewable energy systems that reduce carbon emissions and provide a sustainable revenue source to the State is one that I think should be explored very seriously. I also understand that Republic, in partnership with the City of Morgan Hill, has been awarded a Sustainable Communities Grant and that with the money from the grant will be holding a series of community meetings in my district promoting the benefits of renewable energy. I look forward to hearing from the community regarding this project. Renewable energy is our future, and creating it, while providing a funding source for the state, is a win-win.

Sincerely,

Mike Wasserman
Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 1

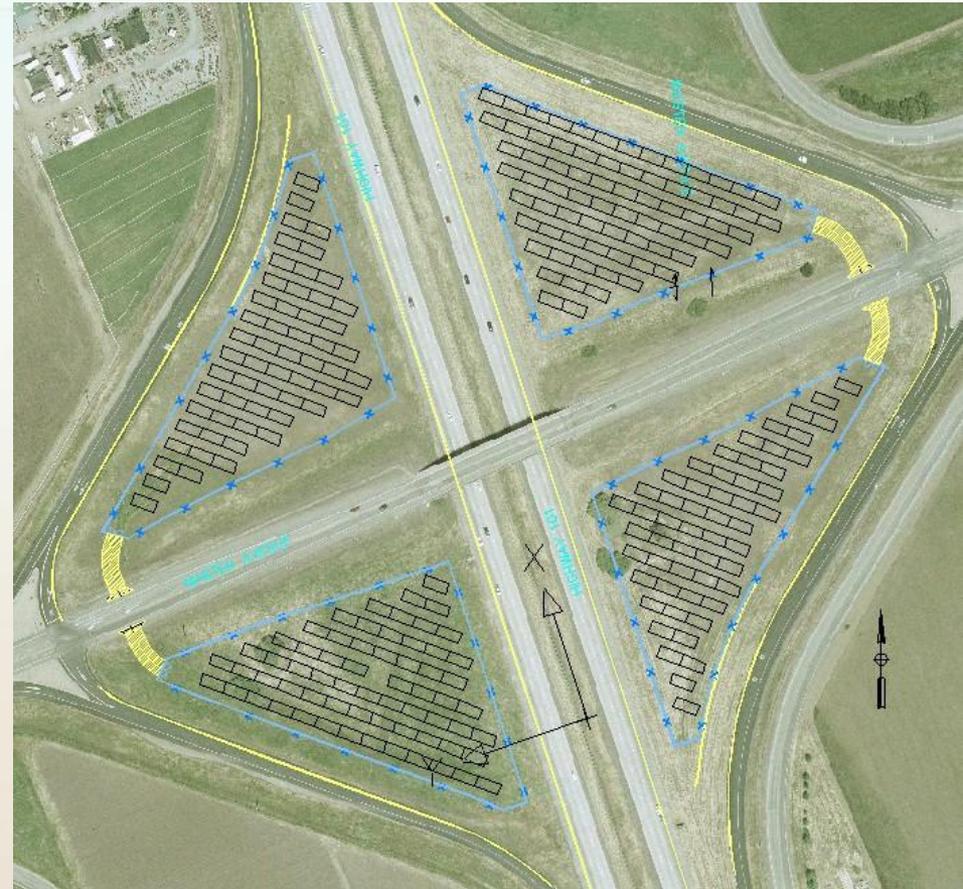
Solar Installations within State Right of Way



Republic Solar Highways

Project Summary

- 15 megawatt (dc) system
- 22 million kilowatt hours per year
- 64,000 fixed solar panels
- 65 acres of land
- 7 intersections along U.S. Route 101
- Energy purchased by “End User” under a Power Purchase Agreement
- Long term ground lease and revenue share agreement with the Department



Purpose



- Request to Continue Direct Negotiations with Republic Cloverleaf Solar (Republic)
- Allows time to:
 - Complete Design and Environmental Reviews
 - FHWA Review
 - Republic to Negotiate Power Purchase Agreement
 - Department and Republic to Negotiate Ground Lease and Revenue Sharing Agreement

The Big Picture



- Legislation (AB 32, Prop 84, and SB 2X)
- Governor's State Renewables Working Group
- CREB Projects
- Consultant Contract

Consultant Contract



- DG Technologies
 - Examining Lease Financial Structures
 - Profit Sharing Structures
 - Lease Duration
 - Vacate Orders
 - Liability and Risk Management
 - Site Selection

Airspace Projects



- Standard Airspace Lease Procedures
 - Conform to CFRs
 - Maximize Return
 - District Airspace Review Committee (DARC)
 - Environmental Clearance
 - FHWA Approval
 - CTC Approval of Lease Agreement

Solar Airspace Projects



- Unique Elements of Proposed Solar Projects
 - Department's Mission to Improve Mobility
 - Safety
 - Long-term Leases
 - Improvements in the Right of Way
 - Design
 - Safety
 - Siting Criteria
 - Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

Republic Accomplishments



- Community Outreach
- Meetings with Local Agencies
- Strategic Growth Council Award
- Governor's Transition Team
- Environmental Review
- Design and Safety Reviews
- FHWA
- Power Purchase Agreement

Remaining Steps



- Finish Design Review
- Finish Environmental Review
- FHWA Approval
- Finalize Power Purchase Agreement with Utility
- Negotiate Ground Lease and Revenue Sharing Agreement
- CTC Approval of Final Terms



Recommend Approval



- Solar is Part of our Future
- Expand Airspace Program to Include Solar
- Significant Progress by Republic and the Department
- Request Approval to Continue Direct Negotiations

