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To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Docket 25-88/25-89
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We are writing to oppose Docket No 25-88 and Docket 25-89

We oppose approval and permitting of the proposed solar farm in Docket No. 25-88 for the following reasons:

- **Loss of productive land:** The project would convert prime agriculture to industrial energy use, reducing local food production and harming farm viability.
- **Habitat and ecological impacts:** The proposal risks fragmentation and destruction of native habitat, adverse impacts to pollinators and local wildlife, and insufficient mitigation measures.
- **Storm water, drainage, and water-quality concerns:** Site grading and added impervious surfaces can alter drainage, increase runoff, and harm nearby waterbodies; the application lacks a comprehensive storm water/runoff management plan.
- **Noise, visual, and light impacts:** Construction and long-term operations will increase noise, introduce industrial lighting and glare, and fundamentally alter the rural character of the Elk & Summit Lake Township.
- **Insufficient community benefit and transparency:** The project primarily serves a private hyperscale data center; the record **does not demonstrate meaningful, enforceable benefits to local residents** or transparent cost/tax impact analysis.
- **Precedent and land-use policy:** Approval would set a precedent for converting additional rural agricultural land to large private energy installations without adequate public benefit or local consent.
- **Requested relief:** Deny or condition approval until an independent environmental and land-use impact assessment is completed; require stronger, enforceable mitigation measures; and secure a binding community benefit agreement that clearly compensates and protects local residents and landowners. Require a binding decommissioning and monitoring plan — or deny approval until these conditions are fully met.
- **Cumulative Proposed Effects:** There should be an comprehensive EIS study that includes the **cumulative environmental impacts** of this solar farm together with the 400MW-1,000MW Hyper Scale Data Center that it intends to power. This should not be looked at and permitted as a separate project.

We oppose approval and permitting for the proposed battery energy storage system in Docket No. 25-89 for the following reasons:

- **Fire and thermal runaway risk:** Large lithium-ion battery parks carry a real risk of thermal runaway and catastrophic fire; such events are difficult to extinguish and endanger nearby

residents and first responders.

- **Inadequate emergency preparedness and local resources:** The application lacks enforceable, site-specific emergency response plans, clear commitments to train and equip local fire departments, and guaranteed rapid access for emergency responders.
- **Toxic smoke, contamination, and water impacts:** Battery fires can release hazardous byproducts; the record does not adequately address air-quality impacts, containment of firefighting runoff, or remediation responsibilities.
- **Access, monitoring, and decommissioning concerns:** There are insufficient plans for long-term monitoring, maintenance, safe access, and responsible decommissioning or disposal at end of life.
- **Public vs. private benefit mismatch:** The battery energy storage system appears focused on serving a private hyperscale data center; community safety risks and long-term liabilities are not matched by documented local benefits or compensation. The battery energy storage system will only power the Hyper Scale Data Center for 2-4 hrs. Why would we approve such a hazardous project for only 2-4 hrs of energy storage!
- **Requested relief:** Require an independent, safety and risk assessment; mandate enforceable emergency response agreements and funding with local fire/rescue agencies; impose strict operational and siting limits; and require a binding decommissioning and monitoring plan — or deny approval until these conditions are fully met.
- **Cumulative Proposed Effects:** There should be an comprehensive EIS study that includes the cumulative environmental impacts of this solar farm together with the 400MW-1,000MW Hyper Scale Data Center that it intends to power. This should not be looked at and permitted as a separate project.

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