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## Solar Location Letter

Via Monte Solar Array P23-00229  
Planning Commission Hearing Date May 1, 2024



Friedman-Hammerschmidt Solar Project  
277 Via Monte  
St Helena, CA 94574

Re: Ground Mount Location

After careful consideration of many factors regarding the installation of a solar array for the residence and outbuildings at 277 Via Monte we have determined the best location is on the steeper part of the property, near the utility road.

The roofs of the house are a poor choice for several factors. The roofing material is not conducive to the added foot traffic and penetrations of a roof mounted solar array. Once the proper fire setbacks are applied the roof cannot hold nearly enough solar panels to support the energy requirements of the property. Lastly the roof is very steep and shaded by trees for most of the day.

Installing a ground mount on a lower sloped section of the property would require removal of numerous surviving oak trees once to accommodate the setbacks for the utility lines were observed.

The chosen location will not require the removal of any significant vegetation and is clear of the utility setbacks. Most of the ground under the array is pre-disturbed as the utility road was recut as an emergency fire break. The chosen location provides clear skies to the south and west for ample solar production. Aesthetically, the array is masked from view of other properties or the greater valley below.

Please feel free to contact my office if further clarification is needed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nate Gulbransen", written in a cursive style.

Nate Gulbransen  
President  
Westcoast Solar Energy