

Environmental Commission Township of Jackson

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
95 WEST VETERANS HIGHWAY
JACKSON, NEW JERSEY 08527
732-928-1200

March 30, 2015

Township of Jackson
Planning and Zoning Boards
95 West Veterans Highway
Jackson, NJ 08527

**RE: Blocks 3101, Lots 11 & 30, Block 3201, Lot 15
KDC Solar/Six Flags – Solar Farm Installation**

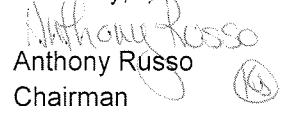
Dear Chairmen and Board Members:

After reviewing reports and information on the referenced project, and after hearing from the applicant at our February 17, 2015 meeting, conducting a site visit on March 16, 2015, and holding a conference call with the applicant on March 25, the Commission offers the following recommendations and observations.

- From an environmental perspective, any project that focuses on a renewable source of energy to meet its power demands is not only good for the environment but also good for New Jersey. The applicant should be commended for this undertaking.
- Our concerns with the clearing of trees to accommodate the solar panel field are assuaged with the commitment to replant up to 25,000 new trees. We encourage the applicant to continue to work with the Forester and Shade Tree Commission on this matter in assuring that the replanting occurs as soon as practical.
- The Commission also raised concerns with possible impacts to wetlands and any category one waters on the property and were pleased to learn that the applicant is working with the NJDEP on these matters and will comply with all rules and regulations and secure all proper permits including providing the necessary buffer zones. It should be noted that Lonnie Cromwell of our Commission received email correspondence from NJDEP which provided further details and clarification as to the status of permits needed including NJDEP's jurisdiction over any threatened and endangered species in state regulated areas.
- With regards to any endangered and threatened species impacted by the project, including a nearby bald eagle nest, we are pleased to learn that the applicant will adhere to all US Fish & Wildlife recommendations and requirements so as to not impact any species. As noted above, NJDEP's Division of Fish & Wildlife would have jurisdiction over any threatened and endangered species in NJDEP regulated areas.

With the exception of the issues raised above, the Commission has no further environmental concerns with the project. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Anthony Russo
Chairman

Note:

Commissioners voting in the affirmative for the letter include: **Russo, Fleming, Brunner, Biringer and McClary(alternate #1)**

Commissioners voting in the negative include: **Garner, Krubner**

Commissioners abstaining: **Cromwell**

The letter is approved by a majority vote.