

Environmental Impact Report Public Hearing Transcription

August 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM, City of Richmond City Council Chambers

Public Comments:

- Stephanie Henry
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STEPHANIE HENRY: "This is really too quick to be called up for something. I'm used to waiting for like 3 hours. I'm still getting my notes together. Anyway a couple things, I want to advocate for local hire. There's 50% local hire. There are these standards in other cities. Some cities do a better job at enforcing these, and other cities don't. So what's really important is for the developer to look to exceed the 50% local hire. Not only that, [but] to also consider local grassroots organizations that are getting involved in the solar/the clean energy market. Not just institutions, but organizations that work with the people within the community, because the local organizations have the connect with the local people and they will bring the talent to the table. We have a lot of talented local people here in the city of Richmond that should be hired right here and it's more than 50 %. I mean, you're talking about 80 jobs. I'm sure, I mean, there's 20 in here already. So we want to get like 100 jobs hopefully. So that's another thing. Another is the local materials: using panels that are sourced locally here, close to the project. And those are the things that...oh another thing is the unions. We want the workers to be represented, so if



there is no union or if there is no union that they are being paid prevailing wage for the work at least, at the bare minimum living wage. Those are important.”

Response: These comments do not pertain to the analysis or conclusions of the Draft EIR and therefore do not require a detailed response pursuant to CEQA, but are noted and will be forwarded to MCE’s Board of Directors for their consideration.

3. Vivian Haung
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VIVIAN HUANG: “Good evening. I’m Vivian Huang with Asian Pacific Environmental Network. So we have been organizing in Richmond for over 20 years and when Richmond was first considering joining Marin Clean Energy, one of our biggest asks was that we really wanted to make sure that we were looking at ways to really generate solar within our local community. So I think similar to what a lot of the previous speakers have said is that’s really the way we’re able to make sure that the jobs are actually going to residents locally, that we’re actually giving more community power and more community ownership to people to understand how to develop their energy needs. So, we are obviously very supportive of this project because it’s one step forward for us to really develop a site that is very toxic and polluted and really turn it into something that represents clean energy. But I think it’s very important in this process that we make sure that there is a really strong commitment to hiring folks locally and **finding ways to connect folks to the unions,** because we do want to see more pathway jobs in the solar sector. And then I don’t want us to just stop here, right? I really want us to think about what are all the ways that we can continue building renewable energy projects locally in our communities, like on the roof tops of our different community centers, of our public schools, of our recreation centers, other brown fields, and reclaimed lands that are throughout our city and really use those sites as catalysts for really supporting the people that are going through the job training, that are looking for work in this sector, so that we can really make Richmond as clean, green and supportive of this healthy future that we all want. Thank you.”

Response: These comments do not pertain to the analysis or conclusions of the Draft EIR and therefore do not require a detailed response pursuant to CEQA, but are noted and will be forwarded to MCE’s Board of Directors for their consideration.

4. Ratha Lai
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RATHA LAI: “Good evening everybody. My name is Ratha Lai. I’m with the Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. Quick show of hands, who knows what the Sierra Club is? Alright, not bad, not bad! You know, that’s better than most, that’s better than most. So you know the Sierra Club is an environmental organization. We try to advocate for the environment so we



work on, you know, making our air cleaner to breathe, making water much better. And one of the things that we work on too is climate change. That's real, you know? We're very lucky that we haven't had a disaster like Hurricane Katrina, or else we would be talking in a completely different context. So when we are talking about something like building solar as a way to reduce greenhouse gasses, as a way to provide more local jobs, that's fantastic. You know, we're already up against a timeline and we should be trying to speed things up, like projects like this. So, we're supportive of this project, but we also want to make sure that you know, we're still making steps and this is all unexplored territory, so we have to make sure we're being inclusive and making sure that all the voices, all the voices here, all the voices who are not here, are being included in discussions moving forward. **Making sure that the unions are also included**, making sure that people of color are included. And also, I just want to like, you know, give a shout out to all the Richmond BUILD graduates right here real quick. And, I hope to...yea, you guys are awesome, and I hope to hear from you all too."

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