

Plato Township
10N924 Rippburger Road
Plato Center, Illinois 60124
847-464-4228

Mitchell Crocetti, Supervisor

Beth Gehrke, Clerk

December 30, 2018

Kane County Board
719 S. Batavia Ave.
Geneva, Illinois 60134

Dear Kane County Board,

I am writing on behalf of Plato Township residents, and as Plato Township Supervisor, representing our Township Board members. This letter is regarding the SunVest Solar farm project (Petition 4482) proposed along Rippburger Rd. in Plato Center, Illinois 60124.

With details of the project disclosed and discussed at a zoning board of appeals hearing on December 20, 2018, the Township Board would like to weigh in on this project. Since our Township Board meeting was the same night as the hearing, we will not be able to meet to vote on a formal resolution prior to the county development committee meeting, or the Kane County board meeting scheduled for January 8, 2019. This letter shall serve to represent the opinion and preferences of the Plato Township Board regarding the SunVest project along Rippburger Rd.

Each board member has been polled regarding the project, and each has signed a petition consistent with the position of this letter. Plato Township understands the importance of solar energy as a leading clean renewable energy alternative, and believes that solar farms are a viable method to reduce our population's carbon footprint with minimal negative impact on existing infrastructure, or most other taxpayer supported resources. The Township also understands and appreciates the economic benefits derived by the school district and local governments. We also believe all of these benefits can be realized without potential negative impacts to our existing residents.

With regard to the current proposed SunVest project, the Township has several concerns relative to the site selected for this project. The concerns listed below include suggestions for ways to alleviate the concerns.

1. The precedent of allowing solar farms to be sited inside of towns, adjacent to existing residential properties is not consistent with the locations we have found throughout the county, neighboring counties, the state, or even neighboring states. While there may be exceptions, the vast majority of these projects are sited on the outskirts of towns, and usually bordered by open farmlands or prairie acres. We believe the County's intent of

using F-1 property for these projects did not include land-locked parcels surrounded by existing residential properties, and do not want to see this precedent set within the County.

2. The practice of allowing these solar farm projects to be placed adjacent to existing residential properties, without some minimal prescriptive setbacks or buffers, can create a negative impact on the adjacent residential property values. Many utility locations such as these are surrounded by earthen berms or fences so that they are not visible to adjacent properties owners and from the street.

Our research has shown that most counties and municipalities have adopted setbacks between residential property lines and the solar arrays in order to minimize potential negative impacts to adjacent residential properties. While SunVest provided a general overview of why they don't feel solar farms affect property values, they cannot furnish an "apples to apples" example to support their claims regarding this project. We believe the residential properties adjacent to this project will suffer negative property value impacts.

3. Plato Center has an extensive history of drainage and flooding issues. We have met with the county water resources department several times in an effort to identify both the cause of these problems and potential remedies for the problems. Initial efforts have failed to achieve any relief and the ultimate solution will require improving and replacing most of the drainage infrastructure serving Plato Center. While the recommendations of the water resources department identified ways to improve drainage for this particular parcel, it results in conveying water from the petitioner site to the most problematic sections of the town. The Plato-Rutland Drainage District has been re-established and the tax levy reinstated. This will eventually resolve many of the drainage issues we face, but it will take several years to accomplish. In the meantime, the Township believes this project could potentially exacerbate the current drainage problems our residents, land owners, and business owners face.

Based on the aforementioned concerns, and the lack of any evidence that these concerns are without merit, we feel that the Sunvest project, as proposed for the Rippburger Rd. location would be detrimental to the residents of Plato Center. Therefore, please let this letter serve as notice to the Kane County Board, that the Plato Township Board does not support the proposed Sunvest Solar Farm project proposal (Petition 4482).

Respectfully,

MP Crocetti

Mitchell Crocetti,
Plato Township Supervisor