

Wilton Rancheria



9728 Kent Street, Elk Grove, CA 95624

October 6, 2025

Sacramento County Department of Community Development
Planning and Environmental Review Division
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) – Coyote Creek Agrivoltaic Ranch Project (Control No. PLER2023-00002)

Dear Sacramento Planning Commission:

Wilton Rancheria acknowledges receipt of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the above-referenced Project. The Tribe appreciates the County's acknowledgment that the Project will result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources, even with mitigation.

Wilton Rancheria submits this letter to preserve its rights under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and related laws. While the Tribe continues to engage in good-faith discussions with the project proponent, this submission ensures that the administrative record reflects the Tribe's continuing concerns.

1. Consultation Status. The Tribe disagrees with the County's conclusion that AB 52 consultation is complete. Government-to-government consultation remains ongoing, and Wilton Rancheria seeks a mutually enforceable mitigation framework addressing long-term protection, stewardship, and reburial of Tribal Cultural Resources.
2. Inadequate Mitigation and Deferred Implementation. The FEIR's reliance on Mitigation Measures TCR-1 through TCR-3 is inadequate and improperly deferred. These measures depend on voluntary implementation by the landowner and developer and fail to provide enforceable access or protection for affected Tribal Cultural Resources, including Site P-34-001402. Because the measures rely on future negotiations without binding mechanisms, the FEIR's mitigation approach constitutes deferred mitigation, contrary to CEQA Guidelines §§ 15126.4(a)(1)(B) and 15126.4(a)(2).
3. Failure to Prioritize Preservation In-Place. CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4(b)(3)(A) identifies preservation in place as the preferred form of mitigation for archaeological and Tribal Cultural Resources. The FEIR fails to demonstrate how the Project will achieve preservation in place for known cultural sites or avoid future disturbance. Reliance on fencing or temporary avoidance, without guaranteed long-term access or site protection, does not satisfy this requirement.

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4. Cumulative Cultural Impacts. The FEIR fails to adequately evaluate the cumulative loss and degradation of Tribal Cultural Resources, including Tribal Cultural Landscapes, within the broader regional context of multiple solar and renewable energy projects across Wilton Rancheria's ancestral territory. The cumulative analysis does not meaningfully consider the compounding impacts of these projects on the Tribe's cultural continuity, access, and landscape integrity.

Wilton Rancheria remains committed to working collaboratively with Sacramento County and the project proponent to ensure the respectful protection of Tribal Cultural Resources and the integrity of Wilton Rancheria's ancestral landscape. The Tribe's continued participation in discussions with the project proponent should not be construed as a waiver of any rights to comment, object, or pursue remedies regarding the adequacy of the FEIR or its findings. Nothing in this correspondence constitutes a waiver of the Tribe's rights or remedies, including sovereign immunity or consent to jurisdiction.

Thank you for including these comments in the administrative record.

Respectfully,

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Cc:

Jesus Tarango, Wilton Rancheria Chairman
Raquel Williams, Wilton Rancheria Vice Chairwoman
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