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Subject: MHRB2020-0001

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To the MHRB and Planning Staff,

Planning & Building Services

I am the neighbor whose property joins this project on the West, and I am appalled that there has not yet been a site review, so that we could see exactly what the proposed solar collectors would look like in real life. I was on the Review Board for 6 years and during that time site reviews were required for all projects that impacted neighbors, so that the community could clearly see what was being proposed. I have spoken with the applicants and told them that it would be a great help if they would construct cardboard life-size mock-ups of the collectors so that there would be no question about their size and shape, and have no response. Without clear modeling of the construction of the ground-mounted solar collectors, it is impossible know what the project will look like, and with clear life-size modeling the scope of the project would clearly be visible to all, and I believe that would force the owners to change their approach.

I have had pleasant conversations with the applicants and they have assured me that there would be no solar collectors placed on the roof of their garage, overlooking my garden and would be a clear invasion of the tranquility that I have come to cherish over the past 33 years that I have lived here, and yet the plans still show that proposed work.

It is my interpretation of the Guidelines established for MHRB that uppermost in the designation that created the Historic District is the task of maintaining the character of the town by controlling construction, and by no means can this project be considered as anything other than construction. While I am strongly in favor of alternative energy, I am also an avid preservationist, and it is my belief that approval of this project, as it now stands, would be a terrible mistake for the character and economy of Mendocino Town.

To approve this project, the findings of the Review Board must be that the exterior appearance and design of the proposed work is in harmony with the exterior appearance and design of existing structures within the district and with that of the existing subject structure. Without seeing what the project actually looks like, the Board cannot make this determination.

I urge the Review Board to deny the project.

David (Garnish) Daly