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Joseph Pritchard  
County Manager  
Lowndes County Board of Commissioners  
327 N Ashley Street  
Valdosta, GA 31601

Mr. Pritchard:

SolAmerica Energy, LLC is requesting two Variances for our proposed solar energy generation facility ("solar farm") project near the city of Lake Park. The solar farm is an approximately 31.7-acre development area on GA Highway 376, one mile east of Lake Park, on the parent parcel 0222 002, which is 228.3 acres and zoned R-1. The solar farm was reviewed by the County's Technical Review Committee in January 2019 and received approval as a permitted use in the R-1 district.

We are requesting two variances for ancillary items associated with our solar farm development, as listed below:

1. Fence Type and Maximum Height in the Front Yard – we are requesting to install a 7-foot tall, chain link fence along the perimeter of the solar farm project area in order to meet National Electric Code standards.
2. Reduction in the Landscape Plan Requirements – the solar farm is being installed on an existing farm field with existing vegetation and perimeter visual screening; with the proposed addition of a visual screening buffer, we believe our proposed plan meets the intent of the County's Landscape Ordinance.

*Fence Type and Maximum Fence Height in the Front Yard*

The Lowndes County Unified Land Development Code ("ULDC") states in Table 5.02.03(B) that in the R-1 zoning district, chain link fence is only permitted in the side and rear yards, with a decorative or opaque fence required in the front yard. We are proposing to install a mixture of shrubs and evergreen trees between GA Highway 376 and the front yard fence, in an effort to screen the security fence and solar farm from GA Highway 376. The proposed plantings are shown on the attached figures. We