



**STAFF REPORT
HOLLISTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: October 20, 2025
REPORT # Fire-2025-34**

AGENDA ITEM: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A FIRE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH PANOCHÉ VALLEY SOLAR, LLC.

DEPARTMENT: Fire

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jonathan Goulding, Fire Chief

STAFF CONTACT: Jonathan Goulding, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt a resolution approving a Fire Service Agreement with Panoche Valley Solar, LLC.

DISCUSSION: Panoche Valley Solar, LLC (“PVS”) owns and operates a solar farm located in San Benito County, within the service area covered by the City of Hollister Fire Department, which provides fire suppression, prevention, and emergency response services to the unincorporated areas of the County under an existing service contract.

During the development phase of the Panoche Valley Solar Project, the City of Hollister entered into a Development Agreement with PVS, approved per Resolution No. 2015-130 on June 15, 2015, which included provisions for temporary fire protection services. Under the prior agreement, Hollister Fire provided personnel and a Type 6 fire apparatus for on-site fire suppression and emergency medical services during the project’s construction period.

Once the project was complete, no ongoing agreement was put into place. To address this, the proposed Fire Services Agreement establishes a long-term framework for the continued provision of professional fire protection, emergency response, and prevention services to the solar facility.

Under the terms of this Agreement, Hollister Fire will provide the following to PVS:

1. **Fire Protection Services** – Comprehensive emergency response including structure and vegetation fire suppression, vehicle accident response, pre-hospital emergency medical services, hazardous material response, technical rescue, hazardous conditions response (e.g., flooding, downed power lines, earthquakes), fire prevention, and fire investigation.
2. **Fire Mitigation Support** – Regular coordination meetings with PVS, not less than annually, to review site conditions and recommend risk reduction measures.
3. **Fire Prevention Training** – Annual or periodic training for PVS staff on fire safety and prevention best practices, as mutually scheduled by both parties.

In exchange for these services, PVS will pay the City of Hollister an annual fee of \$150,000 during the initial term, which runs through June 30, 2026. Each subsequent

one-year renewal term will include a 3% annual increase in the service fee.

The Agreement also allows Hollister Fire to access and utilize PVS's on-site water tanks (four 5,000-gallon tanks) for firefighting purposes at other incidents where appropriate and necessary.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Agreement will generate annual revenue of \$150,000 to the City of Hollister Fire Department, deposited into Fund 271 – Panoche Valley Solar Farm Fund, during the initial term. Each subsequent renewal term will include a 3% annual increase to the service fee.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL OR COMMISSION ACTION: Resolution No. 2015-130 approved a Development Agreement with Panoche Valley Solar, LLC.

CEQA: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Fire Services Agreement
3. Resolution 2015-130