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## Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association

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**PO Box 1343  
Nevada City, CA 95959**

February 10, 2019

**To:** Planning Commission, City Council, 317 Broad St., Nevada City

**Re:** **Cement Hill Neighborhood Agenda For The Old Nevada City Airport**

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

As we stated earlier, our organization, the Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association (GCHNA) considers our members key stakeholders in the future of the old Nevada City Airport. We represent about 250 property owners neighboring the old airport.

Since our last letter in October 2018 our organization had the opportunity to discuss our preferences and concerns in more detail. The result of this discussion was unanimously approved by the GCHNA Steering Committee and we are sharing it with you today in the attachment to this letter.

Again, we hope that Nevada City will define a process that leads to a comprehensive plan for the area and considers the needs, concerns and sensitivities of our community.

Our officers and neighborhood representatives are looking forward to your response and a productive collaboration going forward.

Best regards,

Uli Paulin, President

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## **Agenda For the old Nevada City Airport Area By The Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association**

### **What we want:**

- We support the proposed uses of the old airport for solar power generation and recreational uses such as sports field, performance space for daytime use, a Nisenan cultural center etc.
- We would like to see the area structured in such a way that in a fire emergency its center can serve as short-term emergency refuge, especially in case other evacuation routes in the area are blocked or overwhelmed. We envision a central gathering space, possible multi-use for sports or daytime events with some raised panels to be used as shade structures and protection from falling debris in an emergency.
- We want fencing and landscaping that is both fire resistant and aesthetically pleasing. We encourage budgeting and resourcing of expert help for the implementation of the project.
- We want to see an increase in evacuation options rather than a blockage due to a single, fenced off monolithic area. Pathways between the various sections should be dimensioned to at least allow access by emergency vehicles.
- Continued fire safe maintenance of all surrounding roads, in particular Airport Road, Tower Hill Road and West Airport Road
- A cultural center to the Nisenan to be established at a location and in a fashion suitable to and determined by the representatives of the Nisenan people inside or outside the solar facility. We acknowledge their request for 10 acres adjacent to the BLM land.
- Raised panels to provide shaded parking at the various entrance points are desirable
- Active involvement of the neighborhood and GCHNA as stake holders along the various steps of planning.

### **What we don't want:**

- A single, cordoned off, monolithic, uninviting area which forces walkers, runners and bicyclists onto a single path along a dreary security fence with a view dominated by solar panels.
- Any nuisance to the neighbors caused by equipment, for example by humming or hissing inverters
- Any after dark nuisance such as additional traffic, noise or light pollution; no bathrooms or picnic tables or facilities that might encourage long-term lingering.
- Large panels blocking the view of surrounding natural forest and horizon. Unless panels are raised for a purpose (such as shade structures) they should keep a low profile and not overwhelm the setting.