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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Layne Ashton
Senior Development Manager
Clēnera LLC
Sent via email to layne.ashton@clenera.com

From: Chris Bockey, Environmental Planner/ Visual Resource Specialist

Date: December 7, 2020

Re: **Babacomari Solar Project – Key Observation Point Narratives**

The following narratives describe features in the landscape such as landform, vegetation and existing built features using the basic design elements of form, line, color and texture and how the proposed project is perceived by the casual observer from each Key Observation Point (KOP) in terms of contrasting elements and features as illustrated in the previously provided photorealistic simulations for each KOP.

KOP 1: Arizona State Route 82 and North Rascal Ranch Road, Looking Southeast

This KOP represents the view of a passenger in a vehicle traveling east on State Route (SR) 82 north of the project site (see inset map of KOP 1 simulation). Views from this KOP are represented by broad, panoramic views of dense, carpet-like desert scrub and semi-desert grasslands consisting of moderate height, rounded, yellow-green tones of creosote bush with intermixed tall, irregular shaped mesquite, vase-shaped forms of yucca and ocotillo with areas of low, indistinct grasses. In the foreground area, isolated residential development consists of one-story, rectangular residential structures and outbuildings that rise above the vegetation and are distinctive with light-colored white, reflective roofing. Isolated, dark brown, wood, single-pole distribution lines parallel the roadway are distinctive due to the upright, vertical forms and repetitive linear alignment. Distant views of the bold, rugged, dark colored landforms of the Huachuca Mountains draw the eye and are a focus of attention from this location because of the dominance and prominence of the landform within the broad, panoramic landscape and against the pale blue sky.

The solar array within the viewshed of this KOP would be approximately 2.8 miles south of this location. Based on viewer perspective, the overall distance from the KOP and the proposed project location in relation to the viewer, the proposed project when viewed from this KOP would not be perceivable due to the presence of existing dense vegetation, existing residential infrastructure, and the prominence of the Huachuca Mountains in the background, which becomes the focus of viewer attention. Therefore, from this KOP, it is anticipated that there would be no perceived visual contrast created by the project within the existing landscape.

KOP 2: Arizona State Route 82 and Sands Ranch Road, Looking South

This KOP represents the view of a passenger in a vehicle traveling south on Sands Ranch Road exiting the residential area located north of SR 82, north of the project site (see inset map of KOP 2 simulation). Views from this KOP are represented by immediate foreground views of isolated roadway signage and dense, desert scrub consisting of tall, irregular, dark, yellow-green tones of mesquite with intermixed low shrubs and light-tan to khaki tones of low grasses. Distant views of the bold, rugged, dark colored landforms of the Huachuca Mountains are visible through vegetative openings which draw the eye and are a focus of attention from this location because of the dominance and prominence of the landform against the pale blue sky.

The solar array within the viewshed of this KOP would be approximately 2.9 miles south of this location. Based on viewer perspective and the proposed project location in relation to the viewer, the proposed project when viewed from this KOP would not be perceivable due to the presence of existing dense vegetation within the immediate foreground area which dominates the view and obstructs views towards the proposed project. Therefore, from this KOP, it is anticipated that there would be no perceived visual contrast created by the project within the existing landscape.

KOP 3: U.S. Arizona State Route 90, Approximately 1/2-mile North of Proposed Access Road, Looking Southwest

This KOP represents the view of a passenger in a vehicle traveling south on SR 90 northeast of the project site (see inset map of KOP 3 simulation). Views from this KOP are represented by broad, panoramic views of dense, carpet-like desert scrub consisting of moderate height, rounded, yellow-green tones of creosote bush with isolated tall, irregular shaped mesquite, and low rounded shrubs intermixed with low, indistinct grasses. In the immediate foreground area, dark brown, wood, single-pole transmission lines parallel the roadway are distinctive due to the upright, vertical forms of the poles and the repetitive, horizontal transmission lines which are reflective when front-lit by the sun. Distant views of the bold, rugged, dark colored landforms of the Huachuca Mountains draw the eye to the south with lighter brown tones of rugged landforms associated with the Mustang Mountains draw the eye to the west with both mountain ranges becoming a co-dominant focus of attention from this location because of the dominance and prominence of the landforms within the broad, panoramic landscape and against the pale blue sky.

The solar array within the viewshed of this KOP would be approximately 1.6 miles southwest of this location. Based on viewer perspective and the proposed project location in relation to the viewer, the proposed project when viewed from this KOP would not be perceivable due to the presence of existing dense vegetation, the overall distance from the KOP and the prominence of the mountainous landforms in the background, which becomes the focus of attention. Therefore, from this KOP, it is anticipated that there would be no perceived visual contrast created by the project within the existing landscape.

KOP 4: Huachuca City Municipal Buildings, Looking West

This KOP represents the view of a local residents and visitors of municipal facilities southeast of the project site (see inset map of KOP 4 simulation). Views from this KOP are represented by broad, panoramic views of dense, carpet-like desert scrub and semi-desert grasslands consisting of moderate height, rounded, dark-green tones of creosote bush throughout with intermixed tall, irregular shaped mesquite in the immediate foreground, with low, light-tan to yellow tones of grasses. In the foreground area isolated commercial development consists of one-story, rectangular structures and outbuildings that rise above the vegetation and are distinctive with light-colored white to reflective roofing along with the linear, dark-colored roadway surface and adjacent linear, low stature, repetitive elements of the guard rail infrastructure along the western edge of the roadway. Distant views of the bold, rugged, light reddish–

brown landforms of the Mustang and Whetstone Mountains draw the eye to the northwest across the project area and are a focus of attention from this location because of the dominance and prominence of the landform within the broad, panoramic landscape and against the pale blue sky.

The solar array within the viewshed of this KOP would be approximately 2.3 miles northwest of this location. Based on viewer perspective and the proposed project location in relation to the viewer, the proposed project when viewed from this KOP would not be perceivable due to the overall distance from the KOP, the presence of existing dense vegetation, the presences of existing roadway infrastructure and vehicles in the immediate foreground and the prominence of the Mustang and Whetstone Mountains in the background, which becomes the focus of attention. Therefore, from this KOP, it is anticipated that there would be no perceived visual contrast created by the project within the existing landscape.