

BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 15-125

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE SIX FLAGS SOLAR FARM PROJECT

Councilman DuPont offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Six Flags Theme Park Inc. is proposing to construct a 90 acre solar farm in Jackson, New Jersey, that would require the clearcutting and removal of 18,000 trees on 134 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, The proposed site for the project is on the northern border of the Pinelands National Reserve, across the street from the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area and contains the same ecosystem and habitat quality; and

WHEREAS, The proposed site is the headwaters of the Toms River, an important tributary to the Barnegat Bay, and development of the site could impact the health of these waterways and two Category One streams on site feed into the Toms River and are protected under an anti-degradation standard in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, The proposed location serves as an important wildlife corridor between the Toms River and Crosswick Creek watersheds and the site is home to habitat for state protected species, including the barred owls and northern pine snake and the development of the project would permanently remove that habitat; and

WHEREAS, Alternative locations for the solar project exist and should be explored further including properties at the Six Flags Great Adventure theme park including various parking lots, disturbed areas and fields, warehouse-type structures and maintenance buildings, and shading areas for lines that could be used for solar development rather than an ecologically sensitive forest; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson Township Planning has already approved the project as a conditional use in the Conservation Zone, with little public notice or solicitation of public comment;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank in the County of Monmouth, that the following recitals are incorporated as of May 27, 2015:

1. The Council opposes the proposed solar development at Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park.
2. The Council calls on Six Flags Theme Park Inc. to pursue alternative locations for their solar project.
3. The Council urges the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to review the project for potential impacts to protected state resources, specifically threatened and non-games species and headwaters of C1 waterways.
4. The Council urges the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to reconsider their approval of the proposed project in the current location and to require that the solar development be moved to a more appropriate site.
5. The Council directs the municipal clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the following:
 1. NJ Governor Chis Christie
 2. DEP Commissioner Bob Martin
 3. BPU President Richard Mroz
 4. Six Flags Corporate Offices, 924 Avenue J East Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

5. Six Flags Corporate Offices, 230 Park Avenue, 16th Floor New York, NY 10169
6. John Fitzgerald, Six Flags Great Adventure Park President, Route 537, P.O. Box 120, Jackson, New Jersey 08527
7. The Sierra Club – New Jersey Chapter, 145 W. Hanover Street, Trenton NJ 08618

Seconded by Councilwoman Horgan and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Murphy	(x)	()	()	()
Councilwoman Burnham	(x)	()	()	()
Councilwoman Horgan	(x)	()	()	()
Councilwoman Schwabenbauer	(x)	()	()	()
Councilman Zipprich	(x)	()	()	()
Councilman DuPont	(x)	()	()	()

Dated: May 27, 2015