

# **Emergency Resolution for Consideration by the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee Meeting**

**8-21-12**

**RE: Fire Dangers in East County**

**Authors: Bonnie Price, co-president, East County Democratic Club, and Miriam Raftery, editor, East County Magazine and the Viejas Wildfire & Emergency Alerts**

**Supporter: Karen Marie Otter, vice chair, San Diego County Democratic Party**

**Whereas, extreme drought conditions have put the eastern part of San Diego County at high risk for fire storms, such as those that occurred numerous times during the first decade of the Twenty-First Century,**

**Whereas, the eastern part of San Diego County has been put at an even higher risk because of its designation as an energy corridor by both the federal government and the San Diego County Board of Supervisors,**

**Whereas, the county supervisors promised to ensure that sufficient resources were available to quickly contain such fires, if and when any occurred again,**

**Whereas, recent small fires lacked sufficient resources to contain them to a few acres,**

**Whereas, wind turbines pose fire danger from explosions, fuel leaks, and lightning strikes, and project environmental impact reports indicate they pose a severe and unmitigatable fire hazard in this fire-prone region, and numerous wind turbine fires have occurred in many locations,**

**Whereas, firefighting aircraft fire drops work best at 150 feet and turbines are 500 feet tall, and whereas, a retired Cal Fire Battalion**

**Chief has testified that firefighting on the ground and from the air cannot be done with whirling turbines and energized power lines, and whereas, ladders are not tall enough to extinguish fires on 500 foot tall turbines,**

**Therefore, the eastern part of San Diego County is, in fact, insufficiently prepared to prevent wild fires from raging out of control and spreading to urban areas.**

**Be it resolved, that the San Diego County Democratic Party Central Committee (SDCDPCC) calls upon the San Diego County Supervisors to immediately deploy the resources they committed to supply to prevent such fire storms.**

**Finally, be it resolved that the SDCDPCC further calls upon the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to issue a moratorium on industrial-scale wind energy projects in East County due to fire dangers and to further oppose the proposed wind ordinance that would open up vast fire-prone areas to large-scale wind projects. San Diego has abundant solar resources to meet our power needs for less cost through rooftop solar without risking the health and safety of our residents—and create \$20-\$40 an hour jobs installing solar on roofs.**