

Soitec Solar Projects Programmatic EIR (3910 120005 ER): Boulevard, 12-18-12
Scoping hearing: Rugged Solar; Tierra Del Sol Solar; LanWest Solar & LanEast Solar

Preliminary and incomplete list of concerns /issues / objections presented by Donna Tisdale: property owner; Chair, Boulevard Planning Group; Secretary, The Protect Our Communities Foundation; President, Backcountry Against Dumps: 619-766-4170; tisdale.donna@gmail.com; PO Box 1275, Boulevard, CA 91905

- Request 30 extension of the January 7th comment deadline.
- Just these 4 industrial scale export energy projects represent 8,938,000 sq ft of 30 feet tall view blocking dual axis tracking Concentrating PV super modules--equivalent to approximately 48.32 Walmart Supercenters that average 185,000 sq ft.
- They are inconsistent and in conflict with Boulevard's vision, goals and policies as documented in Boulevard Community Plan that was approved on August 3, 2011 by the Board of Supervisors with the General Plan Update—after over a decade of hard work on a region wide level.
- Plan Amendments made to benefit commercial interests at the expense of resident and other non-participating land owners and resources is biased, unnecessary, and unjustified.
- Adverse impacts to Historic Route 80, scenic and open viewsheds, bucolic views of grazing livestock, abundant wildlife, and overall appealing rural community character.
- Conversion of over 1,400 acres land zoned for agriculture and residential uses that will reduce future land use opportunities that are more compatible with community character, including vineyards, and large lot residential subdivisions (LanWest site had previous subdivision map)
- Additional subject areas that must be added to County's current list to be analyzed in this PEIR: Lack of Need for project; point of use alternatives; environmental justice issues including disproportionate adverse and cumulative impacts; noise, low frequency noise and vibrations; seismic impacts including historic 7.8 Laguna Salada Earthquake in 1892¹ that created land ruptures in McCain Valley and soil liquefaction and rock slides in Jewel Valley and throughout the backcountry; health and safety; electrical pollution, increased ground currents, and trespass including through the air, common utility and/or ground connections and; increased risk of electrical sparked wildfires; need to change fire fighting tactics, suppression medium, and overall services; amounts and location of storage of transformer oil that can fuel fires and impact ground water quality (including mineral oil); safe setbacks; glint and glare; heat radiation / heat island effects and potential to impact microclimates, change storm / weather patterns, divert or deny groundwater recharge; socio-economic impacts on impacted residents and unwilling host community; increased insurance fire and property insurance rates; recreation
- Connected and Indirect Action projects including new gen-tie lines and off-site substation upgrades. Some project right of ways are not yet fully secured or disclosed.
- All Cumulative impact projects must be addressed including SolOrchard's newly proposed solar project at Tule Jim Road and Historic Rt 80 (PDS2012-MUP-12-025).
- Disclosure and clarification of liabilities of participating land owners in the event of off-site damages, nuisance, loss of property value, use and enjoyment; and how does non-profit/ charity land ownership impact liability for damages and nuisance?
- Full disclosure of all tax and rate payer funded incentives, sales and use tax exclusions, green energy credits, refunds, reduced or waiver of fees, regulations or requirements.
- Full disclosure of proposed Community Service District and potential renewable energy zone overlay; and proposed Renewable Energy Infrastructure Zone meant to further benefit and enrich applicants at the expense of non-participating property owners.
- Need for independent 3rd party applicant funded documentation of pre-and post-construction ambient noise, ground currents, groundwater levels at adjacent non-participating property lines at existing residences and other occupied structures, livestock grazing and watering areas, within public access areas, and all wells on adjacent properties. Electrical Magnetic Interference can damage living beings and sensitive equipment including well pumps.

¹ http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/events/1892_02_24.php