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From: Trudy Douglass [trudydouglass@att.net]
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2013 7:04 PM
To: Roberts, Blake@Energy
Subject: HECA and Health Risks to Kern County

The Planning Department says that it cannot make decisions based only on local concerns. They must include the needs of all of California. This might make sense if we were talking about a few hundred people but we are talking about the lives of the almost 900,000 people residing in Kern County. Today the air in our valley is killing and sickening the most vulnerable of our population, the young and the aging. Adding HECA's emissions to our already deadly air will be a crime against every person living in the San Joaquin Valley.

California Environmental Protection Agency has released the 10 most polluted zip codes in our state. Even after many years of mitigation and legal actions by the Air District we are still at the top of state and national lists for worst air pollution. 7/10 of the zip codes mentioned in the report are in the San Joaquin Valley. Bakersfield 93307 is 2nd on the California EPA list and that is the area that will be the first part of the county to be impacted by HECA's emissions. How can you think that our air will be benefited by adding coal, coke, trains, and up to 500 idling trucks waiting to load and unload every day?

California Department of Public Health's 2012 report on statewide health issues puts Kern County's population at greater risk of having colon cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, because we are above the state's average for all these diseases. 123,000 children and adults in our county have asthma. Kern County is listed as having more heart disease and chronic lower respiratory disease than any of the other 58 counties in California. The pollution we have now in our valley is killing us; please don't agree to add more.

The National Disease Cluster Alliance has identified Kern County as having clusters of brain, kidney, and muscle cancer. In addition, a group of childhood cancers has also been recognized. An increase in thyroid cancer in Kern County is being studied. When the whole San Joaquin Valley is looked at, clusters of birth defects and another childhood cancer have been identified. Emissions and particulates of coal, coke, urea, sulfur, ammonia, ammonium nitrate, mercury, lead, and waste particles will not make our environment healthier.

The Planning Department's report asserts that our state needs electricity. Our county exports more electricity than any other county. Instead of saying the state needs electricity the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department should be saying to HECA and the state: "How can you put the people of our valley in danger of more chronic and even fatal diseases just so the SCS Energy corporation can make more money?"

It is not in the best interest of the people who live in Kern County to take additional farm land out of the Williamson Act to give HECA a rail line.