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MR. POZZUTO: Hello. Can I have everybody's attention. We'd like to get the meeting started as soon as possible here.

I want to remind everybody that there's blue cards for signing if you wish to speak, and we will call the speakers up in the order we receive them.

There's also a mail-in form for anybody that wants to write their comments and mail them in. If they want to write their comments and not speak, they can provide it to MR. POZZUTO transcriptionist. There is a translator -- Spanish translator if you need that service, but you don't have to use it if you don't want to.

A brief explanation of this whole process is that the Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission are producing a joint document sort of for simplicity and ease of public comment on one document rather than two documents about the same project.

There are a lot of similarities. The need for process requires public involvement, and the Department of Energy is going to use this document to determine whether we fund the project forward through operation and construction. And our decision makers will use that to make that determination.

We will not make that determination until the
ROD is issued, which is a Record of Decision, and we will not issue a Record of Decision until the Energy Commission has gone through their process. Our process has a limited public comment period which ends October 1st. The Energy Commission's public comment period continues through the entire certification process. So that's all we can answer for the public.

The PowerPoint presentation that we have isn't here. We are having trouble loading it up. So without any further ado, the ground rules of this are: you have four minutes to comment. The timer is there. When the yellow light signals, you have about 30 seconds to wrap it up; and then when the red light goes off, the four minutes is up. We had the same program yesterday evening, and we found that four minutes seems to be adequate.

So this is more for people to provide comments to us. We're not going to get into a debate back and forth and answer questions; however, we certainly will answer questions. If we need to, we can make a brief clarification.

The HECA folks are at the table over here; the Energy Commission folks are to my right, to your left. And we would ask if there's any elected public
officials, they get to speak first. I do not have that in this pile. So I would assume there are not any elected public officials here to -- that desire to speak.

In that case we're going to go through the speakers that we received -- that we have in the order that we received them. And, also, if you gave testimony last night and you want to repeat that testimony again, that's perfectly fine. It will be all part of the record. If you choose not to, that's fine, also.

Don Van Lue from Tupman.

Don, you have the floor.

MR. VAN LUE: Thank you. My name is Don Van Lue. I'm from Tupman, California. I have a couple articles I'd like to speak about.

One of the articles is about these cooling towers that they're going to build out here. It said in the preliminary report that HECA does not own these cooling towers. They're not going to build them. I'd like to know who is and how come they're not doing it because they should be analyzed, too, along with HECA and Occidental. It goes the same way if they're supposed to build and maintain these cooling towers.

Water has already been talked about today.
We all know how much water they're going to use. One of the other things is the wind on a daily basis. Our wind comes out of the northwest at three to seven miles and hour preliminary, sometimes 12, 15. I've seen it up to 30 through here. At those speeds, if anything happens, it will only take a matter of seconds for the wind to get down here.

One other thing I would like to say -- this is addressed to Energy Commission and the Department of Energy -- there's a lawsuit going on right now against the Air Resources Board and California and the Federal Government against cap-and-trade. The foundation thinks it's illegal, and I think that this whole project should be shut down until the courts rule on this.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you very much, Don.

The next speaker is a Leah Volkoff. Lee or Leah Volkoff

MS. VOLKOFF: Leah. All I really wanted to say, I guess, as just, first, for us all to remember that at the end of the day, all we have really is our health because if we didn't, we would obviously all be dead. And I say that because I lost my grandmother when I was five years old of lung cancer, and she never
smoked a cigarette in her life. But she spent a significant portion of her life here in the Valley. And now I have an uncle that also has lung cancer and was born and raised here in the Valley. I thank God that my father who was also born and raised here in the Valley doesn't have it, but I also lost another uncle of cancer. It wasn't lung cancer specifically, although he did have some specifically there.

So just a reminder to all of those that make decisions here for us and fund these projects, although you may not live here, we still do. It wasn't necessarily by choice that I was born here, but this is where I am. And I just ask that you consider these things.

I don't know -- I know that money means a lot to a lot of people sometimes, but really at the end of the day, I just ask that you consider my health and the health of everybody in this room when you make this decision. It oftentimes seems that they were just made for money.

Thank you very much.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Leah.

The next person to speak is a Mary White.

MS. WHITE: Good evening everybody.

Mary White, born and raised here in the Valley.
There's a lot of things going on, but I just want to say that all the opponents of HECA complain that the project is going to take prime farmland out of agricultural use.

Of all that acreage that HECA has obtained for their project, over 60 percent of it will remain in active agricultural use. The portion that the plant will be built on represents only 0.7 percent of all of Kern County's agricultural land. That's a really small percentage.

We have a right to come here and voice our opinions about this project. HECA also has a right to do business on the land that they've already purchased. Of course, they must go through all the permitting and environmental studies. I just think it's funny that these people don't show up in droves to oppose the commercial buildings that are popping up all around Kern County. I'm sure that some come from land previously farmed on.

I think the project is a good thing, and I'm all for it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you very much, Mary.

The next person is a Lonnie Parker.

MR. PARKER: Hello. Good evening, gentlemen.
06:15  1  My name is Lonnie Parker. I'm a longtime citizen resident. I was born in Taft; I live in Bakersfield now. I do have property in Tupman. And I was going to read all of this stuff about the plant, but you guys know most of that stuff.

06:15  6  The environment: Everybody's concerned about the environment. The government has strict restrictions on hazardous waste.

06:15  9  And I know you have to consider all those things, and I know you already have. And I lived on the Pom farms where this project is going to be constructed. I was born and raised there. I live -- I lived there when the pomegranate trees lined the edges.

06:16 14  I irrigated the cotton fields there. And I've seen automation come in, the lack of farmhands because of the automation. This is what happens.

06:16 17  And I am glad to see this project come in here, and I am reassured by these environmental studies and the Government regulations that have been installed and you must obey. And I just welcome you guys in, and God bless you.

06:16 22  MR. POZZUTO: Thank you very much, Lonnie.

06:16 23  The next speaker will be a Trudy Douglas.

06:16 24  Trudy Douglas?

06:16 25  MS. DOUGLAS: Hello. Nice to be here. Last
night HECA said that 9411 trucks are going to make 822 round trips a day. It got me thinking about the trucks and how that could be. I don't have -- I have questions, but they don't have to be answered right now.

Will every owner of HECA be mandated to own and maintain their own truck fleet and use Union drivers? All government-funded projects are supposed to hire Union. Will they pay wages, benefits, appropriate taxes, and insure them on their own policy? Will the statutable steps used by HECA be such that it would not be an undue pressure on drivers to cause them to make unsafe decisions? And will every truck be washed every time it leaves the factory?

Conversely, will HECA owners be allowed to hire independent haulers at the lowest prices they can get away with? Have they -- they have no equipment or maintenance criteria or responsibility for road safety and accidents.

This factory will cost $4 million. And then there are the costs for upgrading the rail and the roads and the infrastructure. A trainload of coal is going to cost approximately possibly between $150- and $200,000 and that would be 365 days a year. Did you know that shippers are often charged mitigation fees
now for hold ups?

Seventy-four million a year would be needed for a fleet -- a truck fleet. According to the American Trucking Research Institute in 2012, it costs $180,000 a year to run a diesel truck.

Personnel is going to be expensive. Some of them will be coming from Japan. There are also unknown costs of upkeep, water, extra electricity, and petcoke.

Kind of wonder what they're going to charge for their fertilizer to make a profit, or is the government going to guarantee a profit?

Mr. Pozzuto, I was told that you came to Buttonwillow on Monday saying that this is a great project. You said that the government funding of private, personal factories is business as usual. It seems clear that you made up your mind to be in favor of this factory before public comment was voiced. Why did you force us to come to a meeting during harvest time and fair time if you could have stayed in West Virginia and finished your report?

Mr. Pozzuto, would you have bought your house in Pennsylvania if a plant like HECA -- if you were downwind from a plant like HECA?

MR. POZZUTO: I live downwind from several power plants. They're not as clean as HECA, and that's
all I'm going to comment on that. But since you asked me directly, I thought I'd answer you directly.

MS. DOUGLAS: I appreciate your answer. So if they built one in your town, you would say it was a good project, too, huh?

I want to tell you that every person is just -- being a net in Kern County, is going to be downwind from HECA. The pollution from the factory will be just -- will just circle around and come back on itself until this whole end of the Valley is filled with it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Douglas.

The next person to speak will be a Sam Ackerman.

MR. ACKERMAN: I'm Sam Ackerman. Most of you don't know me, but I've been a resident for the last 30 years. As a matter of fact, I lived on the very piece of property that this -- this fence is going to wind up being in. I farmed it for a number of years; so I know the land. And I make my home there.

Since then, I've moved on in this -- recent times, and I got into engineering and into construction. And I have a general engineering degree.

I have a general building contractor's license, an electrical contractor, and I'm also licensed in the
Republican state of Texas.

And one of my main businesses is converting coal plants into alternative fuel. I'm saying all this just to say that I might have a little bit more insight into what's going on here.

And I have been affected. My home is right where that plant is going to be. So this plant is a great project. It's a lot of money going to be spent here. It's going to provide wonderful jobs. I'd say the average wage is going to be somewhere north of 30 bucks an hour and probably a lot more that with benefits. And it's going to go on for years and a lot of permanent jobs.

Also, it's going to provide, really, fertilizer for the entire state of California. The way it is now right now, I don't know if you know where we're getting our fertilizer from. It comes from the other side of the world. It comes from Arabia, Saudi Arabia, Middle East, places on the other side of the globe. They ship it all the way across the world to get here. What's the position about that? What's the pollution in that process, you know, shipping it all the way across and -- across the United States to get here. And we're servicing countries that hate us. We ought to make it here.
And as far as the pollution thing goes, I don't know if you guys realize it, but, you know, I convert coal plants to bio fuel because they've been outlawed here. This is a turning point. The only product of hydrogen and oxygen is heat and water. So there's no pollution in that process. But for every truckload of coal that doesn't make it to our power plants in California comes to California anyway. It comes right here to the San Joaquin Valley. It comes to the port of Stockton that's just right up wind. And it's loaded train, after train, after train, after train. I've got pictures. It all comes here. It's in the open air. The dust is everywhere. This air comes right down to us anyway. We don't know where it's being shipped. We can't burn it here as fuel. It's put on ships and shipped halfway across the world to China where they're burning it in their power plants. Their power plants don't have any scrubbers like in California. You know, global warming or global pollution, well, it's wholesale over there. And what's more San Francisco really recently has been complaining about all the pollution in China coming over through their town. And where's their town? They're just right out of Stockton. That air
passes right through the San Joaquin Valley. We're going to breathe and air anyway. So this pollution thing is bogus completely, and, anyway, I'm -- I'm in complete favor of it. It's a great project. It's going to create a lot of great jobs for a lot of people for a very long time, and we need the energy to boot.

So thank you. That's my statement.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Ackerman.

The next person is Jaime Briceno with the Cement Masons Local 600.

MR. BRICENO: Good afternoon. My name is Jaime Briceno. I'm representing today the building masons, and I am sure a lot of the leaders will be right behind me saying the same thing, but I get to say it first.

First of all, the employment rate in Kern County is somewhere south of 12 percent and prior to 2008, we had a great boom in Kern County. And I was thinking about it this morning how in those eight years, we built -- we needed the building space. The population in Kern County was growing. We built almost 24 elementary and junior high schools, four high schools.

And yesterday I spoke about responsible building where growth and the environment come together
and we hash it out. We talked about it like we're doing right here, and it needs built. I talked about the four power plants about La Loma, Elk Hills, Sunrise, and Sunset.

And by the way prior to the power plants being built, 35 years had passed and California had not built one power plant in California. They were built here. And then, too, we had the meetings and the opposition and we were all going to die. We are still here. The air has gotten cleaner.

Now going back to the economic part of it for us, employment, it's huge, not just in the Union sector, in all sectors. This project is going to supply at least two years for us in the building of the plant. But never mind to what has already been said, but they also are running the plants. Good paying jobs. And there's no one in this room that could say to you that I want to make 10 bucks an hour for the rest of my life. Or God forbid we -- you do something else for a living that just pays minimum wage. No one can stand for that.

And also the economic impact on Kern County. And when it comes to the growth, again -- and I already said it before -- responsible growth with the input of the community and the environmental studies. And it's
your plant.

I mean, think about this. They've been permitted. Everything they had to be done scientifically, up to this point, it came down to it. And in the future -- by the way, if you don't know this, in the future if we come up with something better than scrubbers, they're going to make the time to out that onto their stats. This doesn't end just with today. I think the air quality will get better with responsible projects like this and responsible support.

Thank you very much.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Jaime.

The next person to speak is a Ron James from the Operating Engineers Local No. 12.

MR. JAMES: How are you? Ron James, Operating Engineers Local 12. We support this project. We have members that have been out of work for a long time. They need the work, and other operating engineers around this area, you know, they run excavators, backhoes. They do dirt work, and this project would really be a great thing for the economy. We need the energy.

And really I don't know what else to say. I mean, I've been to both of these meetings that everything pretty well has already been said. But this
is a good project for us, a good project for Kern County, and hopefully we can get this thing built.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ron. Next person is a Carl Wyatt.

MR. WYATT: Good evening. I'm Carl Wyatt. I'm an apprenticeship coordinator and instructor for the Operating Engineers. I've been in the training process for 26 years now. What a project like this does is it brings in jobs so we can train people. We do not train them for a project. We train them for a career. We hire locally. All of our applications are taken in Kern County, Inyo and (unintelligible) County. I've had plenty of apprentices in the past from all over Kern County, including Buttonwillow, and we hope this job comes through so we can -- we have a lot of people who are retiring -- getting older and retiring. We need to replace our work force.

As I said earlier, there's going to be road work connected with this, the infrastructure, and we need people to be able to do these jobs at a livable wage.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Wyatt.

I have a card here that doesn't have a name
on it, but they're with the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators. There is no name on the card, so please make your name known.

MR. DANIELS: Sorry about that. My name is Jim Daniels. I'm with the Heat and Frost Insulators of Southern Californian.

What this project is really about is the economical growth of Kern County, the future of California. And I see a lot of young people around here. And I see (unintelligible) working for $10 an hour, and we're very happy about that. How are people going to be able to buy houses with that in the future? It's going to provide jobs right now.

We -- my Union personally doesn't have a lot of people up here, but we do have a few. What that's going to do is that's going to provide opportunities for other people to come into our apprenticeship, make a decent wage, and be able buy houses here in Kern County and help the economic growth.

Another thing I want to talk about is helmets to hard hats. All of the Unions support helmets to hard hats. I'm sure we've got plenty of veterans coming back from these -- call them wars that we're having over seas -- and they are going to need to obtain jobs. They deserve good paying jobs for
defending our freedom. That's about all I have to say. And I hope this project goes through.

Thank you very much.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you very much.

Mr. Daniels.

The next person is a Gene Clark with Local No. 5.

MR. CLARK: I'm Gene Clark. I'm an insulator for Local 5. I was born and raised in the Valley, went through my apprenticeship here, and I'm getting pretty far along in my career now. But we will need apprentices if project goes through and there's been -- and as far as I know, they're not in the Valley here. So there will have to be new apprentices.

It's been a good job and a good career for me. I made a living doing it. Bought a house here. Like I said, I was born and raised here. So I would like to see somebody else take this up and make a living out of it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

Sarah Goatcher from Tupman.


How wrong is wrong? Well, here are reasons to forget it, HECA. Severe added air pollution;
outrageous, inexcusable water abuse; very dangerous
toxic chemicals for a 20-year run totally polluting the
surrounding farmlands and their future progress in
crops; drastically filling up all of our landfills with
their toxic waste; not enough local jobs to justify
building it in Kern County creating a dangerous
condition on our roads for some very horrible blood
alley situation; a very possible condition for a
catastrophic blowup disaster like this country has
never seen before. Waco will look like a fake
firecracker.

Several earthquake faults lie close to the
area of construction. They have back paddled on many
subjects saying opposing views on their own documents.
I call that a "confused flour unit."
"Did I eat it, or did I spit it out? Oh,
never mind. I'll just go get some more money from the
government and buy me some more flour."
Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Goatcher.

Next person is Brandon Higgins.

Brandon Higgins

MR. HIGGINS: My name is Brandon Higgins, and
I was in the audience last night. And I just wanted to
take the opportunity to make a point.
We make it real hard for new projects like HECA to come in and be built. I don't -- don't want to, like, undermine the significance of environmental impact reports and safety tests. But they've been approved and jumped through all the hoops that we've made them jump through thus far, and people still want to see them be built.

I trust the California Energy Commission and the Department of Energy will make an impartial decision, as I'm sure you're all aware of, as much as the opposition has used emotional appeals against this project. I hope you guys use the facts, facts like discovered in the air quality and public health studies that were conducted and found that no negative effects to animals, crops, vegetation, and public health will occur.

Alternative energy is the only option for a sustainable future. I'm sure the majority of the people in this room have kids and grand kids. I do not. I don't see us having a sustainable society in the future. However, I would like that opportunity to change. I feel like projects like HECA are a right place to start. So if emotional appeals work, I hope my possible future family might appeal to your nature.

Thank you.
MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Higgins.

Next person to speak is a Jacob Brown.

MR. BROWN: Good evening. My name is Jacob, and I'm here to support the HECA project. I have lived in Bakersfield all my life, and since being called, I have striven to become more attentive to things going on in my community.

After initially hearing about the HECA project, I was intrigued and decided to look more into it. I know there are a lot of people opposed to the project. But I just wanted to come up here and voice my support.

I think the HECA project has proven themselves so far because they have been permitted by our Air Pollution and Control District and have added an option for a rail spur to help ease people's fear of potential road damage and pollution from trucks.

We have to come up with sustainable options for energy — energy production. This project is exactly that. I represent a younger generation who is ready to make changes for the better. Please help us get there by supporting this project.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

The next person to speak is
MS. WILLYARD: Last night I heard a lot of talk that HECA will make Kern County's pollution worse. I don't believe that to be true. As a community we have worked hard to reduce air emissions over the last few years which is absolutely something to be proud of. There is no way that the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution and Control District would determine that the HECA project is compliant with the State and Federal air quality standards if it was not. California has some of the strictest air quality standards in the nation. Our local Air Pollution Control District has conducted their studies and determined that there will be no significantly negative affects on health for the people living near the proposed plant. I'm am glad to take part in this Democrat process. Part of the Democratic process involves all that testing the Air Pollution and Control District has already done. They know what they are doing and have helped to reduce our bad air quality already. We should trust them.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Willyard.

Next person is a Vanessa Wilson.
MS. WILSON: Hi. My name is Vanessa, and I support the HECA project because it has direct benefits to the economy. It is going to help provide over 2400 construction jobs, 200 permanent jobs, and all the taxes will go back into our community. If it weren't enough, just think of all the other ways the project will benefit Kern County, HECA employees will be able to spend more and will probably shop locally, and all the sales taxes will go back to Kern County. Also, the enhanced oil recovery components will likely provide new work at Occidental Elk Hills Oil Reserve. And if you approve the well spur, which I hope you do, then there will be more more jobs for people to operate it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Wilson.

Next person, is a Janet Hylton.

Janet Hylton?

MS. HYLTON: Good evening. My name is Janet Hylton, and I am here to support the HECA project. HECA tends to reuse the gasified solids instead of disposing of them. In fact, none of the plants lag and will dispose of it in Kern County. I
was curious about their plans for reuse and found out that HECA conducted a study on how efficiency is used with the product that's left over in the gasifying process. It turns out that they had used -- that they can be used for roofing granules, blasting brick, cement-use, Readymix -- all of which will be sold in no more than 300 miles of Kern County further benefitting the Central Valley.

This is a prime example of how business should be done. Business and related industries have to work together to find ways -- to find a way to do this and take care of the environment while conducting their business. This is the future, and I welcome it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Hylton.

Next person is a Rogelio Caudillo.

You want to repeat that? I'm sure I messed it up.

MR. CAUDILLO: Rogelio Caudillo.

MR. POZZUTO: Very good. Hold on one second.

MR. CAUDILLO: Thank you very much for allowing me to express my opinion.

I was born here in Kern County. I went to school here, and I've worked here. And all of my life that I've been here, I've noticed that we are almost
always ignored.

I see this project as an opportunity to bring more development in our community. I understand everything that has happened in the pollution and the air. I also have many family members that have suffered from problems as a result of the pollution in the air. And I have also suffered from that.

But actually what's happening here is it seems like we're trying to punish this project for something that has already happened. These problems are going to continue whether this project is fulfilled or not when this project and this company is trying to bring new technology to help the environment; and it's also going to bring more jobs, more money, and more focus on our infrastructure in this area. And that's why I support this project. That's it.

Thank you.

Mr. Pozzuto: Thank you very much,

Erica Salazar.

MS. SALAZAR: Hello. Commission, staff, my name is Erica Salazar, and I'm here to voice my support for the Hydrogen Energy California Project.

I've heard a lot of talk about how this project is going to use up a bunch of Kern County's
water, and I did some research on my own. And after a few minutes of reading, I found the assumption is just false.

HECA has signed an agreement with the Buena Vista Water Storage District to purchase brackish, non-potable water. This kind of water has a high (unintelligible) that dissolves the solids that isn't good for farming. The Water Storage District has even stated that HECA's use of the brackish water is welcomed and is part of their remediation program.

Since the Buena Vista Water Storage District has welcomed HECA, I think any opposition in regards to water use is invalid. These are water professionals who know what they were doing, and we should trust them.

I ask that you all allow this project to continue on their path to success and approve a permit for the project. Do not be fooled that the opposition may be louder at times, but there is a lot of support for this project in Kern County.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Salazar.

The next person to speak is a Tom Frantz.

MR. FRANTZ: Good evening. Tom Frantz from Shafter.
One thing, Mr. Pozzuto, you need to consider with this project is environmental justice. I think by law you have to consider that.

This area is heavily impacted with some of the worst, dirtiest activities in the state, such as the hazardous waste dump a couple miles that way, accepting I don't know how many thousands of tons of hazardous waste from the western U.S., just up I-5 is a chemical plant in Kettleman City, as well, just -- just upwind of us here.

Also, in three different directions you can find three sites here in Kern County accepting together a couple million tons of sewage last year from out of the area, from L.A. Further north, they get sewer sludge in the Valley from the Bay area. Why does all this happen here? Why do we get the worst kind of jobs, the worst kind of industry that pollute our air in the work place. And -- and we have an area that carries the fact that there's very little locally produced air pollution, you know, the way the mountains are and stuff.

And we suffer. We have the worst health in California on average, everything from, you know, the asthma and the breathing problems and the heart and lung disease and the cancer, and the premature birth
weights, low birth rates -- we have all of that stuff.

We have the highest, and a lot of it's attributed both to our environment, especially the high levels of air pollution.

So why does it all come here? It's environmental justice. Low income people, uneducated people, and people of color who are trying to assimilate in this society do not have much or little say in what may hang around.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uneducated people?

MR. FRANTZ: On the average.

MR. POZZUTO: Excuse me, Miss. No interruptions.

MR. FRANTZ: You should give me another 30 seconds.

This phenomenon, environmental justice, is well-known, that the dirtiest plants and industries locate next to the lowest income communities across the nation where the people don't have the political power to say "no." The CDC could not even approve a plant a couple of years ago in Chula Vista because of the political power of the local residents. At least that's the way it looks. It's very rare for that to happen.

This plant -- was this project was blasted
politically, chased out of Long Beach, which is where they wanted to go. People of Long Beach wouldn't have it. It sounded way to dangerous, way to polluted. It's an environmental justice issue that the project is considering this part of the state to locate in, and you have to consider that. You have to consider the cumulative effect of all this other stuff.

We get garbage from L.A. We get landfill diversion from L.A. to be incinerated up here already, millions of tons per year carried by trucks. Now we're going to get the waste from refineries and coal from out of state just because they can do it, just because we don't have the political will to say "no." We're too poor; we want the jobs too badly. We'll take all the bad stuff with it.

It's environmental justice you have to look at as well as all the other stuff.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Tom.

Michael Lehmann.

MR. LEHMAN: My name is Michael Lehmann, and I have lived here for many years, now retired.

This project has been discussed and hashed over for many, many years. It's been moved.

Everybody worries about the air that happens
in Kern County. Arvin just got better air. It comes out that it has better air now. The gentleman talked about the power plants that were build here a few years ago. Not a problem there. We still have good air. It's getting better.

This project is a clean air project. I've been in negotiations with this company before I retired. They've assured us that they will make it as safe as possible.

The gentleman earlier talked about the future his family. It's time for me to step down. The things that worked years ago don't work. We know that. That's why we have the bad air. It's a clean air project. It's going to stimulate the area. If we don't accept here and do it and do it now, they're going move upstream. And guess what? We're still going to get what ever little bad air we're going to get which probably isn't enough to worry about.

If you want to worry about it, worry about how they shake all the almonds out there. My grandson can't breathe. Every time they go out there and pick the cotton, my grandson can't breath. Build the project.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Lehmann.

Raymond Martinez.
MR. R. MARTINEZ: Good evening, everybody.

I just want to say that we didn't inherit this from our ancestors. We're borrowing it from our children. And I also want to say it's all about money. I'm in favor of this project.

Thank you very much.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Raymond.

MR. R. MARTINEZ: I got your people covered right here, homie. Peace out.

MR. POZZUTO: Let's try to keep this professional, respectful.

The next person is a Blake Gorman.

MR. GORMAN: Hello. Good evening, CEC and DOE. Staff, my name is a Blake Gorman, and I am a resident of Shafter, California. I would like express my support for the Hydrogen Energy California project.

As a lifelong resident of the Central Valley, I know what dirty air quality is about and how this impacts our air quality of life. What I don't get is the opposition blaming a proposed project for the current bad air. Do they really know? Have they produced studies by a third-party, credible agency?

Please don't be fooled by the opposition. HECA is a good idea for Kern for all the right reasons.
Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Gorman.

Brent Martinez.

MR. B. MARTINEZ: Good evening, everybody.

My name is Brent Martinez. I came out here to support my opinion of the HECA project. I believe it will create a lot of jobs. It will be great for the environment. There hasn't been much talk about any critical pollution being exhausted out, so I'm in support of it.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Martinez.

Jackie Flores.

Set that card aside and make a last call at the end.

Jackie Flores.

MS. FLORES: Hello. My name is Jackie Flores, and live in Bakersfield. I have my whole life. I wanted to speak to you about the Hydrogen Energy California project and the need to approve and permit this project.

HECA has been completely transparent through this whole process and have listened to residents' concerns. This is not just about jobs and economy.

While important but also approving a power plant that
is clean and will help contribute to the growing California economy with much needed energy.

On another issue opponents argue that the crops will be contaminated by coal, but that is not true. HECA's completed public health model studies that proves that nearby crops a soil won't be negatively affected. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Flores.

Veronica Campos.

MS. CAMPOS: Hello. My name is Veronica Campos, and I support the HECA project. As many have said, the direct economic benefits of this project are fairly obvious. I believe someone before said it would provide over 2000 jobs and 200 of those jobs will be permanent. It will take -- local tax for sales will go back into our economy. I hope they recommend approval of this project because our county can really benefit from a project like this. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Campos.

Cassie Pedersen.

MS. PEDERSEN: Hi. I'm Cassie Pedersen.

I just want to start out by saying that I have two
nephews. One is 11 months old, and he had to have surgery today because his allergies are so bad. I have heard the opposing side say they show up and use Kern County as a guinea pig because it's the first project of its kind.

Well, the experiment in technology has been proven to work. The technology that HECA will use has been demonstrated as safe and reliable in various places all over the world. This project could make Kern County a leader in carbon mitigation and global warming solutions. We can't just pretend that we're working or that we're currently doing this for energy that is sustainable. It's not.

Let us progress and support projects like HECA and help your younger generations.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Pedersen.

Chris Harper.

MS. HARPER: Hi. My name is Chris. I was born and raised in Bakersfield. I don't really think that there's anything I can say tonight that hasn't already been said by everybody else, but I were to highlight some of the things, it would be the economic impact. If anything, it's going to provide jobs, and those jobs are going to provide people with more money
to then go buy more things and help the economy.

But beyond that, there's been a lot of talk about pollution and whatnot, but, really, Kern County has made its fortune off of the oil in general. This is something new; this is something different, and in my opinion this is certainly a lot better than hydrocracking.

But as we talked about before, the Buena Vista Water District has welcomed HECA. I think any opposition in regards to water use is kind of just null and void because the water they'll be using in the first place is already refuse, non-potable water in the first place. So yeah all in all, go HECA.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Harper.

We have a Florentina Olvera. We also have a Florirene Olvera. I'm not sure whether there's two people? There's two people. Okay. Very good.

Florentina Olvera is first to speak.

MS. OLVERA: My name is Florentina Olvera.

Thank you. I thank you, both teams, for being here in favor of project for HECA. I support the project because it's going to bring clean jobs being that we're in a county that's very filthy. This project brings jobs that do not protect us, bring in chemicals,
organic jobs that help us so that our children, our grandchildren can live somewhat better than we do because of all the chemicals that there are. And I ask all of you who are representing this project in favor and against it to think in our future in our children and to support clean projects here in Kern County.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you very much, Ms. Olvera.

The second Ms. Olvera. Florirene Olvera, please.

MS. OLVERA: My name Florirene Olvera, and I'm here to voice my support for the Hydrogen Energy California project. I think the people that opposed HECA are just afraid of change. I get it, but the world is moving on, and we have to help out our future generations by allowing projects like this to find new ways to make energy that doesn't choose to lead to global warming. I ask you -- I ask you that you approve the permit and permit HECA. Our future generations will thank you.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Olvera.
MS. GOMEZ: Hello. Good evening. My name is Sophia Gomez, and I'm here to tell you about the residents' need for the project for Kern County's economy.

Our unemployment rate is extremely high in the county. It seems that every time I'm on the Internet or open a piece of paper, I'm hearing something about homeless people or unemployment now is extremely out of control. So let us do it.

HECA has been said that their goals are to hire local employees, and Kern County needs this. Our construction industry is better able to help others for with jobs, getting people for jobs. It's not only going to help individuals but their families, as well.

And this project is not going to be built in a day or a month or several years, but this means that for 2,000 local workers are going to be able to have a long-term, stable job which something that isn't common today.

So, please, do Kern County a favor and support the HECA project. We really need this to help our community to recover from these hard economic times.

Thank you.
MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Ms. Gomez.

MR. LOPEZ: I apologize to everyone because I don't know how to speak good English. But in my humble opinion, I've lived here in this Valley for 40 years, working in the fields. So I don't know if we are in agreement or not that if the fields are not in production, no one survive, being that all of us, what we consume on your tables comes from the fields.

So this project is something that's being processed. Some are in favor some are against. So what's obvious is that we all have different methods of thinking. So the only thing that I ask you is to do your job honestly and to feel happy and contented with the decision you make and the one that can be most correct.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Lopez.

Joel McKenna.

MR. McKENNA: Hi. My name is Joel. I've been living in Kern County for about close to 10 years and kind of my first feeling that came up when I heard about this project was kind of like what a dog does when it doesn't know anything, like a person that's
coming into the neighborhood. Like, who is this person? What are they doing? And all of these questions come to mind.

Now, I'm neither for or against it because I really don't know much about it. And so I was talking about it last night, and the first thing I was thinking was coming here.

It's -- I'm not a college-educated person, but there's a lot of, I mean, feelings I have about introducing a waste stream into a particular area. Now, I understand that the idea is to mitigate and to process and create new jobs for people who don't necessarily have a college education and, you know, could potentially now have a good life.

Now, the other part of my strong feelings is that my kids would be going to school next door to this project. Now, that's speaking to the future. I mean, Needless to say, I just don't know enough. My main question is: Chemistry is very complicated. So when you are introducing a lot of different chemical into a living organism like a community, you want to make sure that you're making all the managerial decisions to make the ideal situation, what you want, which is to convert potentially dangerous chemicals into something it's not.
So my main question is: How much of this project are you guys going to spend to make sure that that happens? Now, I said "catalyst," and catalyst is a general term. But, obviously, you're going to need people to be emotionally involved. So this is a good thing all these people are coming here for and against it because they are voicing their opinion.

Now, there's also the technical side of it. I'm sure that, you know, Occidental Petroleum or -- and I -- and government and the CEC go through all the steps to make sure that, you know -- I'm sure the technology is great, but that they're actually putting people's hearts and minds into this. There's big money going into all this. You're finding a way to get all this money and resources and chemistry dealt with and that's going to creat jobs. Then I hear about this fertilizer, and I'm not too sure about that. That's where (unintelligible).

All right. Well, if the electricity isn't being produced by this power plant, forget the economic, they'll find it. Then they start possibly making more fertilizer, and "fertilizer" is a general term. You want to make plants better. It will keep people out in the field still growing plants, compared
to people who are in the audience.

Yeah, lots of questions. I don't know what side to stand on, still.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you for your concern.

And if you want to read all the 2100 pages, it is available in a couple of locations. So you were welcome to read and get educated in that. And we will get an answer for you on how much money is going to be spent towards making this happen the way you feel it should.

The next person is a Beau Antongiovanni.

MR. ANTONGIOVANNI: Sorry. It's Beau Antongiovanni.

MR. POZZUTO: Could you repeat your last name again?

MR. ANTONGIOVANNI: Beau Antongiovanni.

Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. ANTONGIOVANNI: You know, part of the dispute the short-term economic benefit of a project like this. And I don't think that any of us that are opposed to it would do that. And it's, also, easy to say that, you know, we could stop farming in almonds or other crops to reduce the pollution in the Valley, and I don't think we dispute that.
You know, we can -- I posed this question last night. They told me how stupid it was, which I happen to agree with. But we could solve the air pollution problem with just one fell swoop, and we could quit farming the Valley. That would solve the pollution problem. But then what would we all eat?

And the problem with this project is -- although it's nice to produce some amount of energy -- but the problem in the room, and we don't have all the facts, the small amount of energy it would produce the lights would still be on in this room and all over the state. So it's a very insignificant amount of energy it would produce. And the byproduct of that whether it's pollution or groundwater issues, the poor -- the bad far outweigh any short-term economic benefit.

And furthermore, to -- you know, I agree it's an economic issue, but -- I hate to lecture -- but there's another idea here that is absolutely -- I mean, it's a cancer that's going to destroy this country if we don't begin to understand it. If the Federal Government continues to take money from the taxpayer and then distribute it to a company like this, back into your -- back into your coffers for jobs, the -- the country will eventually go bankrupt. There's no -- it's just -- people spoke to it last night. It cannot
happen.

We do need projects similar to this. We have projects similar to this with -- it relatively requires no money from the Federal Government that are really good ideas and that's why we produce as a county, more electricity, more power then they ever tell you in the state. And I think it's very important for the audience to begin to understand that.

And I have something to say, I guess, in defense of the Hispanic community.

Something happened last night that really bothered me, and it's hard for me to get over. One of the early speakers who I assume was going to be a Spanish-speaking speaker, Mr. Pozzuto, first, legitimately mispronounced her name -- maybe a second or third time would legitimately mispronounce a name -- and then he made joke of it. I can't get over that. I can't get over someone from the Federal Government, someone who I work hard every day to pay your salary, you come in my community and insult its members. That is inexcusable. And I hope it goes to the highest levels of whoever is overseen by you and something is done about it because that's the exact reason why people mistrust this process and mistrust the Federal Government in this issue.
07:13 1  Thank you.
07:13 2  MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Beau.
07:13 3  A Hertz Ramirez.
07:13 4  MR. RAMIREZ: Good evening, all. My name is
Hertz Ramirez. I'm a laborer relations representative
for the Laborers International Union of North America
Local 220.
07:13 8  That being said, as a Union member,
07:13 9  I strongly urge that the Department of Energy to move
forward with this project because it will provide great
paying jobs. Union jobs, construction jobs, we need at
the time that we are coming back from an economic
downturn, the worst we've seen yet since the Great
Depression. And I think this will be a great benefit
to the community.
07:14 16  That being said, as a taxpayer I think that
the Department of Energy and the Commission has done a
great job into looking into how well and efficient the
project's going to be built, and I just want to thank
you for that.
07:14 21  And, once again, I strongly urge you to move
forward with it.
07:14 23  MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Ramirez.
07:14 24  Kaland Everett.
07:14 25  MR. EVERETT: My name is Kaland Everett, and
07:15 1 I am here to speak in support of the HECA project.
07:15 2 HECA intends to reuse the gas-firing solids instead of
disposing of them. In fact, numbers of plants will
likely be disposed of in Kern County.

07:15 5 I was curious about this plant for reuse and
07:15 6 found out that HECA conducted a study on how to
effectively reuse the products left over from the
gas-firing process. It turns out they can be used for
roofing and granules, blasting brick, cement to
ready-mix, all of which will be sold in no more than
07:15 11 300 miles of Kern County further benefitting the
07:15 12 Central Valley.

07:15 13 This is a prime example of how business
07:15 14 should be done. Business is a way for industry to work
together to find ways to find the wastestreams and take
care of the environment while conducting the business.

07:15 17 This is a good idea, and I welcome it.

07:16 18 Thank you.
07:16 19 MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Everett.
07:16 20 Josh McAfEE.
07:16 21 MR. McAfEE: My name is Josh McAfEE, and I am
07:16 22 here tonight to speak on behalf of the HECA project.
07:16 23 Supposedly, HECA is a dirty coal plant. The word
"coal" just scares them. HECA will not be burning coal
through -- the gasifying process is a proven technology
Ninety percent of the carbon dioxide process will be stored safely underground so that it's not released into the atmosphere. It plans effectively, and fertilizer will be made with a low-carbon footprint. This project can put Kern County on the map for being a global leader for carbon mitigation and is an answer for global warming situations.

Thank you for your time.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Josh.

Ernesto Garcia.

MR. GARCIA: Good evening, members of CSa and the DOE. My name is Ernesto, and I am a resident of Bakersfield. Today I've been here to express my support for the HECA project. One of the things that primarily I noticed it's the negativity of how it's going to affect the environment.

First of all, I would like to remind everyone that HECA received a preliminary decision -- with the pollution -- the air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley and the Air Control District in February, and I feel that people have been forgetting that.

If you remember, California has the regulation to the most strict for the air quality and according to the Control Board of the air pollution of the local district, HECA will not have any negative
impact that's significant on the Valley.
And, lastly, the assessment of the district shows that HECA is complying, not just only with the rules of our district but also with the ones of the state and of the country. Please, don't be taken by the opposition. HECA is a good idea for Kern County. There are a lot of residents who would like to see it go into effect.
Thank you.
MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Garcia.
Edward Kosareff.
MR. KOSAREFF: Good evening. I'd like to address one question either to the Applicant or to the CEC or the DOE. If this plant is approved, who indemnify our area and our crops in cases of a disaster? Are all of you involved? Will the DOE step up in case of some problem with land, water, crops, to the tune of 500 million? Will CEC back us, or will the HECA plant? That's a question.
MR. POZZUTO: We understand. As we've stated, that's the kind question that we will have to take some time and respond to all the comments in the staff assessment for the final EIS.
MR. KOSAREFF: Our Applicant seems to be quite quiet in this process, since they will be in
charge after the DOE backs out of the project. After you stated the year or year and a half yesterday.

MR. POZZUTO: Pardon me.

MR. KOSAREFF: No comment, Applicant?

MR. POZZUTO: The DOE is working on this. It wouldn't be appropriate for the Applicant to participate. But if you want to come to the workshops during the day, we're here all day, and I can assure you that we are doing plenty of talking. And we'll be doing the same thing tomorrow.

MR. KOSAREFF: And then furthermore, we -- we hear from our Union neighbors that it's all about jobs and that we have no scientific basis for opposition to this project although it appears that our Applicant has been able to purchase, with the help of the Federal Government, credits that will allow them to go further. So in other words, with deep pockets, they were able to purchase pollution credit and build this plant. I understand that since their purchase of such things, they're not anything left for anybody else to purchase for an expansion. There has been many, many projects that have been built that are clean, the expansion of agricultural projects in the case of Paramount Farms, the one example that are not polluting, that help the Union members to build these
projects and also to elevate the class of people that work in this community with good paying jobs that don't have to -- that can elevate themselves from the fields into factory-type jobs. But now with this HECA plant, if there's something new that would like to be proposed, it's been difficult for them to build because HECA's purchased up much of these credits to continue. so I want to impress upon the fact that -- that -- and on the other hand, we have -- a stone's throw from here, we swim in oil practically, to use a phrase. And I know we have natural gas coming out of our ears and that we can surely use all that natural gas or part of it or half of it to construct natural gas plants that will produce electricity, not fertilizer, not produce the amount of CO2 that at the beginning tells us that they aren't gonna -- they won't produce 10 percent will be reduced -- will be released in the environment at the get-go of this project. And I understand, also, that our Union members are telling us that the waste will be transported 2- or 300 miles out of the area, but the gentleman that's supposed to be handling this says that Kern County and, more so, the Buttonwillow area is becoming a toilet for this area with the disposal of
all kinds of hazardous waste.

MR. POZZUTO: Your time is up. Please,

finish in 30 seconds.

MR. KOSAREFF: Don't cut me off.

MR. POZZUTO: Mr. John Spaulding, please.

MR. SPAULDING: Thank you. My name is

John Spaulding, and I'm the executive secretary of

Kern County Building Trades. I spoke last night, and

I stayed for the entire time and listened to the

comments made by everyone. There was a couple, three

I wanted to readdress.

Obviously, my position is that I am in

support of this project 100 percent. It does provide

an opportunity for jobs in this area, and these are

good-paying jobs which will perpetuate the middle

class.

One of the questions last night -- one of the

speakers last night brought up the subject of roads,

and a concern for bus stops, and the traffic mitigation

and brought up several points. And there was never any

retort to that. But I attended a Board of Supervisors

meeting, and the road commissioner was there. And

he -- he and the Kern County Planning Department

brought it up -- Lorelei Oviatt brought all of the

impacts would happen. The hydrogen energy CEO stood up
and agreed 100 percent of what that impact was to mitigate those. Those things have been addressed and been agreed to.

They intend to be a good neighbor, and they intend to abide by what is needed. The air has been addressed. Our watchdog agency, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, they've analyzed this project. They've scrutinized it. They've stretched it, pulled it every way they can go with it and have given it the green light. They are the agency that we rely on to improve the quality of our air in Kern County, and they have given their support for this project.

The Buena Vista Water Storage District has given a green light on the brackish water. They have a problem with brackish water right here in this area. And they have an agreement with Hydrogen Energy, when this project is built, that Hydrogen Energy will purchase 700 acre-feet per year, and that will benefit their ongoing remediation program which is to benefit the water for agriculture.

It seemed to me that most of the opposition was something new. This is new technology. This is clean air technology. This is a power. This is a whole process that's opened a lot of doors and a lot
of entrepreneurs will jump on this, and we don't know how big this is going to be. But they chose Kern County. And I think, from what I see, the proximity to Elk Hills and Occidental Oil and the oil remediation opened up a whole other realm of opportunity for jobs in this area, and we support this project a hundred percent.

Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Thank you, Mr. Spaulding.

Shayla Hull.

MS. HULL: Hi. I just wanted to come up here and voice my support for the Hydrogen Energy California project. There have been many emotional appeals with regard to air quality. I don't know -- I'm sure we all realize that's going on. The farmers also contribute to asthma and particulate matter in this area. There's a reason that some people (unintelligible) and pull out (unintelligible) during our harvest season.

I'm really not trying to point fingers, though. I just feel like it's not fair to blame it all on HECA, to blame all of our air quality on HECA. They have publicly commented and have been completely transparent and have listened to all of our concerns with utmost respect. I believe this project is a good idea. Please permit it to be built.
Thank you.

MR. POZZUTO: Is Esther Flores still interested in making comments? Esther Flores? Is there anyone who has not commented? If you still want to comment, please, go fill out a card.

I just want to emphasize that this is not the end of the comment process for either DOE or CEC. We will be accepting comments through either written, oral, e-mail, and PSA/DEIS can submit comments. And, of course, there's no limit on written comments that you can submit to us; so this is not your last opportunity. If you want to expand on the comments you made tonight, you can also call or leave a voicemail. Again, that number is in the PSA DEIS.

I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I make a comment.

MR. POZZUTO: If you can come to the microphone, please state your name so MR. POZZUTO reporter can transcribe it.

MR. ALVIDREZ: Hi, Commission. My name is Joe Alvidrez. I spoke last night. You know, I was sitting here talking, you know, just thinking about what everybody -- about everything that was being said.

And I just want to make this comment.
You know, God made the farmer. God made them stewards of the land, but God didn't give some farmers the right to degrade their workers talk about how uneducated they are and talk about their color of skin. That's totally disrespectful, and I hope Tom Frantz knows that. You know, he's pulled different antics with the coal. It just shows his integrity and his character, and I just want to say that how can a man be a leader knowing that type of attitude. That's all I've got to say.

MR. ANTONGIOVANNI: I'm sorry. There's been a lot of personal things --

MR. POZZUTO: We would like to keep the comments focused on the project.

MR. ANTONGIOVANNI: That's kind of my point. But there's been a lot of personal things said in the last couple of days, many specific things, mostly coming from the other side from a few specific people. I didn't know that that's what this was all about. It sort of bothers me.

I understand what Tom was trying to say, and it wasn't meant as an insult to anybody; it was meant to defend people. And I -- I'm not brown or black or whatever color you want to talk about. I'm one of those uneducated people that live right next to this
thing. I haven't agreed to anything.

And if looking -- I don't even know

Tom Frantz that well, personally, and to be honest,

Tom, when I first saw him and whatever, he looks like

a kooky guy or whatever, you know. This is a kooky
guy, but I didn't know him.

I bet you as a teacher at Wasco, he's taught

more Hispanic kids and elevated them in their community

than most people in this room ever have. So I think

you -- I think you misinterpreted what he said. And

I'm sorry about that. I'm sure he wished he would have

phrased it a different way. I don't know. It's just

something that needed to be said by someone beside him.

But that's all.

MR. POZZUTO: All right. I think we've

reached the end. Again, thank you all for coming.

Please, submit any additional comments. We welcome

them. Have a safe trip home. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 7:34 p.m., the proceedings

were concluded.)
STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )
       )             ss.
COUNTY OF KERN               )

I, Robin Saldana, do hereby certify that I
transcribed the foregoing entitled matter; and I
further certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and
correct transcription of such proceedings.

Dated this Tuesday, October 1, 2013, in
Bakersfield, California.

Robin Saldana