

Mr. Pozzuto,

As a life-long resident of Kern County, I am strongly opposed to the proposed HECA project that is to be built in southwest Kern County. I believe the promise of jobs for our county has blinded the local officials to the negative impact this factory will have: more-brackish ground water to irrigate our crops (this will negatively impact crop yield); deteriorating air quality in a locale that is often the worst in the nation; more truck traffic on narrow country roads; airborne mercury that will drift over cultivated farm land and nearby schools; as well as the inefficient transportation of an undesirable, dirty fuel (coal) to an area rich in clean natural gas. These things *will* happen and that is enough for me. But other things *may* happen: sequestering large volumes of CO2 may very well stimulate seismic activity and this plant is very near to the San Andreas Fault as well as the California Aqueduct, the water lifeline for much of Southern California.

I believe the the investors/owners of the HECA plant have done their utmost to under-inform and misinform the residents of Kern County what is at stake in this project. I urge you and the Department of Energy to kill this initiative or at least extend the comment period with a requirement that additional information meetings be held in Bakersfield, California where the overwhelming proportion of people who will be affected by the HECA plant can listen and speak out. Thank you very much.

