Dear HECA Stakeholder,

Here are some highlights from our Summer 2012 newsletter, including the full text of the article on HECA’s Many benefits.

Also, mark your calendar for the upcoming community information hearing and site visit on July 12.

To view a pdf of the entire newsletter on our website, click here.

(Read more)

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**CEC & DOE Hearings and Workshops**

On July 12th, the California Energy commission (CEC) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will conduct a Site Visit, Informational Hearing and Scoping Session to provide an opportunity for members of the community to obtain information, offer comments, and view the project site. Anyone may present oral comments at the Informational Hearing and no advance notice is required.

(Read more)

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**HECA Project Labor Agreement Signed**

The regional economy, California’s environment, energy consumers and local construction workers all emerged as winners in a new Project Labor Agreement (PLA) announced May 31...HECA believes that the PLA is essential to ensuring the highest possible quality of craftsmanship during the project’s construction phase, and that the project will offer good job opportunities to local workers as well as returning military veterans.

(Read more)
HECA’s Many Benefits: Jobs, the Economy and the Environment

The HECA project is a major investment in the local economy. During nearly four years of construction, HECA will create thousands of high quality union jobs in Kern County and the region, as well as several hundred full-time jobs when completed. When fully operational, HECA’s operation will create $52 million in annual labor income and $239 million in total annual economic impact to Kern County.

On the product side, HECA will manufacture low-carbon products within California valued at more than $1 billion a year, which will stimulate the state’s overall economy. In addition, the captured CO2 gas will enable the production of up to five million additional barrels of in-state domestic oil per year, generating new revenues for California.

Les Clark, of the Independent Oil Producers Agency, notes that “HECA will improve and stabilize local oil production” and will “enable Kern County to be more self-sufficient while improving energy security.”

HECA’s environmental benefits are just as impressive. HECA will produce lower intermissions than any conventional power plant of its size, including those powered by natural gas. By using hydrogen as a clean fuel, HECA will prevent more than three million tons per year of greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere—that’s the equivalent of eliminating 650,000 cars from the road each year. Another environmental benefit is HECA’s preservation of California’s valuable fresh water resources by using brackish, non-potable water and eliminating wastewater discharge. According to Dan Bartel of the Buena Vista Water Storage District, “Western Kern County is the perfect location for the HECA power plant. In addition to providing jobs and other benefits, HECA’s reliance on disposing of brackish water will provide ways to solve our groundwater issues by helping clean up the local water supply.”

A Revitalized Project is Moving Forward

Last year, SCE Energy – one of the nation’s leading independent developers of clean power – acquired the Hydrogen Energy California Project (HECA) from its former owners. Since then, SCS has modified the project, improving HECA’s design and economic viability, bringing additional economic benefits to the community and the state.