

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Brad Bittleston a resident of Buttonwillow, CA. I am writing you in opposition to the purposed Coal energy plant that is being built by HECA. My Family and I are truly concerned that the proposed Coal Plant will end our dreams as we have built and lived them. Before I-5 was I-5, Stockdale Ranch was started with the beginnings of having lofty dreams. Today those dreams are a reality. I fear that with the new addition of a Coal energy plant being built practically in our front yard that those dreams that we have had for so many years will be crushed. Stockdale Ranch was started from a dirt field and with a lot of hard work it has grown into the dream that my Family and I enjoy today. My Wife's Family began building Stockdale Horse ranch from a wheat field. When they started there were no roads, no utilities and no home to live in. Today, many decades later, they don't know another life. The horse breeding operation is in full swing and very successful—they are the Leading Breeders of Appaloosa Show Horses in the World.

We've watched the air quality go from simple Tule fog to brown skies requiring the kids to stay indoors some days. We understand with the Coal Plant, not only our lives will change from the commotion, the visible changes across the countryside and the increased traffic on our highway, but the quality of life that we have been blessed with may cease to exist.

The air quality in this valley is a very serious matter, which contributes to certain illnesses such as Asthma. The type of Asthma that I am referring to is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by temporary coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath and chest tightness. Childhood asthma is widespread in the Central Valley and is often linked to the Valley's poor air quality, heavy trucking corridors, and physical geography. Results from the 2009 California Health Interview Survey estimate that 13 percent of children (ages 1-17 years) in Kern County have been diagnosed with asthma during their lifetime. These are real facts so how can you possibly believe that the 'Not in My Back Yard' syndrome works for us and NOT your families? I am sure you have children that you would be scared to subject them to this type of air! Can't a more remote location somewhere else that can tolerate the changes and negative impacts be a more

viable option? '

I would like to take this time to personally invite you to our paradise, our home and our ranches and see our lives and look across the fields at what you are proposing and see if any of YOU would like your lives changed or stopped? Where would you like us to go to start again building our dreams and our business and our lives again? We would be ruined. We obviously can't stay here. The affects of the coal plant would be injurious to the health of our valuable show horses and breeding stock as well. And what about our guests that come to visit and search for their new dream horse? You don't think that unsightly monstrous set of smoke stacks you propose and the busy trucks en-route wouldn't affect their decisions and enjoyment we provide and have since the late 1960's? Before your committee makes any decision please ask yourself this (do the needs of the one out way the needs of the many). Just because this project may be a good financial benefit for a few people doesn't give them the right to destroy the health and lively hoods of the whole County. Our air is bad enough and we don't need any more pollutants like the 1000 trucks that are going to be servicing this plant if the rail road doesn't go through.

What happened to the idea of clean energy projects, like solar? Even though this project is labeled to be clean there are many facets that are not. Such as the 1000 trucks that will be passing in front of my home every day out of the year. If by some chance you ignore our pleas and decide not to listen to reason and approve this project can I ask one thing and that is please put a stipulation that all trucks that service this plant must be LNG certified.

I have said what I am going to say and I hope that you know that our lives are held in the balance of your decision/hands. Please make the right one and listen to the people.

X

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Brad Bittleston