There is something rotten in Sacramento. The California Energy Commission is holding a hearing on the Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) proposal that is supposed to include input from the public. Nice that they say they want input but the reality is that they are not holding the meeting in the most effected area (Kern County) and the time and place is not even on their web site much less advertised. (Sept. 27, 2012, 9:30, 1516 9th St., Sacramento, CA, 95814)

I went to the hearing set in Tupman in July. There were almost 100 people wanting to be informed and to comment. The CEC and HECA were given hours to explain and inform but the public were allowed 3 mins. each and their questions were ignored. Even the phone and computer lines that were to communicate with those not able to go to Tupman were allowed to go dead. Complaints about the public’s treatment and requests that meetings be held in Bakersfield have never been included in the public comments nor responded to.

The HECA coal powered chemical factory will put 520 tons of pollution and particulates into the air a year and use 6.6 million gallons of water a day. These are issues that we must examine closely but, the CEC seems not to be interested in helping us to do so. If you have any interest at all in our air and water quality, please e-mail to rworl@energy.state.ca.us and PublicAdvisor@energy.state.ca.us or write to the address above and demand your right to be informed and to comment. Use docket #08-AFC-8A and ask that your concerns be published on their web site. If 500 of us do this small thing it will be a very big thing in Sacramento.

Trudy Douglass