Presentation to Kern County Board of Supervisors on February 26, 2013
With attached signatures from local area residents

We are HECA neighbors and farmers in an area of Buttonwillow known for some of the richest farmland in the world. Many of us have been farming for generations, but our future is under threat today because of this experimental coal plant. HECA is a demonstration project, a process never before tried on such a large scale. And what is at risk? The farming economy and the people breathing HECA’s toxics. We feel it is a bad fit in the wrong location. So we ask the Kern County Board of Supervisors to acknowledge that we are at risk and support our concerns for the following reasons....

1. Rail. HECA wants to put a rail spur through our farms. Rail would cut up our ranches, destroy reliable water wells, spew toxics in our fields, and jeopardize our farming practices. And we wonder about the drop of nuts caused by a train rumbling past a mature pistachio crop. If landowners refuse to sell HECA a right of way for rail, there is the threat of eminent domain imposed on us.

2. Traffic. Without a rail spur, 300 trucks a day of coal plus close to a 100 trucks of refinery waste will pass our farms on small country roads spewing their toxics on our food crops. Their dust will smother plants and retard production.

3. Food safety. We don’t know what toxics are in their emissions that can contaminate our crops. What would happen to our pistachios, cherries, almonds, grapes, or alfalfa markets if the public learns that maybe mercury or another toxic got into them?

4. Chilling Hours. Pistachios need chilling hours. The hot steam vented from their stacks will heat the air. What science is there to show that a plant this size will not raise the temperature and jeopardize production in the neighborhood?

5. Water. A lot of water. This is the thirstiest power plant proposed in California in over a decade, draining precious Kern County ground water. Water that is usable. The threat that maybe farmers will have less because of abuse such as this should be unthinkable.

6. Air. We want to know what we will be breathing when HECA cranks up with all their traffic and their coal stew. What will they add to our already worst air in the nation? We expected the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control to tell us that. But they did not. They omitted the transportation part. Neighbors will be exposed to higher health risks working daily near these emissions. But neither HECA nor the Air District has fully told us the direct effect on local air quality.

7. Loss of prime farmland. HECA claims their 450 plus acres of prime farmland is insignificant, and they do not plan on mitigating it’s loss.

We have expressed our concerns to HECA at private meetings, workshops, and in writing, and for the most part our concerns have been trivialized. They do not respect us nor give truthful answers. We have repeatedly asked about our fears of their toxic emissions. HECA’s repeated response is their “emissions will be offset to ensure a net air quality benefit.” They are insulting our intelligence if they expect us to be reassured that because they BOUGHT an offset we will benefit with safer and cleaner air. They are not showing themselves to be a good neighbor. We request that the supervisors ask the CEC to require additional protections if in a worst-case scenario HECA is to be approved. Among Kern County’s requests to the CEC please ask for:
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1. No eminent domain. Require that the CEC promise that no eminent domain will be allowed for HECA by any entity for the rail or anything else.
2. Control spewing. Require all trucks and rail to cover what they are hauling both coming and going in Kern County.
3. Food safety is paramount. Require HECA to fund petiole (leaf studies) and soil testing within 5 miles of HECA’s perimeter on crops and soil to monitor toxics in our fields. Monitor for the life of the project.
4. Bond. Indemnify for the life of the project all unusual crop production within 5 miles of HECA. Compensate for the market value of land or crop damage due to soil, crop, or water degradation or contamination. Cover liability with a $100 million bond.
5. Water well replacement. If eminent domain is imposed over or within 300 feet of a water well, HECA is to replace the existing well with a new well. HECA to guarantee water quality and volume (gallons/minute) equal to or better than the existing well, with a minimum guarantee of 15 years life of the new well.
6. Monitor for chill hours. Put in a weather station on HECA’s exterior to monitor temperature stability to insure that HECA is not interfering with the chill factor near HECA. Compensate for fluctuations.
7. A groundwater monitoring committee. Should be funded by HECA to monitor water quality and level to ensure adjacent landowners are protected. The committee will develop detailed operational constraints. Representatives of property owners should be committee members.
8. Air monitor. Require HECA to fund an air monitor station on their exterior. HECA has denied this request. But the people deserve to know what we are breathing. For the public’s daily knowledge it should be tied into the San Joaquin real time advisory network and should measure at least ozone, PM10, and PM2.5. They are using Shafter’s air monitor for the base line. It’s the wrong direction and assumption. Reject Shafter. Arvin is better and the more health protective choice for this base line. But better yet, we need our own. How about near the Tupman school? We need a base line locally before construction, and monitor throughout the life of the project in Tupman.
9. Require HECA to mitigate the loss of prime farmland.
10. Reject HECA’s reply to AIR Data request 32. Field workers asked if HECA could potentially make the air near the site worse than it currently is, and will HECA produce any chemicals or toxics that could be dangerous if workers were exposed to them. HECA again replied that their purchased offsets will “ensure a net air quality benefit.” Stop deceiving us! Require HECA to answer the INTENT of the questions by these farm workers.

We are pleased that Kern is a leader in renewable energy in California with solar and wind. No county is producing more electricity in the state than Kern. We are already doing our part for energy, and we are doing it responsibly. It makes no sense to risk our established agricultural economy with this UNTESTED idea that will pollute our air, jeopardize food safety, fill our dumps with their waste, and drain our precious groundwater. Please tell the CEC no thanks. The Kern County Board of Supervisors thinks HECA is not a good fit in the area they have chosen.

HECA Neighbors
Presentation to Kern County Board of Supervisors on February 26, 2013
With attached signatures from local area residents
HECA Neighbors

Chris Romanini
John Romanini
Hendell Heck
Bessie Heck
(Joseph Kosaroff)
Sasha Volkoff

Rhett B. Wolfe
Jan E. Wolfe
David Fuentes
Anaclete Ramirez
Norman Shepard

L.C. Shepherd
Zeesi Rocka

Adrian Ramirez
Sal Kittel
Lewis Ferranti

Roman Espinoza
Honorato Espinoza
Joe S. Espinoza
Larry Antonjovan
Ade Antonyovan
Albino Escarros Jr.
Adrian Espinoza et al.
Beverly D. Garcia
Edward Kosaroff
Kathy Kosaroff

Pattie L. Romanini
Damian Sandoval

Jaime Espinoza

(Mark Romanini)

Evelin Romanini
Brad Roman
Cherylee Roman
HECA Neighbors

Marie Parsons
Walter Parsons

Víctor Duarte
Remón Aguilar
David Monahan
Juan Díaz
Reginald Villagómez

Vicente Ibárraga

José Manuel Martínez
Carlos A. López
José Martínez
Julian Parsons

Jeff Parsons

Salvador Martínez
Alino Martínez
HECA Neighbors

James Iribarren
Juan Perez
Efrain Ramos
Jim Parran
Eric Chamblee
Kelley Amundola
Nick Amundola
Allen Rios
Eli Rios
Alice St. Thomas

Jr. Parsons
Jenna St. Thomas
Matt St. Thomas
Mary St. Thomas

Chelsea McElroy
Danielle Tipton
Stu Cabella
Lauren Jones
Kyle Jones

Zeph Jones
Amber Gibson
Brandon Gonzales
Payton Jones

Allison
Christopher

Josh Green
Sean Lamb
Amy Hinojos
Tim Hinojos Jr.

Terry Zamaro
Elise Zamaro

Leonel Zamaro
Sigfredo Casique
Ray Zamaro
Dear Attorneys,

Mason Snow Jr.

[Signature]
Elisa Zamora
Terry Zamora
Andres Bonilla
HECA Neighbors

Donald R. Von Lue
Sarah E. Hoatcher
Hendrick Thorpe
Linda Waller
Steve D. E.
Roger Aliss
Jeremiah Vansoy
Lori Bennett
Myaudi Brown
Harvey Stark
Dee Madison
William Madison
Marge Lemmon
Vernon Lemmon
Fred Moore
Roger Barnes
Charles Ewen
Mindy Barnes

Nicola Bennett
Carl Lemenon
Tommy Harman
Tom Stark
Gusha Staff
Billie Ewen
Reba Howard
Billie Howard
Anna Cannon
Lee Anne James
Charles Ewen
Jane Radin
Roger Ambrose
Jerry Reaves
Jessie & Martha
Peter Heath

HECK NO HFA
**AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION**
**FOR THE HYDROGEN ENERGY CALIFORNIA PROJECT**

**Docket No. 08-AFC-08A**
**PROOF OF SERVICE (Revised 2/11/13)**

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After docketing, the Docket Unit will provide a copy to the persons listed below. Do not send copies of documents to these persons unless specifically directed to do so.

KAREN DOUGLAS
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ANDREW McALLISTER
Commissioner and Associate Member

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Hearing Adviser

Galen Lemei
Adviser to Presiding Member

Jennifer Nelson
Adviser to Presiding Member

David Hungerford
Adviser to Associate Member

Patrick Saxton
Adviser to Associate Member

Eileen Allen
Commissioners’ Technical Adviser for Facility Siting
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Chris Romanini, declare that on March 1, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached Petition to Kern County Board of Supervisors, dated February 26, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hydrogen_energy/.

The document has been sent to the other persons on the Service List above in the following manner:

(Check one)

For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

X I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those persons noted above as “hard copy required”;

OR

Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: March 1, 2013 /s/ Chris Romanini