

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

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HECA Neighbors

Chris Romanici

John Renner

Kendall Heck

Bessie Heck

(Joseph Kosareff)

Sasha Volkoff

Rud B. Wolfe

John E. White

David Fuentes

Adalberto Ramirez

Norman Shepherd

~~Rev~~
L. C. Shepherd

Mohi Roka

Adrian Ramirez

~~Paul Kellner~~

Lewis Feuerstein

Roman Espinoza

Honrado Espinoza

Jac S. Espinoza

LARRY HATZIGORAN

Alto Antonjovanni

Albino Cacaras Jr.

Одрина Ефрасто итн

Beverly D. Coaraz

Edward Rosengall

Kathy Rosen

mit K...

Pattal Konar

Ramiro Sandoval



[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

_____ (MARK Komanini)

Quilan Lomavivi

Byrd R.

Cheryl R.

HECA Neighbors

Marie Parsons

Walter Parsons

Victor Duarte

Ramón Aguilar

León Molar

Juan Díaz

Rigoberto Villagran L.

Vicente-IbAYVA

José Manuel Martínez

Carlos A. López

Jose-martinez

Julian Parsons

JEFF PARSONS

Salvador martinez

albino martinez

HECA Neighbors

James IRIZARRY

Juan Perez

EFRAIN RAMOS

Joe Paterson

Eric CHAMBLEE

Kelly Amendola

Nick Amendola

Allen Perucci

Jori Perucci

Alice Parsons

Lane Parsons

Joseph Johnson

Danny Johnson

Mary Johnson

Walter Baley

John Johnson

John Johnson

Shakila

Chelsea McElmry

Danielle Tipton

Will Cabella

Lauren Jones

Kyle Jones

Zeph Jones

Amber Gibson

Brandon Gonzales

Payton Jones

Allen

Cheryl

Lea

Hugh

Eli

Josh Green

Sean Lamb

Amy Hinojos

Tim Hinojos Jr

Terry Zamora

Elisa Zamora

Leonila Zamora


Sigifredo Casique

Ray Zamora



~~Mason Snow~~

Christina L. Snow



BEAD ATTENDING

Mason Snow Jr.

Elisa Zamora
Terry Zamora
Andres Bonilla

TUPMAN

HECA Neighbors

Donald R. Van Lee
 Sarah E. Doatcher
 Richard Rhodes
 Linda Wilton
~~Steve~~

Roger Ellis ON
 Jeremiah Van Scoy
 Lori Bennett
~~Michael~~
 Mark Cate
 Harvey Stark
 C. Stole

Lee Malloy
 William Maddox
 Marge Lemmons
 Vernon Lemmons
 Fred Morn
 John Korne
 Charles Erwin
 Mindy Hany

Michael Bennett
 Carl Lemmons

Thomas Hartman
 Carl Stark
~~James Stark~~
 Fuba Shoffel

X Billie Erwin
 Debra Howard
 Billy Howard
 Anna Cannon

Jee Anna James
 Charles E. Hart
 Jane Hart
~~Bill~~
 Roger Almond
 Jerry Reames
 Jessie L. Muth
 Peter Hartman

HECK NUTHERA

John S. S. S.
Ock Serrnos

Capit
Jamie Sander
Dimit Serrnos

My Serrnos



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
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**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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will provide a copy to the persons
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documents to these persons
unless specifically directed to do
so.*

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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