

From: Eric Solorio
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>>> Steve Cyr <mamasboy@hughes.net> 4/23/2010 5:23 PM >>>
Eric Solorio, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your chairmanship of the solar project workshop in Ridgecrest this week. The impression that I was able to come away with after listening to the applicant's responses as issues surrounding the project were raised was one which only brought my concerns regarding the project to a higher state of alarm. The stated methods the applicant proposed for dust control were so obviously inadequate that they were staggering. No third party monitoring, a clear underestimation of atmospheric events at the site and a failure to address our current nonconforming air quality to name but a few. Even their description of the dust management approach: to immediately shut down operations, is a contradiction of logic. Do they propose to send home the water trucks which are tasked with watering the ground? Are they willing instead to run these trucks 24 hours a day for the five straight that our last wind event lasted? Under the parameters they proposed, they would be lucky to have 8 months out of a working year for purposes of grading and soil relocation. If this project goes forward it will rely on force, not on sound practices. What is obvious is the lack of practical, on the ground knowledge of the area they wish to attack, statistical modeling and bureaucratic regulation shuffling notwithstanding. This is no where more clearly evident in their failure to grasp the weight that cultural issues will bring to bear. The reason that Ridgecrest's air quality does not meet state air quality standards is fairly simple. Ridgecrest is surrounded on three sides by OHV use areas designated by the BLM. Specifically, these are the Rademaker -Wagon Wheel , Freemont Valley trail system, Jawbone and Doves Springs. On the fourth side are the Sierras and Northern air flow from the Owens dry lake. The tendency of ohv enthusiasts to revel in environmental destruction, specifically erosion and dust production , is carried as a badge of pride in that community. We in Ridgecrest pay the price for this in nonconforming PM10 levels. If, as is stated by the applicant , their equipment is as sensitive to dust as they claim, they will no doubt have to deal with this issue. This will entail higher maintenance costs than they realize. The only other option is to curtail ohv use in the area. While the BLM is unwilling to do this to protect the health of Ridgecrest, maybe the solar project will have better luck. Fortunately since the bulk of these riders are from other areas, it should be simple enough to take their activities to other ohv designated areas. Not so simple with our local riders -most of which will try to work with new restrictions as imposed. The issue that the solar project will eventually have to face is the small yet significant sub culture of hooligan riders who reject all attempts of regulation- inside or outside of city limits. Our local law enforcement has been unable to deal effectively with these folks and it would be unwise for the solar project not to anticipate vandalism should attempts be made to deny them free-range. This would eventually require a significant increase in fenced area around the plant beyond what the plan currently calls for. These are but a few of the unforeseen eventualities that will crop up should the project go forward. After all, to my knowledge, none of the panel personnel at the workshop are Ridgecrest residents. Still, the mere act of placing such a large project in such a sensitive area so close to a major

population center is more than careless, it is sinister. The political and financial implications of such exploitation and the corruption that it suggests have not escaped the notice of those concerned. While I am clearly against this project beginning, my greatest fear is that it will be started and abandoned-leaving a wasted environment in it's wake. Who will be responsible for the damages? Why is no one from the EPA and CDC on the panel? Why can't the plant at Kramer's Junction be repaired and expanded instead? If Solar Millennium needs cheap BLM land to do this, why not put in Essex along route 66 in San Bernardino co.? There's no one there, they have ground water, roads and power lines. It's perfect and it's there.
Thanks, Steve Cyr