

FAX

Dear Mr. Solario:

Water. It all boils down to water in the desert; in the Indian Wells Valley; in Ridgecrest, CA. Do we have enough? For our daily uses, for regional growth and expansion, for new industrial uses, for the future?

Water. What will its future quality be? Will it be as good and sweet as my well water is now? The life of everything in this valley depends upon it, water.

Of all the issues facing the proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project, water is key.

With an overdrafted aquifer below us, the future of the IWW is uncertain.. As stated by the general manager, Tom Mulvihill, at a recent special meeting of the Indian Wells Water District (4/19/2010), annual usage from our aquifer is about 28,000 acre feet. Annual recharge is only about 9000 acre feet. One doesn't have to be a math whiz to figure the results of these numbers if we don't gets lots more rain over the next many years.

And what amount of mitigation will it take to maintain our current status and allow for future development here in the IWW? Maybe the contractor could mitigate by building a de-salinisation plant to help provide water for the IWW. That seems more realistic than the "Cash for Grass" program they've proposed.

While I am in favor of alternative energy projects, the siting for this one seems too fraught with unknowns and variables. Why not site it closer to the California Aqueduct and use that water for the project? Especially since the power generated will go to Southern California, and after all, that's their water.

Hoping that the powers that be will give this project lots more study, consideration, and thought, before giving the go-ahead. And in 30 years, when the project has served its usefulness and will be no more, what will be left in this valley? Will there be ...water?

Sincerely,

Sarah Zegers

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