

First off lets speak in numbers that most of us present can understand.

One acre foot of water equals approximately 325,851 gallons.

Beacon Solar estimates they would use approximately 1,600 acre feet per year of groundwater.

1,600 acre feet of groundwater is equal to approximately 521,361,600 gallons.

521,361,600 gallons of water is enough to turn California City central park into an 80 acre lake 20 feet deep.

A lake would be more beneficial to the area than 1200 acres of mirrors.

Kern County Planning Department preliminary comments concerning the Beacon Solar project dated April 22, 2008 says, water resources are limited in this area of eastern Kern County. The use of potable groundwater for this project should be discouraged and other sources required. Staff recommends exploration of all possible sources of reclaimed water or degraded groundwater, before approving the use of significant potable groundwater supplies.

On June 5, 2008 in newspapers across the nation California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought.

He warned that residents and water managers must immediately cut their water use or face the possibility of rationing next year.

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He also stated, “water is like our gold and we have to treat it like that”.

From their Application for Certification dated March 2008 Beacon Solar states, extraction of groundwater to support power plant requirements can result in changes to local groundwater elevations. This in turn, could potentially reduce the pumping capacities of nearby wells and increase the energy costs of pumping from those wells.

The energy Beacon Solar creates will be sold to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

This is another case of Los Angeles abusing the resources of Kern County.

First they want to use Kern County for a sewage dump, then they want to use Kern County for a trash dump and now they want to pump out 521,361,600 gallons of groundwater per year

What protection for the current groundwater users in the area of this project is the California Energy Commission applying to this project in the event groundwater levels change dramatically?