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Rural Community Rising

Comment by Felipe Perez of Rural Communities Rising on Darden Clean Energy Project

In my understanding of this Darden Clean Energy Project, the California Energy Commission (CEC), which regulates this company's permit approval process, is committed to improving public policies regarding energy, like to improve the cost and that every human being has the opportunity to access the energy resources of our region, the San Joaquin Valley. All of these values connect with the organization of Rural Communities Rising (RCR), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) of which I have the honor of being the founder and president, whose objective is to serve the more than 36 incorporated and unincorporated communities where today agriculture is their main livelihood and for which many of these families suffer from marginalization and extreme poverty. We at RCR want their voices to be heard. Therefore, my work since last year has been to speak with more than 600 people and to receive their comments through interviews, help them be members of RCR, so that we can put their voices on the table of CEC and Darden. However, until today, Darden has decided to only listen to a few organizations that are not the actual residents of our rural area communities, as are the people represented by RCR. For this reason, I would like you to take into account the comments of our organization and make them valid, and that Darden really helps to improve these rural areas and not just the interests of a few service organizations. Please see what we are doing at our website and work with us:
<https://ruralcommunitiesrising.org/>