

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Darden Clean Energy Project
<b>TN #:</b>	262524
<b>Document Title:</b>	Rural Communities Rising Board MemberCommunity Advocate Comments - Equity and Inclusion for All Rural and Vulnerable Communities Impacted
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<b>Organization:</b>	Rural Communities Rising Board Member/Community Advocate
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*Comment Received From: Rural Communities Rising Board Member/Community Advocate*

*Submitted On: 3/29/2025*

*Docket Number: 23-OPT-02*

## **Equity and Inclusion for All Rural and Vulnerable Communities Impacted**

As a Rural Communities Rising (RCR) Board Member, I support and see the value of the Darden Clean Energy Project in the Westside of Fresno County. We support investment in our rural communities which most of the time struggles with development, job-creation, job opportunities, affordable housing, rent gouging (as a result of housing speculation), limited health services, and educational opportunities for children. Many rural communities, Incorporated and Un-Incorporated have been abandon by elected officials for decades in the area of: equity, inclusion, investment, community beatification projects, improvement transportation projects, and educational technology projects for children. It is imperative for the Darden Clean Energy Project and the California Energy Commission to ensure at all Community Benefits Agreement reach the most impacted and vulnerable families in the affected areas. The Rural Communities Rising (RCR) was created and form specifically to make sure hard-working farmworker families living in the Westside of Fresno County (Incorporated and Unincorporated communities) are not left behind or overlooked when it come to direct community benefits. Currently, RCR has been diligently speaking to families in the 36 communities located in the Darden Clean Energy Project Region educating families of the pros and cons of such project. In the various town-hall meeting and over 600 survey (and/or questionnaires), RCR has documented the many needs in the affected region. Our registered Non-Profit is guided by the 7 Health Principals and Board Members are required to sign Conflict of Interest statements. I ask the California Energy Commission to ensure that all communities impacted are treated with equity and inclusion with it comes to Community Benefits Agreements (CBA's) because many families have been left behind. Many rural communities have been force to drive long distances for employment due to a reduction of farmland in the area. Other changes express by the families include limited places to purchases groceries, fuel stations, little or no access to a health clinic, and/or a park for their children to play. Other grave concerns from families living in the Westside of Fresno County is increasing risk for "Valley Fever" and access to safe drinking water. I, Eliseo GamiÃ±o, am committed to work with the Darden Clean Energy Project and the California Energy Commission to advocate for inclusion for all families living in the impacted region.

<https://ruralcommunitiesrising.org/>

Below, please find a few examples of our community outreach and community education that has been taking place since last year or most recent.

Eliseo Gamino Comments on Video 3-26-25

<https://youtu.be/fZA2Skk1d68>

Firebaugh Middle School 11-23-24

Father/Padre Rayanna Pudota...<https://youtu.be/pnbYtWbIL-U>

Mr. Jos   Antonio Ramirez Presents "Rural Communities Rising" Opportunities  
<https://youtu.be/NYethiNUlcQ>

Leader, Ofelia Ochoa of Mendota Speaks: <https://youtu.be/G81WCv4Bn64>

Mr. Armin M. Garc  a (CTO--S  en, Inc.) [https://youtu.be/XeR\\_U9Re3Z0](https://youtu.be/XeR_U9Re3Z0)

Mr. Armin M. Garc  a Toma La Palabra...<https://youtu.be/i5xOWwUj6qk>