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Comment Received From: Kenneth B Waxlax

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re Palen Project

Dear Energy Commission,

Thanks for encouraging comments across all CEC projects. The Palen project seems to attract a fair amount of criticism, which is unfortunate.

I listened intently to the cultural resources public comments, and they were compelling. Someone said the tribes and our governments don't speak the same language. That is true going back to the 1600's. All cultures have spiritual beliefs. Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Native Americans and all the rest, have their own traditions. All are different, all have creation beliefs which vary widely. However, if they live in America, they follow the same laws, ordinances, and rules established by elected representative governments. If the LORS are respected, this project should be permitted and built.

The notion of data gaps and of doing more studies is mentioned often. Given the CEC staff requirement, this project and the surrounding 30 miles has already been well studied, will be more extensively studied, and will certainly add to the knowledge base of Colorado desert in the Chuckwalla Basin. This is a contribution that would probably go unfunded without the solar developers.

There are some sensitive habitats that will require compensatory mitigation, however that effort is certainly achievable and well underway. There is no doubt it will be fully accomplished.

If we believe a shift to sustainable energy is important to stem the tide of global climate change, then responsible projects like these must be built. Rooftop solar may become a larger component in the energy mix over time, but we need more solar energy now. Utility-scale projects are important in that respect. No energy technology is perfect, but this project is very good. Even the power towers surrounded by heliostats may well become an attraction to I-10 travelers. If I had young kids in the car, I would certainly want to use that opportunity to view the project, and talk about why it's there and why it's important to them and all of us.

I support this project hope it will be permitted and built. Someone said if we stopped using energy, we would all be equal and live in better society. I don't know about that last part, but I'm pretty sure the world will keep using energy. And the cleaner it is the better for the Earth.

Sincere Thanks,

Kenneth B Waxlax

Coachella Valley resident and realtor