

DOCKETED

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HECA Neighbors Status Report
Aug 12, 2013

HECA please docket 08 AFC 8A

Conflict on Date of Workshop in Buttonwillow: Kern County Fair is Sept 18 - Sept 29. Rural families are very involved in fair activities, especially with their 4-H project animals. When discussing potential workshop dates with a school board member, she said few, if any parents from her district would attend the workshop if it were during the fair, due to family fair commitments.

HECA Neighbors is reviewing the PSA and will be commenting further.

Initial Comments:

The PSA is lacking much information. The public can not respond intelligently with so much unresolved in this document. Please have HECA fund a revised PSA prior to the final once the requested data is provided. No other way can the public understand the scope of the issues and be involved effectively.

We question why SJVAPCD has not chosen to begin using their newer 4.1:1 inter pollutant trading ratio for SOx for PM for HECA which they adopted in 2012. . The CA Air Resource Board approved it in Jan 2013. SJVAPCD needs to go back and redo the ratios from the older 1.1:1. It would better control HECA's pollution, and you would think that would be the mission of the air district.

HECA Neighbors asked, and the Kern County Farm Bureau asked, for a Financial commitment such as a bond for the life of the project. That request has been ignored. Please address it. With the complexity of this project and the acknowledgement of staff that it will not be accident free, and leaks are prone to happen, those most at risk should be better acknowledged. Neighbors are exposed with Personal liability, pollution problems, land contamination, food contamination, and more. With the potential for huge events from HECA activities and the demonstration definition of the project, HECA should have insurance in place to cover the unexpected such as in Denbury, Miss., West, Texas, or the tomato spill in Buttonwillow Aug 12, 2013.

Divergence between CEQU and NEPA. So who's rules supersede?

CEQA is to look at alternatives, including location. Kern County Supervisors asked for a new location not on prime farm land. Seyed Sedredin from the SJVAPCD described at the Feb 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting a similar plant in North Dakota, and that plant pumps its CO2 over 200 miles away for sequestration. Obviously, there are plenty of options for location alternatives. BUT.....

NEPA won't allow a site change after Sept 20, 2010!!! How can that be?? This is not the same project as proposed prior to Sept. 2010. SCS did not even own HECA in 2010. And after 2010 SCS changed the project into a chemical factory, endangering students, land, and food safety. It is now a different project. An alternate location is a must!!

I reject the CEC's statement that the applicant has already invested significant resources in purchasing options to buy the land. They did not buy the land; they only bought options. The surrounding neighbors on prime farm land have also invested significant resources. And we don't have the option to go to an alternative site.

We challenge that HECA did not do an alternative study. It was fraudulent at best, presenting Intervener Romanini's land as alternative #1.

And more divergences exist between CEQU and NEPA.

Traffic

Please explain TRANS-1 and how it will protect tractor drivers traveling 10 mph, sometimes with equipment wider than the road lane? On roads with HECA's 1000 trucks on a time schedule? Please discuss harvest activity, with heavy farm equipment impacting the roads. Please discuss pistachio harvesting equipment turning onto country roads to exit and re-enter each row for harvest?

Where is the delivery routes for pet coke from Santa Maria? Wasco Way has been studied. Is that on a truck route? Wasco Way at 58 is a very dangerous intersection, and it is on the Buttonwillow school bus route. What is the traffic pattern in and out of HECA? We object to Dairy Rd being used for construction traffic, or any HECA related traffic. Please restrict all traffic to Station and Morris.

Respectfully
Chris Romanini
HECA Neighbors