

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: John T. Vidovich

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John T. Vidovich of Sandridge Partners' Comments on HECA

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

SANDRIDGE PARTNERS

November 20, 2013

Mr. John Heiser
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Hydrogen Energy Center Application

Dear Mr. Heiser,

I am the President of the Board of Directors and a farmer in Buena Vista Water Storage District. My family and local partners own about 11,000 acres in the District. Our plan is to convert and develop all our suitable BVWSD lands into higher value permanent crops. Such crops include pistachios, pomegranates and dried-on-the vine raisins. These permanent crops will mean higher paying jobs and demand for local services. The impact on the local economy are enormous. Much of the processing is also local, such as our new juice plant we have built in the District. Currently we are juicing raisins and pomegranates locally and generally saving diesel fuel by processing local. I could go on. When fully develop we will have investment over \$250,000,000 in just the crops excluding our processing investments. Processing could add another one hundred million investment. A long term sustainability of the BVWSD water supply is critical to our investment in farming and processing.

I have lands within and all around the Brackish Groundwater Areas A and B talked about by your staff in the analysis of the HECA project. I am very aware of which areas I cannot realistically drill wells to get suitable water for my crops. I fully support BVWSD developing the Area B to pump up to 7500 acre-feet annually of high TDS water. Currently the groundwater that BVWSD recharges to the basin flows out of the District where it gets pumped out of the ground by farmers to the east of BVWSD.

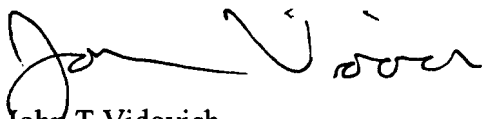
The technical people tell me that if the high TDS water is removed by the HECA field that it will be replaced by higher quality water. Landowners in the area of the well field understand that the bad water zone is enlarging. The plan is to pump out the bad water, and replace it with good water from the Districts existing recharge programs. This would be an improvement for the growers within the District.

I, along with a select few other growers are the ones at risk for the continued expansion of the high TDS zone. I have given this concept a great deal of thought, and have talked with many technical experts before formulating my opinion. While many here speak passionately, I speak as an agri-businessman, who has millions invested. I see the HECA project as a great way of protecting my investment, and the investments of all my adjacent landowners who continue to see the high TDS water encroach on our lands.

An opportunity like this rarely comes along. Our groundwater is threatened by expanding high TDS zone. The District wants to address this problem but needs a partner. The District found a willing partner in HECA. They are willing to help the district by safely removing this brackish water and keep it from mixing with the high quality groundwater that covers most of the District and an invested farmer. This will protect our groundwater and ensure sustainable farming in this area.

As President of the Board of Directors of the Buena Vista Water Storage District I will make sure the staff of our District actively manages this brackish groundwater pumping plan, ensuring that high TDS water is being pumped, and that the groundwater in the adjacent area is not being degraded. I am confident in their abilities, as well as the expertise of District hired consultants to insure the groundwater in the District will support the continued investment of all of the adjacent landowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Vidovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

John T. Vidovich
Sandridge Partners