

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	08-AFC-08A
<b>Project Title:</b>	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
<b>TN #:</b>	202432
<b>Document Title:</b>	Protest in Buttonwillow
<b>Description:</b>	A transcript and video links of how local news media covered a protest against HECA
<b>Filer:</b>	Tom Frantz
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Association of Irrigated Residents  
Tom Frantz, President  
29389 Fresno Ave  
Shafter, CA 93263

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California Energy Commission  
Re: Hydrogen Energy California 08-AFC-8A

It is important for the interested public and the CEC to see the attention the media is paying to this application. They should also be aware of events concerning a project which are not part of the commission scheduling. The following is about a recent event in Buttonwillow directly arising out of the HECA AFC.

**“Protesters rallying against planned coal plant in West Bakersfield”**

Those were the headlines on the 23 ABC evening news in Bakersfield on April 26, 2014.

A protest rally took place around noon on April 26 outside the HECA information office in Buttonwillow which is located on Hwy 58 and Front Street. The HECA office is also across the street from the local Kern County Sheriff's Office. The protest was attended by several dozen people. Protestors gave speeches stating why they were against the project and they chanted slogans for “clean air” and against “HECA”. They held up signs for passing vehicles to see and they spoke with the local media who covered the event.

A video of the newscast and summary of the news story may be found at this link to the television station web page:

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/protesters-rallying-against-planned-coal-plant-in-west-bakersfield-042614>

The newscast may also be found on youtube at this link:

<http://youtu.be/cKYO8mH9CT4>

A privately made video of the event has also been posted on youtube here:

<http://youtu.be/oCSi8KbKmgU>

A transcript of the 23 ABC newscast is available below.

**“Protestors say 'Heca' plant will increase pollution”**

**News Anchor:** Operators say it would be a source of clean energy. But, today people from around Kern County rallied in Buttonwillow against a proposed coal plant there. 23

ABC's John Genovese explains why some say building the plant will just increase the pollution.

**Protest leader:** When I say clean air, you say yes. Clean Air!

**Protestors:** Yes!

**Protest leader:** Clean Air!

**Protestors:** Yes!

**Chris Romanini:** Trucks will be coming right past our ranch, right through our ranch.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** A ranch that has been in Chris Romanini's family for four generations.

**Chris Romanini:** It is described as a power plant but actually they are using most, if not all, of the power to make fertilizers and chemicals.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** In front of the fence at the company's Buttonwillow office protestors rallied to protest the proposed Hydrogen Energy California plant that they say will propel more pollution.

**Chris Romanini:** These people living the closest are the most at risk and they feel like they have not been heard.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** The plant would be built two miles north of Tupman. The company says coal and petroleum would be converted to hydrogen and carbon dioxide and 90% of that CO2 would be stored under the ground. According to HECA the plant would meet or exceed all local, state, and federal standards. Adding too, that CO2 has been piped underground for 40 years.

**Unidentified protestor:** You have these chemicals and we really don't know how carcinogenic they are, we really don't know the effects...

**John Genovese, Reporter:** ...effects from chemicals that are part of the process. Activists say if there was an accident at the plant it could have devastating impacts on the community.

**Don Van Lue:** If they got a leak, even if a transfer pipe leaked, they got a leak at night or something like that and they didn't catch it, it could be in Tupman in a matter of minutes, and everybody there dead.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** A chilling scenario for Don van Lue who lives less than two miles away from the proposed site.

**Don Van Lue:** We've got a school there with 200 kids in it. You know, its just a bad place for a bad thing in a bad spot.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** Bad enough that Chris says she wouldn't keep her family within distance of the fumes.

**Chris Romanini:** We have six grandchildren which we would like to share our heritage with but if this was to be next door to our ranch we cannot encourage the next generation to come on and expose their health to these risks.

**John Genovese, Reporter:** In Buttonwillow, John Genovese, 23 ABC.

**News Anchor:** 23 ABC reached out to Hydrogen Energy California for comments but we haven't heard back yet. The project has already received backing from the Valley Air Pollution Control District.