DOCKETED	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	08-AFC-08A
<b>Project Title:</b>	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
TN #:	202812
<b>Document Title:</b>	Ruth Musser-Lopez in opposition to HECA 08-AFC-08A 7-25-14
Description:	Ruth Musser-Lopez, candidate for California Senate District 16 opposes HECA project.
Filer:	Ruth Musser-Lopez
Organization:	Ruth Musser-Lopez for CA Senate 2014
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/25/2014 1:52:10 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	7/25/2014



July 25, 2014

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION Efiled at CEC docket #08-AFC-08A 7/25/2014

Dear CEC Commissioners,

## WHAT THE HECA?

Months have passed since a legal notice was published by the San Joaquin Valley Air District on Feb 13, 2013 in this paper with regard to yet another application, for a "send it down to Kern" dirty air credit permit—HECA they call it. SCS Energy of Concord, Massachusetts is the owner. See HECAinfo.com

Pitched as a "job creator," it is an experimental scheme to gasify (a new word for burn) a newer, shinier version of 1.5 million tons of New Mexico coal annually to produce "hydrogen energy" near Tupman, California. Much of the energy produced would be used to manufacture chemical fertilizer with little net energy for the grid. Local jobs promised are 200, amounting to less than many retail stores but would threaten the loss of farming related jobs.

The so-called "clean coal" element of the project sounds healthy but in reality burning it would release significant toxic pollutants into the air and the operation would take 6.6 million gallons every day of the slightly brackish water currently being used on almonds and pistachios in the area.

The use of the term "hydrogen energy" also gives the impression of "clean" but alarmingly, the legal notice is ominous proof of the intent to add significant pollution to our lovely Kern County air, already identified by the American Lung Association as the worst in the nation.

Particulate emissions alone cause damage to lungs and arteries from the inside out—this project will emit huge poundages of particulates.

But the worst part of it has to do with why the "experimental" project is being brought here in the first place.

The corporate promise of loosely regulated out-of-state companies, once again, to shove waste into the "extreme downward" where it "will stay," they say, in "deep oil wells." For HECA the CO2 waste stream to be sequestered is enormous amounting to 2,600,000 more TONS per year.

CO2, carbon dioxide is the bad stuff that makes your body burp, your bones porous and ("spoiler alert") in large quantities, causes global warming. With the addition of CO2, a well filled with oily gas and other hazardous chemicals previously injected there could potentially contract "environmental gastroenteritis" ending with a belch of the entire hazardous mess erupting like a toxic volcano. It has been reported that CO2 has eaten through old, capped wells and spewed CO2, methane, brine, oil, and drilling muds in Mississippi. One vented for over a month. In another case, gas was bubbling up in a near by water well. For California, earthquakes causing releases should also be considered.

While an oil company with a deep well has yet to accept the liability of sequestering the CO2, It's rumored that Occidental Oil, currently reorganizing "out-of-state" thus shedding its California liabilities, is preparing a new corporate instrument to take on the risk.

Sunny California is fortunate to have lots of truly clean energy solutions: solar, wave, wind. geothermal, hydroelectric. Why, with all of its potential, does this district under my opponent Senator Jean Fuller's leadership, insist on going backward to coal from out-of-state? Why does the state continue to spend taxpayer dollars to process these irrational, irresponsible and resource depletive plans. Does it have anything to do with her \$22,800 in contributions from oil companies including \$3,900 from Occidental?

My own run for office is an extension of my 27-year grass roots campaign to stop desert water heists on the east side of Senate District 16, such as a recent pump and pipe plans which would turn the rare and amazingly rich environment of the East Mojave Desert into a sandy Sahara. Eliminating unnecessary projects that waste massive amounts of water would increase availability and thus reduce the incentive to heist desert water.

That I may inform my supporters so that they may have a voice in this project, please let me know when the California Energy Commission (CEC) <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hydrogen\_energy/">http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hydrogen\_energy/</a> will hold its hearing on this disastrous plan.

Sincerely,

Ruth Musser-Lopez

Candidate for State Senate District 16

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