

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	08-AFC-08A
Project Title:	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
TN #:	202906
Document Title:	Rudy Salas, Jr., Member of the Assembly, 32nd District Comments: Letter dated 07.23.14 to Chair Weisenmiller
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Rudy Salas, Jr., Member of the Assembly, 32nd District
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/12/2014 11:35:35 AM
Docketed Date:	8/12/2014

Comment Received From: Rudy Salas, Jr., Member of the Assembly, 32nd District

Submitted On: 8/12/2014

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Letter dated 07.23.14 to Chair Weisenmiller

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Assembly California Legislature



RUDY SALAS, JR.
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

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July 23, 2014

Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D., Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Weisenmiller:

As you are aware, it has been over a year since the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Preliminary Staff Assessment Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) Project was released. In that draft, several areas of concern were raised and as the agency with responsibility for permitting these facilities, the community has asked me to reach out to you to get answers to some specific questions and if any issues have been resolved.

- The executive summary states that HECA will receive \$8,747,160 for the purpose of mitigating air quality impacts of the facility. Will these funds be used to also install an air monitor? It has been brought to my attention that currently the closest air monitor is in Shafter, which is significant distance to the site. Rio Bravo Greely School and Tupman Elk Hills School have requested an air monitor in nearby Tupman, which would most accurately gauge the air quality impacts of the facility.
- The method of cooling the HECA plant is also of great concern. In this extreme drought, dry cooling as opposed to the use of water would be most beneficial. The report said that HECA individuals were looking into dry cooling – has a determination been made?
- Local farmers have brought to my attention a concern regarding the transparency of potential risks associated with this new type of plant. Public disclosure of the confidential report of "worst case scenario" risks would help the public to feel secure, specifically the accidental release of anhydrous ammonia.
- Kern County Farm Bureau has requested a bond to protect nearby farmland and offset any potential damage to farms, crops, or land. I urge you to consider this request as the Central Valley is the breadbasket of the nation and protecting the integrity of this food is vital to all Americans.

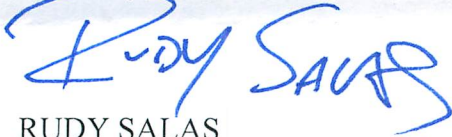
Received 8.11.14

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- Savage Coal expansion is likely to have considerable cumulative impacts in the nearby City of Wasco. This raises environmental justice issues, what if any steps have been taken to address this?
- Finally, how does HECA plan to deal with by-product waste in the event that no company purchases the fertilizer?

Please let me know if there are any updates, or if the above mentioned issues have been addressed in any way. Should you have any question or wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 319-2032.

Sincerely,



RUDY SALAS
Member of the Assembly
32nd District

RS:jr