

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Hydrogen Energy Center Application for Certification Amendment
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Exhibit E

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission

In the Matter of:

Docket No. 08-AFC-8A

The Application for Certification for the
Hydrogen Energy California Project

**DECLARATION OF CHRISTINE ROMANINI IN SUPPORT OF JOINT RESPONSE
OBJECTING TO APPLICANT'S REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION**

I, CHRISTINE ROMANINI, declare as follows:

1. I currently live in Bakersfield, California; my family has been farming in Buttonwillow, California for over 100 years. And our sons are the fourth generation on the family farm.
2. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2013. I am also a member of HECA Neighbors, a group that I helped to form which is comprised of farmers, property owners, a recycling company, and an equestrian facility, all of whose property is located near the proposed Hydrogen Energy California project ("HECA").
3. Our farm in Buttonwillow is located approximately a half mile from the proposed HECA project. We currently grow pistachios, cotton, alfalfa and occasionally wheat. The ongoing uncertainty of whether the HECA project will obtain certification to construct has made it extremely difficult for my family to make long term plans on what crops to grow on our land; specifically, on how to finish open fields. Our concerns are related to the cost of investing in permanent plantings that would be severely impacted by the pollution and water resource strain if the HECA plant was built and operational.
4. California is currently in its fourth year of drought; in addition to the impacts caused by the drought, the water needs of the proposed HECA project will have untold consequences for farmers like myself and others here in Buttonwillow and the surrounding areas.
5. We have six grandchildren who live in the area. My husband and I had hoped for this fifth generation to continue in our family farming business. It deeply saddens me that this project could end that story. But with HECA as our neighbor, we do not feel we can reasonably direct them to stay and carry on that dream. Especially concerning are the dangers of being so close to dangerous chemicals like almost 4,000,000 gallons of

anhydrous ammonia. We have now endured 7 years waiting on the HECA decision to see what direction our family business will be going. Now, some of our grandchildren are teenagers. It is time for them to make college decisions ...to study agriculture, or take another path. It is high time to put an end to this ill-conceived project. Lives need to move on. Please do not grant a suspension.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated:

May 15, 2015

At: Bakersfield, California

Signed:


CHRISTINE ROMANINI