

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Mary Shisler  
Submitted On: 6/12/2019  
Docket Number: 19-BUSMTG-02*

## **Mary Shisler comments on ECO Block project**

Dear sirs:

Please forgive my late comments. Unfortunately, I received tardy information regarding your review of this matter. I am sending you letter I composed regarding the ECO BLOCK project. I understand a vote will be taken today. I have a few other comments. The project was poorly explained to us not members of the Syddha Meditation Ashram. When we were first approached by a Syddha member (?) the advantages were vastly over stated and the disadvantages undisclosed. Time commitments were underplayed such as how much time would be spent in committees or just maintaining the micro utlility. Certainly no word on a monthly association fee. I had no idea they were receiving compensation of any kind from their efforts, let alone professional level pay. I thought this was a volunteer activity that they were doing for the benefit of the neighborhood, not themselves. Nothing was offered for my time.

I have never known that they city of Oakland was in any way shape or form giving them money. I am horrified. They by no means have total neighborhood support. I feel this would destroy my home values and since my husband are planning retirement, we can scarcely be impoverished now.

Thank you for this opportunity to reach out. The letter is copied below. If you wish to speak with me, my landline is 510-653-3379.

Yours,

Mary K Shisler

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June 11, 2019  
California Energy Commission, renewable@energy.ca.gov  
City of Oakland,

U.C. Berkeley Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, ophs@berkeley.ed,  
ECO BLOCK

Mayor Libby Schaaf, officeofthmayor@oaklandnet.com

Council person Dan Kalb, dkalb@oaklandca.gov

Dierdra Moss , Community Services Coordinator, dmoss@oaklandca.gov

RE: ECO BLOCK "community involvement"

This letter is regarding the proposed Eco Block on the City of Oakland block bounded by Powell St., Fremont St., 59th Street and Marshall Street.

I have many concerns about the proposed project. I am not quite sure I understand why? Rural people participate in micro-utilities out of necessity. However, their professional skill as farmers grants familiarity with the mechanics of these systems. Farmers need to be jacks of all trades to make a go of the ranch and/or farm. These abilities and attitudes are sadly lacking in this community. And yes, I do know people do volunteer to live off the grid, but they usually in more rural areas.

I feel a certain amount of "bait and switch" sales promotion has been utilized to gain traction for the project. Featuring, but not limited to telling us we would have free solar, new roofs, insulation, and we wouldn't have to worry about permits without disclosing any other facts such as a monthly association fee or how much autonomy we might lose over our homes. I was shocked to find that we are in "implementation" with this project. The last I heard of this was two years ago and we have no information. Certainly not about any of the important details about how they intend to implement the project. I know nothing of how public health will be protected when they take their sewage off the grid.

I feel our housing values will drop drastically because most people do not want to participate in this sort of communal experiment. I, personally, do not want a communal lifestyle.

This a poor neighborhood for a project of this nature. . There has been a lot of conflict between factions of neighbors in the proposed project area. . A fairly solid block of us are adamantly opposed to any connection with this project. This means very little support if by any chance something goes awry and considering the experimental nature of this project it is likely something will. .Lawsuits could arise if anyone to felt that his or her services were interrupted due to the project.

We have received no information from the ECO BLOCK group that allays even the most mundane of concerns such as what exactly do you plan on doing?

I hope you will vote no.

Yours sincerely,

Mary K. Shisler

Let the sun shine in!!!