

ORIGINAL

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
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1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
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Renewable Energy Executive Order S-14-08

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Due to my great concern I am writing this letter. I have been following this energy situation/depression/meltdown of our infrastructure for the last eight years or longer.

I have always been an environmentalist at heart, enjoying living in the foothills of the Sierra Madres and the High Country behind Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Probably the most prophetic affect on my life was my visits to Dale Basin, Joshua Tree National Monument and our Adobe Home in Wonder Valley that my grandfather, Dr. Wm. F. Neugebauer built in 1937-1941, finished at the beginning of WWII. Talk about some tough times.

San Bernardino is the largest county in the United States. District One in which I live in Wonder Valley in my beautiful home with a beautiful view of the whole Dale Basin, Mount San Gorgonio to the west, the dry Dale Lake to the east, the Marine Corps Base to the north and to the south what is now Joshua Tree National Park.

"One Who Does Not Know His Own History Is Destined To Relive It."

I have enjoyed driving every mining road and trail when I was a teenager and before. I cannot ever remember not being here, even though it was only a weekend vacation home fall through spring.

As the summers were unbearable until the 50's when an independent, small power company offered power to anyone off of Historical Route 66; from Twentynine Palms eastward to Sheephole Pass on a "as pay" basis.

In order for us to obtain electricity from said power plant we had to have said plant install approximately one-dozen power poles at our expense. We were promised if anyone added on to said line we would be reimbursed 50% of our

expense and so on and so on until the utility line had been paid for by the community.

In as much the community has paid for the grid and is still being charged for it. I do not see how this can be done.

First power is un-regulated, then regulated, and now currently unregulated taking our small power plants and throwing it into a conglomerate, such as Southern California Edison and "The Grid" and putting it up for bid on the stock market; like so many slices of the pie.

All this "Green Energy" looks really good on paper; everyone is ready to throw their money at it, but at what a cost? Our environment, our way of life, our way of government as now we have gone into partnerships with our banks to try to save ourselves from ourselves.

We must step back and take a look as for we cannot see the forest for the trees. As it is a bigger situation than it looks.

According to Executive Order S-14-08, it is going to be impossible to impact so many areas that the energy producers are looking at for proposed areas are in ecologically endangered areas which according to said document is unlawful, invalid, unethical and unimaginable.

The military has been at the cutting edge of energy technology and applications on their installations and in good faith, like in the medical field when it finds a disease or a cure the government scientists give this technology to the pharmaceutical companies; not sure at what cost?

The military is ready now to give us this new technology that is far superior to solar or wind. Most climates with its harsh environments are hazardous to such solar or wind collection stations, such as in Daggett, that was shut-down due to so much damage and is in a "hold" position for regeneration if at all possible due to such a harsh environment. Wind, sand, thunderstorms, tornadoes do not do the mirrors or the windmills any good.

MAGTFTC MCAGEE in Twentynine Palms has three plans of expansion which includes Private Lands, BLM and Federally Protected Lands.

I hope and pray the military is not doing this as a ploy to get an energy corridor through our beautiful valley by taking these said lands, superseding California's law against taking private property for development other than federally or State or possibly County or City related on a small basis and reviews and planning oversights approved.

The worst part is the transmission towers. We need to use the existing grid we have already paid for and continue to pay for.

I have the privilege to be one of the infamous sand-packers of 1977, out of Agnew Meadows (e.g.: Reds Meadow Pack Station), Mammoth Lakes, CA. Where a great task like out of the 20's, packing a million pounds of sand and cement from Agnew Meadows Pack Station to Waugh Lake.

Where Los Angeles Department of Water and Power receive all or most of their water and power. Waugh Lake is their largest reservoir in the back-country. Approximately 13 miles up Agnew Pass from elevation of 7600 feet to over 9000 feet at the top of Agnew Pass; some of the most beautiful country in the High Sierras.

This task was offered to contractors to helicopter in (lowest bid was 10 cents a pound), would have taken a little more than two weeks. LADWP took advantage of 1977 drought year to recoat the damn with a million pounds of sand and cement as an attempt to manage its infrastructure.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was unable to obtain a permit from the Forest Service for helicopter use for transporting the materials as Waugh Lake is within the Minaret Wilderness Area. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was forced to use mules to complete the project during the drought year.

Thank God for the Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service for preventing this grave mistake. We are ordered to look elsewhere as the helicopters would be offensive and biologically improper for the wildlife management of this endangered area.

So, that brings this letter to my participation to this great undertaking. Since LADWP could not use helicopters or any other means of transportation other than mules and horses frantically scoured the eastern side of the Sierras for anyone willing to participate.

In this impossible challenge/task of packing a million pounds of sand and cement on a mule train. Started in May 1977, clear weather, cold, and little snow at top of Agnew Pass, had to off-load cement on a make-shift platform/cover to prevent from getting wet as ground was too treacherous to travel the rest of the way to Waugh Lake about half of the way (the good half). Although, it was all either up or down, just some better than others.

Actually we got quite a bit done before Mule Days, Memorial Day Weekend 1977 due to the extremely mild winter; Mammoth Mountain's shortest ski season ever. Mule Days was hectic as everyone wanted to participate, hardly anyone did except for Bob Tanner's & Family Red Meadow Pack Station, Agnew Meadow and crew, Dink Getty's Frontier Pack Station and crew, and Herb London Rock Creek Pack Station and crew, whose brave men braved the weather, the mountain, the hazards.

Each packer/mule skinner was in charge of eight mules and his own horse and gear. Caught, saddled all stock before breakfast at 6 a.m., on the trail by 7 a.m. with four fifty-five pound bags on each mule that equals 1776 pounds. (Funny, how it co-insides with the birth of our nation.)

Personally, I was the second-place in the amount of sand and cement delivered to Waugh Lake at 27 trips, which is almost 24 tons (48,000 pounds). Under good circumstances would be almost impossible as during its usual afternoon thundershowers and getting back to the pack station sometimes way after dark. In any other season this task would have been impossible as Agnew Pass usually does not open until after July.

For this task finishing our contract ahead of schedule the LADWP threw a party. We got a little wild as you can imagine. We started to burn the pack boxes as this monumental task had been completed after one string of boxes had been burned. The owner/operator insisted we stop. In eulogy of all the accidents, injuries and wrecks on the trail to complete the task. This all comes at a cost; this cost was \$60,000.00.

Los Angeles just voted on Proposition 8 to put solar panels on top of sky-scrapers and tall buildings and tying into the existing grid is an excellent idea. Los Angeles' enormous thirst for water and power to solve its own problems and other smaller locally owned and operated power plants as our Native-Americans are doing to provide their own energy to their own sovereign lands.

Each community has to choose their own choice how to solve their own problems not by going from one end of the state to the other to find the cheapest or the most expensive energy on the market available.

It is almost like the stock market, buying and trading power, selling pollution credits, it makes no sense to try to go green when all they do is sell its hundreds of tons of carbon emissions to the dirty coal-burning and bio-coal burning plants that are archaic by energy standards; I mean third-world standards. Excuse me, I mean developing nations.

I'd expect better as we are or have become the world leader or the world has become a global market where anything goes. I think in Executive Order S-14-08 the brilliant minds that have come together at this trying time have our best intentions in mind. If we follow to the letter of the law in this bill unlike the unlawful undertaking of the disgusting politics trying to get the California budget balanced on-time, on-budget seemed an impossible task and endless of course in the end once again it fell upon the taxpayers to foot the bill.

In your bi-weekly meetings with the Energy Commission, Fish and Game, BLM and Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS, how have signed an MOU providing cooperation and insurances the agencies highest priorities.) The DOD will join the force above agencies as a signatory to the MOU. The Energy Commission and BLM have the MOU to do solar projects on BLM Land, the Energy Commission and Fish and Game are preparing an MOU to fold in the Streambed Alteration Permit and Incidental Take Permit into the Commission's license.

In coordinating and integrating Agency Review of Renewable Project #3. Providing support to Department of Defense efforts to develop renewable energy projects on military land (e.g. Edwards AFB and Fort Irwin).

I think we all learned our lesson in Fort Irwin about trying to re-locate endangered species. IT DOESN'T WORK. ALL OR MOST OF THE TORTISES DIED IN THE FORT IRWIN PROJECT. It was a good lesson to us all, learned from our mistakes and don't make it again.

We are at such a rush to turn green by 2020 and hundreds of billions of dollars are being thrown at the big green machine; at what a cost? I have seen throughout history will seem to repeat our same mistakes as we have in the past. I have tried to educate myself, actually become somewhat of a philosopher on the down-fall of what is to come.

So please all agencies involved mentioned above go slow, go green but do not do more harm than good. It will be interesting to see the Environmental Impact Statement from the renewable energy projects in the State of California and the military. I know a lot of complaints and law suits to follow, so let's do the best thing for the state and do small projects using existing transmission corridors, repairing the already existing infrastructure.

To all developers there are a set of written guidelines you must follow, be reviewed and pass the scrutiny of all the above agencies. The BMP renewable projects cannot be conducted in a manner to interfere within eco-sensitive areas, mainly transmission towers, wind and solar plants, geo-thermal steam and most of all nuclear energy. And, especially to the USFWS, Department of Interior who does their job so well, so diligently their biologists and universities following their

work to make sure no errors are made in the 3-7 year window to pass the MOU, the standards have been set so high I pray that nothing goes array, to hell in a hand basket.

I enjoyed all 9 hours with the Heads of the Agencies in Sacramento, March 12, 2009 all day long. Thank you for your patience, hopefully your understanding and your sane actions in this most important matter as we are playing with life and death of the wildlife and way of life of the Great State of California.

Like our motto for our National Parks and Wildlife Areas, the law states "leave only footprints and take nothing but pictures." Do not overstep your bonds or boundaries.

Sincerely Yours,

Friends of Mojave Desert and Dale Basin, and
Citizens Alliance for Wonder Valley

Dennis Neugebauer
4557 Blower Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Dennis Neugebauer 3-30-09