

FEBRUARY 16, 2015

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DRECP ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

09-RENEW EO-1

TN # 74576

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SUBJECT: COMMENTS RE DRAFT DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN AS IT PROPOSES TO IMPACT THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF NEWBERRY SPRINGS

1--DO NO HARM!

2--WE HAVE SEEN YOUR TARGETING MAP WITH THIS COMMUNITY OF NEWBERRY SPRINGS BLANKETED IN RED AS TARGET ZERO AND WE OBJECT. IN THAT YOU NEVER HELD A SCOPING MEETING IN THIS COMMUNITY AND THEREBY WERE OBVIOUSLY NOT INTERESTED IN OUR INPUT, WE NEVERTHELESS SHALL PROVIDE THIS COMMENTARY.

3--NEWBERRY SPRINGS IS CLASSIFIED AS SEVERELY ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED BY A GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY, LIKELY THE CENSUS BUREAU. BECAUSE OF THAT DESIGNATION, WE HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN TARGETED BY ADVERSE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR GOVERNMENT AGENCY ACCOMPLICES. IS THAT HOW YOU FOUND US?

4--WITH ALL THE SLINGS AND ARROWS DIRECTED AT US, WE STILL HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A MODEL COMMUNITY, UNIQUE TO THE VAST HIGH DESERT AREA OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.

THIS COMMUNITY HAS CLEAN AIR, A HIGH-DESERT CLIMATE, TWO INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS (15 & 40), TWO CLASS 1 RAILROADS, (BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND UNION PACIFIC), A COUNTY AIRPORT ADJACENT AT DAGGETT, TWO SCENIC FEDERAL WILDERNESS AREAS (RODMAN MTNS & NEWBERRY MOUNTAINS) ON ONE BOUNDARY, THE CADY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA ON ANOTHER BOUNDARY, AND THE CAMP CADY FISH & WILDLIFE PRESERVE, CONSISTING OF OVER 1,800 ACRES IN THE MOJAVE RIVER, ALONG ANOTHER BOUNDARY.

WITH SOME FARSIGHTED VISION AND VERY PROFESSIONAL LAND USE PLANNING, THIS COMMUNITY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A STATE-OF-THE-ART "FIELD OF DREAMS" MODEL COMMUNITY FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE, AN EXPERIMENTAL SHOWCASE FOR THE LATEST IDEAS IN HOUSING, SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND INDUSTRY--SOMETHING THAT MIGHT ATTRACT AN ARTIST COMMUNITY AS WELL.

5--THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF THE LAND ASSETS IN NEWBERRY SPRINGS WOULD LIKELY BE SOMETHING IN LINE WITH THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH.

THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF OUR LAND ASSETS IS CERTAINLY NOT LARGE, INDUSTRIAL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS, TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO DISTANT CONSUMERS. WERE WE TO BE "USED" IN THAT WAY, IT WOULD DESERVE TO BECOME ANOTHER DEFINATION FOR "THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS."

6--IN 1981 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR BOB OLDER HAD A VISION FOR THE CREATION OF A "NEW TOWN" IN OUR DESERT, SOMEWHERE IN THE BARSTOW/NEWBERRY SPRINGS AREA. HE ALSO OBTAINED FUNDING FOR A NEWBERRY SPRINGS COMMUNITY PLAN, WHICH WAS DISCARDED AFTER TWO YEARS OF COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT EFFORTS, WHEN SUPERVISOR OLDER WAS RECALLED. IN OUR VIEW HE WAS RECALLED BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO PLAY BALL IN THE CORRUPT COUNTY GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. WE MISS HIS VISION.

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7--WE THINK THE SPIRIT, IF NOT THE LAW, REQUIRES THAT YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE OF RESIDENTIAL ROOF-TOP SOLAR AS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES, AS PER CEQA AND NEPA.

8--SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN SEEING THIS COMMUNITY BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE INRE NEWBERRY SPRINGS, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO GIVE YOU A GUIDED TOUR.

SINCERELY,



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