

Comment Letter I28

Hingtgen, Robert J

From: Laura Felten <lmfelten58@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 12:01 AM
To: Bennett, Jim
Cc: Hingtgen, Robert J
Subject: Soitec Solar (Rugged Solar Permit)

After digesting all the information recorded at the Boulevard meeting regarding the Soitec Solar Development it just proves to me just how crooked and corrupt these people are. Our community does not have enough water for this project and Soitec does not want to be liable for drying up the water wells of the community residents by draining our water level. The rough acres ranch property was never suppose to be built on. Only the existing old shack is suppose to be able to be refurbished using the existing walls. Us and all the other residents here who really care about the land and take care of it, do want you to preserve our existence by denying them permits to use excessive amounts of water to the point that we can no longer survive. They should be liable to redrill each one of our wells if they suck us dry. They need to provide us with documentation that is accurate about their water usage and if they can't, as they did not already, then stop them before it is too late. They do not care what the town is going to look like after our wells are dry and the trees and vegetation die. They already want to destroy all the natural habitat behind my house on the rough acres ranch for the solar project. Like Donna Tisdale and the residents have said to you, the winds up here are with us on a daily basis, most 90% of the time. We need vegetation to keep it from being nothing but a big giant dust bowl. Other than the retired people here, we all drive long distances to work and make that sacrifice for a peaceful and quiet lifestyle away from the city. We do not want these big industrial solar panels in our backyard, as I am sure you would not want them in yours either. Let Soitec find themselves a location that is not disturbing residents of a small community. There are plenty of areas in this state as well as others that these panels can be located without drying our small towns water aquafir. The whole project is not welcome. Please stop them. They are a disgrace to our community. That rough acres land was rezoned to protect wild horses. Another one of their lies, as I have watched them contain only one horse in the last eight years on the rough acres ranch. At the same time they are ready to steal everyones water for their own profit. Their creditability is not there. A massive solar energy project can be a good product when you keep it away from a community of people who depend on their own wells for daily existence. Do you want to live in a house with no water? Please listen to the people who all voted no to this project so we can continue to make Boulevard a nice place for people to live.

I28-1

Response to Comment Letter I28

Laura Felten
 February 7, 2014

I28-1

Potential impacts related to groundwater use were considered and addressed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR); see Sections 3.1.5.3.4, Groundwater Resources, and 3.1.9.3.1, Water. As stated in Section 3.1.9.3.1, conditions will be placed on the Major Use Permit that will restrict the amount of water that is permitted to be withdrawn from the on-site wells in order to prevent interference with off-site wells. As such, it is not anticipated that wells of neighboring residents will experience any significant impacts as a result of the Proposed Project. Please also refer to common response WR1 and WR2.

Related to the use of the Rough Acres Ranch property for the Proposed Project, the Rugged solar farm will be sited in part on Rough Acres Ranch. The proposed solar use for this site complies with the current zoning of the site (DPEIR Section 2.5.3.2) with the issuance of a Major Use Permit.

Potential impacts to biological resources, including effects on groundwater dependent habitat not directly affected by the Project and the direct loss of habitat, were also addressed in the DPEIR (see Chapter 2.3) and mitigated to less than significant. Fugitive dust

control is addressed in the context of the protection of biological resources (DPEIR Section 2.3.3), as well as air quality (Section 2.2.3.2). Based on the environmental analysis, it has been determined that there would be less than significant impacts related to fugitive dust.

In response to the comment related to siting the project in other locations, alternative sites were evaluated for the Proposed Project and were included the DPEIR analysis of alternatives. Also, please refer to common response ALT1.

The Rough Acres property is zoned General Agriculture (A72) which allows for solar farms (Major Impact Service and Utilities) with the approval of a Major Use Permit. Zoning for the Rough Acres property did not change with the approval of the General Plan update.

The County acknowledges the commenter's opposition to the Project. The information in this comment will be provided in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for review and consideration by the decision makers.