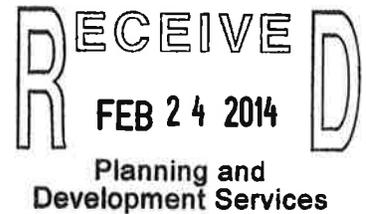


February 20, 2014



To: County of San Diego

Planning and Development Services

Project Processing Counter

5510 Overland Ave, suite 110

San Diego, CA 92123

Re: COMMENTS ON

SOITEC SOLAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PIER)

SOITEC SOLAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IIMPACT
REPORT, LOG NO.PDS2012-3910-120005 (ER); 3800-12-010 (GPA);
TIERRA DEL SOL, 3300-12-010 (MUP); 3600-12-005 (REZ); 3921-77-046-
01 (AP); RUGGED SOLAR, 3300-12-007 (MUP); SCH NO.2012121018

From: Robert Peter Renard and Family

41148 Old Highway 80

Boulevard, Ca, 91905

Dear Director and Staff;

We have received notice of our opportunity to comment on this proposed Soitec program / project per Public Recourses Code, Section 21178 (c) et seq..

This Public Recourses Code (PRC), Section 21178 et seq. is first an attempt to promote long term employment for California.

It is reasonable to assume that that the new Soitec factory in San Diego will eventually employ more than the 52 or so workers it now has. We applaud that. San Diego needs more steady employment for skilled manufacturing and assembly workers. This type of industry is also consistent with PRC section 21178's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through ride sharing or public transportation compatible with a steady job and a consistent schedule. Bravo!

This however is not applicable to the Soitec Solar projects on this agenda. We understand that the concept of alternative sources can be a huge contribution to our energy needs. "Alternative" means not dependent on the overburdened existing grid, not expanding it. We are amazed that that there are no wind turbines or solar panels atop Soitecs San Diego factory. We advocate solar energy at source where it is needed, not 65 miles out of town in someone else's back yard. That "local source" is a concept that will create some long term local employment. It is in its infancy. If every factory, office or industrial building and home contributed it would be laughable to even consider Boulevard or Julian California as a sacrificial goat to be offered up for extra power consumption from the existing grid. This solar farm is not an alternative that would reduce the burden on our enormous and heavy power grid, it amplifies it.

The early Edison vs. Westinghouse debates about AC / DC might need to be revisited with the benefit of a century or so of technological advances. Everyone I know has a boxfull of inverters and chargers for D/C gadgets. I only raise this issue to highlight the fact that once we sacrifice our precious agricultural preserves and scenic corridors for anxiety about our future power requirements. Like Joni Mitchel said "you don't know what you've got till it's gone. " Tomorrow, Soitec's R+D, or someone else's will advance this technology beyond Mr. Westinghouse's wildest imagination. To convert D/C to A/C results in

about a 20% loss with even more loss for transmission and inversion for use with ever more convenient and popular modern D/C equipment.

The proponents of Soitecs Boulevard project, to mitigate the environmental devastation reminds me of a different verse of Joni's song, "you take all the trees and put them in a tree museum and charge all the kids a dollar and a half just to see 'em."

The rationale for requiring a 10 foot high security fence surrounding each project is that these facilities will be unmanned therefore will produce no quantity of long term employment. (10 foot fences, really?)

Recent experience is that when the "Power Link" Project was built the entire construction force was not from San Diego or anywhere in California. They worked for out of state subcontractors and were here only long enough do the job and take the money back home. That is not a complaint about hard working people making a sacrifice to provide for their families, but it does not provide any relief for California's 12% plus unemployment problem that this CA (PRC) 21178 (f) et seq. promises. Even if the construction were done by San Diegons, it is a 130 mile round trip to Boulevard every day with trucks and heavy equipment in direct conflict with (PRC) sec. 21178 (g). The estimated duration of the construction for these jobs is a few months. This cannot be enough employment to justify abandoning the County of San Diego General Plan.

To install solar panels at the point of use on existing buildings and new construction would create local jobs long term and be much more efficient. We now require telephone and cable outlets in addition to 120 volt A/C outlets. Why not promote the addition of D/C outlets for our computers, cell phones and all of our battery operated tools and appliances, even cars, directly from at source solar panel power. This could also help eliminate those boxfulls of inverters from our landfills.

To alter our general plan is far more significant than to alter the building code that would not be a cause for a new “superfund” per 21183 (d) when it proves out to be a mistake like this solar farm program can and likely will. The existing plan is the result of acquired experience and Knowledge to avoid the mistakes of the past.

There is no measurable benefit from this Soitec program for San Diego County employment, and there is an enormous price to pay in the ambiance of our surroundings, our agricultural heritage our scenic countryside and our cultural heritage. We have built fine cities, towns and villages with the binding presence of forethought to preserve, at the expense of that illusive instant gratification from pie in the sky flim flam.

I say to the board, Do not be hasty to undo the one point six four centuries of forethought and experience of your predecessors who saw fit to protect our heritage with a regulatory scheme to prevent this folly of reckless abandon for instant gratification with our conservative plan.

I do not believe that the laws enacted by the Legislature and Governor were intended to accept every scheme offered without proper scrutiny with relation to the overall objective of the plan: to cure unemployment in California with or without mitigation. See (PRC) 21178 et seq.

They know we have a good workable plan to ensure the quality of life in San Diego County and will be proud to know that you have done your due diligence before refusing this proposal. It is incompatible and creates a slippery slope that could rescind all of our agricultural preserves and scenic corridors without providing any long term employment for San Diego or California.

There are less sensitive areas for a 1500 acre solar program that do not tamper with our precious and delicate groundwater aquifers. **See (COS-5)**

The environmental impact reports list a number of impacts as significant and unavoidable. (PRC) 21178 et seq. requires mitigation, thereby pre-empting this "solar farm" program.

Let's not take paradise and put up a parkin lot.

Thank you;



Robert Peter Renard