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January 8, 2015

PLANNING
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Planning and
Development Services

Peder Norby, Chairman
San Diego County Planning Commission
5510 Overland Avenue, Ste 110
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: Soitec Solar Development in Boulevard, CA 91905
Upcoming hearing January 15, 2015

The impact this project would have on our community would be devastating, not only to the land owners, but it would greatly impact all of the citizens of San Diego County. Our area is the last open refuge for people to be able to travel to in under an hour that is filled with wide open vistas, wonderful native plants and chaparral, clean air, bright blue sky, calming quiet, the ability to roam free with no traffic, hiking trails, bike trails, horse trails. All that will be destroyed with this project.

Installing these huge photovoltaic trackers would necessitate the land to be cleared of all Native Chaparral down to a depth to remove all of the root system over a total area 1,473 Acres with an additional 1,450 acres being proposed, bringing the total to a WHOPPING 2,923 ACRES. The desecration of the land alone should be enough to stop this project.

With no Chaparral, any rain that falls would not be tempered by the plants and be able to enter into our soil to help replenish our ground water, it would hit the bare ground and simply run off, creating mud and silt slides and carving up the bare land. We live on our ground water, and are in a drought. There has not been a study done by the county of our ground water in many years, possibly decades. This study must be conducted and available for review before any thought of progressing with this project. The county is responsible to protect it's citizens and their water supply.

I worked for 10 to 12 years serving first on the Boulevard Sponsor Group and then elected to the newly formed Boulevard Planning Group. There was never any Industrial area considered or zoned in our plan; only Agricultural, Residential and Commercial. The Industrialization of Boulevard was foisted on us by the County, the PDS department. We were never involved with any decision making in the process. This should never have occurred. Apparently Big Business and Deep Pockets has brought this about. Again, it is the County's responsibility to defend and protect the Boulevard citizenry.

We live in a Fire-prone area and the huge panels will negatively impact any attempt to control or contain fires and protect our residences and our lives. Building a new Fire Station in Boulevard is not the answer, stopping the project is the answer.

The proposed Los Robles project is directly across a private road and could put the

panels within 100 ft to the West of my home. The wind mostly comes from the West and can be quite ferocious many days. With the bare land under the panels, there will be temperatures underneath ranging into 160 degrees on our hot summer days baking the land and creating big DUST STORMS. My husband suffers from lung problems and that would greatly exacerbate the problem putting him at extremely high risk.

The high temps generated under the panels are a great concern also. It would seem that could have a big impact on what little ground water we have at the present, drying it up and causing our wells to fail. There doesn't seem to be any sign of a change in our rainfall within the near future.

Governor Brown is calling for Central and Northern California to conserve water to the degree he even suggested on the air that people not shower as often or as long and even not flush regularly. These present real health hazards. I understand that we have not yet fallen into the high risk they are in, but we certainly must not be very far behind, considering where our water comes from. The water that is used on these projects would be astronomical and totally unnecessary.

Let's get some sense, put our solar ON-SITE, where it's needed and wanted, on roof-tops not in some far off location where it has to be shipped to its destination, loosing amps as it travels over the miles, and cluttering up the landscape with the huge power lines.

California Public Utilities Commission has made the decision that SDGE has to underground its new 138KV line over 15 miles of dirt road here in Boulevard, rather than allowing the overhead 100 ft. poles, to SAVE OUR VIEW-SHED. This road is right beside the East of the Las Robles proposed site and directly to the West of my property and home. Hopefully the county will take the same example and stop this fiasco,

STOP SOITEC PROJECT & SAVE OUR VIEW-SHEDS.

Sincerely,

Elliott Stuart (by PS)

Patricia Stuart

Patricia and Elliott Stuart
P.O. Box 1291
Boulevard, CA 91905

cc: Dianne Jacob, County Supervisor, 2nd District
Board of Supervisors, San Diego County
Jim Bennett, County Groundwater Geologist
Brian Jones, State Assemblyman 71st District
Juan Vargas, 51st Congressional District
Donna Tisdale, Chair of Boulevard Planning Group