Gungle, Ashley

From: Fitzpatrick, Lisa
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 3:03 PM
To: trish@nethere.com
Cc: Gungle, Ashley
Subject: RE: Comments and complaints re: Soitec proposed Boulevard projects

Hello Mr. & Mrs. Stuart:

On behalf of the San Diego County, Planning Commission, I would like to thank you for your correspondence. Your correspondence will be distributed for review by our Planning Commissioners.

Thank you,

Lisa M. Fitzpatrick
Commission Secretary
Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Drive, MS: O-650
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 694-3816
(858) 694-3373 (Fax)

-----Original Message-----
From: trish@nethere.com [mailto:trish@nethere.com]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Fitzpatrick, Lisa
Subject: Comments and complaints re: Soitec proposed Boulevard projects

TO: Commission Secretary and All Commissioners,

These comments are to be recorded and given to all persons involved in the January 16, 2015 hearing of the Soitec projects in Boulevard, CA.

I attended the January 8 meeting here in Boulevard thinking County Staff would be there to answer questions. There were several Soitec staffers and one county staff, Jim Bennett, groundwater geologist.

I had read over much of the EIR that had been published, only to find that Soitec had an amended EIR that I had not been made aware of. These EIR's are confusing, repetitive, unable for a layman to navigate easily, way too lengthy and too time consuming to read. Printing them out is out of the question for that many pages and that many changes.

That said, many questions came up at the Jan. 8 meeting, that were unable to be answered by the Soitec staff and the phrase "found to be no significant impact" was their answer.

Major concerns:
1. Our dependence on our ground-water. Some water will be imported from Jacumba water district, some from Pine Valley Mutual, some supplied by Padre Dam that is recycled. That recycled water could leech into our ground-water and infect our drinking water. How will that be monitored?
Will the county over-see this monitoring?

2. Monitoring of local wells to make sure they are not drawn down is to be done by a Certified Geologist hired by Soitec. The County needs to commit to be responsible to Audit that monitoring on a frequent basis.
3. At present Soitec has no contingency plan in place to replace wells that go dry due to the draw-down of our ground water. That needs to be addressed and enforced by the County.
4. There have been no tests done so far to determine the Hazmat effect of all the buried pilings going into the ground to support these giant trackers and that needs to be done to determine the effect on our wells and the safety of our drinking water.
These are but a few of our water concerns, but others in the community will be advising those.

5. Our CHAPARREL and Native vegetation is a major concern. This was not addressed at the meeting at all due to the water concerns. However, it needs to be. Chaparral is primarily a California phenomenon. The largest and most pristine stands are in Southern CA at 500' to 4500'. It provides essential protection against erosion, allows underground water supplies to recharge, moderates local climates, provides important habitats for our animals, birds, bees, etc., offers unique opportunities to remain connected to Nature on a local level. Negates huge Dust Storms.
Questions and concerns I have are listed here.
A. How deep will the ground be disturbed to obliterate new re-growth from roots of our Chamise, Redshank, Manzanita, Sugarbush, Elderberry, Mtn.
Mahogany, Yerba Santa, Buckwheat, White Sage, Wild Penstamon, Deer Weed, to name just a few of our bushes and flowers. What about the roots of our Scrub Oaks, Live Oaks, Pines, Junipers?
B. What will prevent terrible dust storms once the ground is all churned up and all roots removed and all possibility of rainwater reaching the ground under these trackers?
C. What are the temperatures under these modules? Summer? Winter?
D. Also, temperatures above the trackers? We need to protect our birds above.
E. How can run-off be prevented?
F. When they malfunction, who repairs them and how quickly?

Then the biggest question of all, if Soitec goes bankrupt at any point during or after the construction, who is responsible for what's left behind?

Also, since they have lost their contract with SDG&E who will purchase the electricity produced?

And regarding the Battery Energy Storage containers that are planned, 160 at the TDS site, they each turn out to be the size of a Sea Cargo Container.
Those are not allowed anymore by the county on private property to be used for storage, so how can they be allowed this huge amount?

I look forward to the meeting on January 16 and I hope these questions and concerns will be addressed.

Sincerely,
Patricia & Elliott Stuart
37825 Clover Trail & 1633 Jewel Valley Rd.
trish@sciti.com