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February 14, 2014

Mr. Robert Hington, Planner  
Planning and Developing Services  
5510 Overland Ave. Suite 110  
San Diego, Ca. 92123

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Planning and  
Development Services

This letter is in opposition of:

- Soitec Solar Development
- Tule Wind Project
- Rough Acres Ranch Conference Center/ Campground

Dear Mr. Hington,

I feel these projects were presented to the county under false pretense. The developers were not truthful in their claims of how much water they were going to use, among other things. I believe you all were shocked when finding out these deceptions at the Feb. 6, 2014 meeting in Boulevard.

I ask that you reconsider allowing these projects to be approved. Civilization can do without many things, but we cannot survive without water! Water shortage is a major concern in the world today. California is in a drought now, and the future doesn't look promising. All of the projects listed above are going to require a tremendous amount of water.

Please take the time to think about the future. Ask yourself honestly if you would want to live with the guilt of making the wrong decision...thinking power or money was more important than water. In the end you won't have any need for the power if you don't have water...all the people will be gone.

There is another hazard associated with these projects FIRE. There was an explosion/fire at the Infigen Wind on Dec. 16, 2013 due to a wind turbine. The solar panels also pose a potential fire problem. This is a high wind area with dense brush and trees and fires can spread quickly. I feel the turbines and solar panels will increase that threat allowing for the fact Boulevard only has one volunteer fire department.

Concerning the Rough Acres Ranch/Campground. We already have three public campgrounds starting 1 mile north of Rough Acres, and Rough Acres has a campground on their property in West Valley, less than ½ mile west of the proposed new campground. Why do they need another one? In addition to the water they will be using for their campgrounds the campgrounds also pose a fire threat due to out of control campfires, careless smokers, and motorcycles or ATV's.

We are already losing oak trees due to the lowering of the water table on our ranch (McCallister Ranch), we border Rough Acres Ranch so this is a great concern to me.

A team from the University of California Riverside came out to assess the trees in the area. While Examining the trees on our ranch (McCallister), they explained due to the depletion of the water table the trees go into stress mode allowing the bark beetles to attack them, which end up killing the trees. The trees that are dying are between 300-500 years old. This is one more reason these projects should not be allowed to take the water table down.

I would also like you to know how these projects have and will effect my elderly parents and our property, McCallister Ranch. My parents moved to Boulevard in 1966 to enjoy the clean air, tranquility and atmosphere of a small community. Since Hammond bought Rough Acres Ranch all of that has come to an end. When Sunrise Power Link came through it was as if the 8 Freeway had been detoured onto McCain Valley Road. The constant traffic destroyed the road. Sunrise should have replaced the road, but instead they just patched it.

The towers were put up next to our property line, and my parents have not been able to receive good phone service since they were installed. Due to the high voltage they experience almost constant static on their phone. The static has gotten so bad at times they have not been able to use their phone for several days. I worry about a medical emergency, they are 86 and 87 years old and with the static their words are cut off when they are talking making it difficult to understand what they are saying.

There is such a large volume of stray voltage from the power lines, that Sunrise Power without informing my parents put #6 ground wire on all 5 strands of their fence at 200' intervals. When standing at the fence you can hear the crackling of the electricity. I am afraid of getting shocked or a fire starting.

With all the new projects at Rough Acres it will bring many strangers into the area, workers and campers, therefore increasing my concern for the safety and security of my parents. I fear there may be trespassers or thieves who may harm them.

In conclusion, with the nationally recognized drought we are experiencing I feel these projects are not a wise choice or good stewardship of the water resources. Please rethink and oppose these projects and SAVE OUR WATER.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

*Linda McCallister White*

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Cc: Jim Bennett