

January 5 2013

To: County of San Diego Department of Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92123
Attn: Robert Hingtgen
Attn: Jim Bennett
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From: Byron and Marilyn Polen
512 Tierra Del Sol Road
PO Box 1124
Boulevard, CA 91905

Regarding: SOITEC SOLAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT

Mr Robert Hingtgen and Mr Jim Bennett,

My Husband and I attended the Public Scooping meeting on December 18th 2012 at the Boulevard Fire Dept. We are writing to let you know how the proposed solar farms would have a tremendous negative effect on the environment here in our back country.

1. Water

- a. The drilling for the pedestals for the panels will vibrate and crack the granite below and will damage our existing aquifers.
- b. To think they could wash the solar panels every month or so is a pipe dream. The dust out here would cause them to require washing a minimum of once a week. After the construction of the solar farm and the removal of all the natural plant life it will probably be way worse than that. There will also be a considerable amount of erosion problems. You could use our glass top coffee table as an example if you would like. We dust and vacuum almost daily.
The amounts of water they would be using is grossly under estimated.
- c. Imagine the city saying to you, We are sorry, we did not think our construction project would use this much water. You are going to have to do without now.
This is a real concern of ours. **We are completely ground water dependant.**

2. Animal Habitat

- a. There is a Mountain Lion that travels through the proposed site regularly following a herd of deer. Disturbing this migration will put the Lion and its off spring at risk. It could also put our domestic animals at risk. There are many animals that call these areas home. The clearing of these areas will displace thousands of animals. Lions, Coyotes, Red Tail Hawks, Owls, Bobcats, Turkey Vultures, Snakes, Rodents, Rabbits, Squirrels and many more.

3. Fire Danger

- a. **The fire danger is very real and very scary!** Our local firefighters are not equipped to battle electrical fires. Planes and Helicopters won't drop on a solar farm. **Our latest Shockey Fire is a good example of how difficult it is to defend against any kind of fire in our back country.**

4. Noise and Light

- a. During and after construction there will be a lot of noise and light. **When Wild and Domestic animals become agitated they can become more dangerous and aggressive.** There are many large domestic animals in these areas also. I am sure that you would hate to see people get hurt by agitated cows, horses or dogs. **The noise and light will make it more difficult for animals to hunt and behave in a normal way.** They will probably adapt, but not in a good way.

5. Glare and Reflectivity

- a. A lot of the same issues with noise and light will apply to Glare and Reflectivity. These things are constant agitations to Wild life, Domestic animals and Humans. **Will the glare and reflectivity affect animal and or human eyesight? Have there been any real studys?** Are our families, pets and wildlife to be the sacrificial guinie pigs?

6. Dark Skies

- a. The San Diego Astronomy Association is in very close proximity to the Tierra Del Sol Rd proposed solar farm. There are many reasons why the Astronomy association would be adversely affected. **We are pretty sure you have been made aware of these in the past.**

7. Traffic on our existing roadways

- a. There are very few people out and about on our roadways each day. We still hit and kill many wild animals every day. Coyotes, Bobcats, Owls, Red tailed Hawks, Deer, Rabbits and Squirrels. **We shutter to think of the amount of wild life that will die with the increase of traffic on our back country roads. Especially when the animals are displaced by loss of habitat and are in**

unfamiliar and new surroundings. Our weather and traffic take a pretty big toll on the quality of our roads. With added construction equipment and traffic our Roads and our Wild life will suffer greatly.

8. Wind and Dust

- a. **We are not sure if you are aware of just how windy it gets here.** There are several families that have had to repaint vehicles because of the blowing dirt doing damage to them. Our Satellite dishes are often blown out of wack needing a technician to reset them correctly. What kind of damage will the wind do to the kind of equipment they plan to put up. **The wind here will tear things up, blowing parts away possibly hurting people and animals.**

9. Health Concerns

- a. It is our understanding that there is a lot of dirty energy and Health issues connected to these "green projects". When our family's and animals start having health issues because of the Ground currents and dirty energy be sure you require big enough bonds to cover the impending law suits.
- After the government stops subsidizing these projects it will no longer be profitable for them to stay out here. They are supposed to put the land back to its original condition. This will be expensive and impossible. What will undoubtedly happen is they will walk away leaving a lot of toxic and unsightly debris all over the place.

10. Zoning

- a. We can not change the zoning on our properties to run a business on our land. Boulevard worked for over 10 years to get zoning approved. It has been approved for a short time. The zoning in all the proposed areas is not approved for projects like this. How can 5 or 6 people change zoning and allow these projects when our community work tirelessly to have an approved zoning so theses things could not and would not happen. If it is not criminal, it certainly should be.

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At the very least, please give the public more time to gather information to help you make a well informed decision. The timing of all this during the most difficult time of the year has made it hard to gather information. **The magnitude of how these proposed sites will adversely affect so many animals, humans and natural water ways deserves at least a few more months.**

Thank You,

Byron and Marilyn Polen

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