Response to Comment Letter I35

Marty Kennell
February 10, 2014

I35-1

This comment identifies that the increased use of water from population growth, new and growing businesses, and industrial activity has caused problems with groundwater levels, surface water features, and the native oak tree population in the East County area. The County acknowledges the commenter’s opposition to the project. The information in this comment letter will be provided in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) for review and consideration by the decision makers.

The County generally agrees with the commenter that intensive use of water can result in impacts on water levels, volume of water in storage, and groundwater-dependent habitat. Assessing and mitigating for these potential impacts is the purpose of the County’s CEQA guidelines for groundwater resources, as discussed in greater detail in common response WR1 and WR2.

The commenter provides anecdotal evidence that groundwater levels have dropped within East County area, but does not address any of the information or analysis presented in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) or indicate how or why any of
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Robert Hingsten
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Department of Planning and Development Services
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My personal observations in all of East County leaves me greatly concerned about the impact the Soltec Solar Development Program will have on water usage and potability. Presently, the greatest number of trouble calls I make result in the installation of pump savers, booster pumps, and large water storage tanks, all due to water shortage or water depth.

In addition to the foregoing effect on humanity, there is also damage to local plants and trees. The lack of water for the greening of this County, due to our ongoing drought, presents an even greater hazard for the fires often experienced in this area. Furthermore, the vegetation’s use of carbon dioxide has a positive effect on greenhouse gases. One cannot ignore how the drought has curtailed the natural defense our native oak trees have to the beetle imported to this area that has now killed over 80,000 trees. There is something very wrong in selling water for industrial use, considering projects requiring millions of gallons of water usage, and promising allocations of future water supplies at a time when we are witnessing such destruction from the LACK of water.

I have been given an overview of the information being provided you by the “experts” for Soltec and readily admit I cannot compete with the titles of many whose opinions support the proposed solar panel project. However, my “hands-on” experience and personal observations over almost three decades should be sufficient to “hold water” in that which the County considers for their ultimate approval or disapproval of the Soltec Program. Too much of what Soltec alleges will not affect the residents is just the opposite of what I have found to be fact.

My personal history in water well systems in the eastern areas of San Diego County leaves me with the opinion that the project presented by Soltec Solar will have a detrimental effect on water supply, usage and potability.

Yours truly,

Marty Kinnell

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