

Dear Messrs. Antonovich, Hickling and Curzi,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and considering our sincere plea. We've become aware that there is yet another Solar Project for "OUR" West Antelope Valley proposed to consume 263 more acres of beautiful land (R-2012-01589-(5) proposed by Canadian Solar). We are adamantly **opposed** to this and all other solar projects for many of the same reasons voiced at the meeting at the Lancaster Library Saturday, February 1 regarding the proposed Silverado Project.

We [residents] fought against the monstrous 500 foot wind turbines taking over our land for over two years of driving 3 hours round trip from Kings Canyon to Los Angeles many times, writing letters, writing and presenting speeches, town council meetings, etc. in an effort to plead with all of you to stop this invasion of our area. We **promise** to continue to fight against these solar projects also. We were told that the solar projects were the "good" projects in lieu of the wind turbine projects. We now see actual evidence that this is not so, as I'll state below:

- The acute and long term health problems caused by Valley Fever (that you should all be aware of by now) should be enough of a reason alone to stop these projects in their tracks. We heard testimonies of actual cases at the February 1 Library meeting (Silverado) sponsored by Los Angeles County, and that was from only a handful that took their Saturday off to tell their story. My doctor told me a year ago that she was getting several Valley Fever cases, and she hadn't seen any in her office for decades. Being a native-born Lancaster resident, she was concerned as she knows the seriousness and possible long term disability of such a disease.

- We watch dust storms that look like the Sahara Desert during the day from the soil disturbance caused by existing solar projects. These (probably 500 foot high) dust storms travel over 30 miles to the I-14, causing the Freeway to completely be shut down with serious accidents/injuries, as well as vehicles getting pitted by the sand; then it continues past the I-14 to the east side of Lancaster. We that live in the foothills watch this and feel so sorry for anyone unfortunate enough to be living in the path of these storms that cause fine dust and sand to fill every crevice of their homes. The residents, children, pets, wildlife, and workers are the ones being forced to exist in this inhumane environment. They are forced to breathe this fine dust or leave their home. Don't you realize these developments are disturbing soils in an extremely windy area?

- The developers' solution: BINDERS in the soil. What are in these binders? How do they affect our ground water long term, and short term as we drink it and it goes into the pores of our skin as we bathe? Will these binders be proven in the future to cause cancer to the living? Oops...sorry folks. If these binders are doing their job, why are we having these dust storms? Another false promise!

- Water shortages all over this State should also be enough reason alone to stop these projects! Where will they get water to service these projects? Silverado told us they would either truck in water or used reclaimed City water, and would be watering the soil twice a day to keep down dust (and more to keep the panels clean), guaranteeing us they would NOT be using our ground water. Really? Governor Brown just stated he is cutting off all water coming to Southern California, and that includes water to the Antelope Valley. Reclaimed City water is already allocated to our parks. How long will that water last in these conditions, especially if adding to the demand of use? Who will be the "water police"? What are the consequences of not watering the soil to keep the dust down? We heard promises stated to us prior to approval of the existing solar projects that have not been carried through. It seems the developers make their promises, you believe them and approve, then they do what they want anyway without consequences. Maybe accountability of existing projects should be a priority before approving any new projects.

- The Silverado Project said they would be placing plants all around their project and watering them for two years, at which time they should be well rooted and able to exist on their own. Really? This is the desert! No water, no plants -- that's a fact. Even native plants need some water once in awhile, which is why our Valley is so brown right now as we experience a record-breaking drought.

- This drought is serious! It's so bad that we haven't seen but a scarce few of our natural wildlife since last Spring (and there were few then), and our flora/fauna is either dying or dead. We've lived here 17 years, and what is noticeably missing are the ground squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, owls, gophers, mice, and burrowing owls. All we've seen are some local birds -- that's it. To those who have never experienced rural living, that is probably a positive; to us, it's very serious.

- It is unconscionable that a foreign developer may be allowed to destroy our land. That is not what America is all about; but it seems that is what Los Angeles County is about if this and more projects are allowed to encroach on our land by foreigners for profit without the regard of the destruction of the land, its natural wildlife, and the quality of life of its residents.

- We hear from the developers, and those in line hoping to make a profit from these projects, make statements that give the false impression that these projects produce hundreds or thousands of permanent long-term jobs to our local citizens who are out here starving from unemployment. The truth is, the majority of jobs are filled by the developers' own employees (in this case Canadians). Most jobs are temporary while under construction, leaving very few as long term permanent positions, again filled by the company's employees who are trained in this field. We know this is true and know neighbors who have experience with the existing solar projects who can attest to this. As if stating facts, these lies continue to be told over and over again.

- Our roads are already suffering from the existing solar projects. We have watched construction vehicles tear up our roads for years now. We see a line of company vehicles and pick-up trucks every morning and again in the late afternoon/evening traveling from the existing projects down Lancaster Road/Avenue I towards/from the I-14 Freeway (also I-138). This road is terribly torn up, and we don't see any repairs going on. Who is liable for the cost of repairing our roads? Us struggling taxpayers? We, once again, get the short end of the stick with nothing to show for it except loss of quality of life and property values. We don't even get the benefit of the power produced from these projects.

- Our property values have already taken a hit from what used to be a beautiful natural valley to an industrial/commercial-use valley. We get to watch a wall of red flashing lights from the wind turbine projects glow off and on all night long from our north facing windows. Yes, those happen to be in Kern County, but had we not fought hard, those would have also been on our side of the Valley. We built our house with all of our windows/sliders on the north side to observe an amazing view; we've resorted to installing blinds to close off our view of these lights every night. Many of us predicted property value devaluation in our letters to you years ago, and we are indeed seeing this happen to our area. This devaluation increased as we watch the solar projects turn our view into a sea of blinding reflective mirrors several times during each day while causing their destructive dust storms. I have friends who live in Quartz Hill (30+ miles away) who say they used to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee on their patio in the hills. They now have to get up and go inside their home at certain times of the day because it's so blinding. I used the possibility of "blight" in my letters and speeches to you years ago when we battled against the wind turbine developers, and am sad to see this gradually become a reality as we find ourselves living in an "industrial use" area. These do not belong where there are so many residents!

- The A-2 zoning has been "expanded" by you to allow these solar projects in the existing zoning. We believe the correct zoning should be something else (i.e., Industrial or Commercial Use). There is no agricultural use from these solar projects. If you want to label them agricultural, then please use the little water we have that will just evaporate or go into the sandy topsoil for a more useful use such as growing food to benefit humans and/or livestock.

- Is this Project being allowed to proceed **without an Environmental Impact Report**? If so, has it come to a point where EIRs have become unimportant in Los Angeles County's eyes and are becoming obsolete? That is shameful and probably illegal.

- I have photos of what used to be a Valley of wildflowers every Spring. The north side of the Valley used to look like it was on fire from the poppies being in bloom. This is one reason we love this place so much, but the north side of the Valley where the solar and wind turbine projects are located is now totally wiped out of these fields of beauty. I used to go there and photograph this amazing natural phenomenon, and I would run into people from all over the world, includ-

ing Canadians that traveled all the way here just to enjoy our beauty. Do you know we are listed in tourism literature? That is history now. Thank you to those responsible for permanently ruining that.

- What will happen to these thousands of solar panels when they break down/wear out or are obsolete when newer and better technology replaces these? Will our Valley be trashed and left with a permanent graveyard and footprint of technology of the past?

- Last but not least, we are NOT against solar power. We would love to see every home, school, parking lot/structure and business with a roof of panels producing green energy. Please seriously consider ways to achieve this. There is already a "grid" in the unincorporated and City limits of Lancaster and Palmdale that can and should be utilized to produce small-scale solar power. These would not cause Valley Fever/allergies/respiratory problems, devaluation of property values, dust storms, wasted water, destruction of roads, or natural flora/fauna and wildlife habitat destruction. PLEASE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS.

We can't believe we're writing letters to you for projects that again don't make sense, especially right now in this historical drought. We trust you're intelligent people and have consciences that don't bend to peer pressure, monetary corruption/gain or political tactics. We trust you are serious about the job as a civil servant to protect the citizens you represent, and research **all** of this through before proceeding in your approval process. It's unbelievable to us that all of these projects are again cropping up to take our lands and the quality of life here. Please listen to reason.

Sincerely,

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