

Jocelyn Swain
City of Lancaster
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93534

December 12, 2016

RE: Conditional use Permit No. 16-02 (CUSs 16-02a and 16-02b)
Conditional Use Permit No. 16-07

Dear Ms. Swain,

I would like to submit the following comment regarding the City's Initial Study:

I. Aesthetics

c) The proposed 414 acres of steel and glass would substantially degrade the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings, as the visual character of an area is not characterized by the visual appearance of the surface conditions of the soil, but by the various other natural features that make up the area as a whole, including vegetation that covers the soil, and the view that extends for miles, over and beyond the vegetation including distant geological features such as mountain ranges, etc. There is no question that viewing the expanse that is our beloved high desert, above industrial production plants will substantially degrade the visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings.

"While this would change the character of the existing sites, the proposed projects would be compatible with the other energy uses that have been developed in the western half of Lancaster, specifically those solar facilities immediately south of the project site." Residential and agricultural uses are not compatible with industrial uses. Industrial uses must require a considerable setback from habitable dwellings and other sensitive receptors, to protect the public from possible adverse effects of related activities.

d) Additional lighting located on that site will inhibit residents' abilities to see the night skies, which also substantially degrades the character of a rural residential area.

XIX Mandatory Findings of Significance

b) The project has significant impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

As stated in the document, other solar projects have been approved or are undergoing review in the City of Lancaster and in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. These projects, if constructed, would result in a large number of acres being converted to solar generating facilities which could generate cumulative impacts." Aesthetically speaking, the overall look, feel, and

charm of the western Mojave desert in the Antelope Valley is being substantially degraded by the cumulative effect of the thousands upon thousands of acres of native desert lands that have been covered in man made material.

There are multiple alternative options that should be considered, such as installation of solar panels on rooftops.

The City and County must work together to combine data and maps into documents that adequately addresses the cumulative impacts.

The California Poppy Reserve is being surrounded by utility scale solar. Tourism dollars that once came to the valley thanks to poppies will be lost along with the beauty of the vast fields of bright wildflowers in the spring.

Thank you in advance for you attention to this matter. The residents are counting on you to protect our beautiful desert environment.

Sincerely,