



Ord Mountain Solar Project Application

Opponents packed the June 13th scoping meeting for the study for the Ord Mountain Project in Lucerne Valley. At least 20 spoke up, bearing witness to the negative impacts from the solar fields recently constructed on Camp Rock Road in Lucerne Valley.

Bad location, dust, erosion, construction noise and traffic, displaced rodents and snakes invading homes nearby, the lost value of those homes, the destruction of intact desert soil, vegetation and landscape – all predicted, all now reality after receiving County approval.

The Ord Mountain Solar project now under consideration fails by any but the most biased (developer) standard to conform to the Core Values listed in the Draft Renewable Energy and Conservation Element of the County Plan, in particular, “decision-making that values the county’s environment,

people, heritage, location, economy and community spirit.” BUT. This Element has not been ratified yet. No Element regulations bind the Ord Mountain Project, or Edison’s proposed Calcite Substation for which Ord Mountain is only the first trigger. No Element regulations protect the citizens whose homes adjoin the 484 acres to be developed.

Several organizations on both sides of Homestead Valley communities became partners

fighting off the wind turbines on the north slope of the San Bernardino Mountains and the Coolwater-Lugo transmission line on Scenic 247. They contested the Bowman Solar Project in Landers, so far the first to be sited actually inside Homestead Valley boundaries.

They all sent representatives to June 13th scoping meeting. Edison and NextEra were served notice they have a fight on their hands. All the way into the courts if necessary.

NextEra Energy, a subsidiary of Florida Power & Light, are behind this development.

Make your own comment to County Land Use Services before June 30th, to: John.Oquendo@lus.sbcounty.gov AND to all five County Supervisors. 13,000 comments opposed Coolwater-Lugo. We can do it again.

August 11-25: Closure of Public Lands Shared with the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Representatives from the Combat Center reported to the June HVCC meeting about the plans for the August live fire training exercises. We will be hearing increased noise for the whole month but the Johnson Valley OHV Shared Use Area closes only from **Friday, August 11 through Friday, August 25**. This includes time to ensure the area is clear of recreation activity prior to training and to confirm the land is clear of hazards before reopening.

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