



The HVCC Scenic 247 Committee in 2009 began gaining grass-roots support for State Scenic Highway status for S.R.247. They aided the grass-roots battles to fend off industrial wind turbines and transmission lines from scenic views all the way from Yucca Valley to Barstow.

247 is a County Scenic By-Way. The County recently amended its standards to align with the State's:

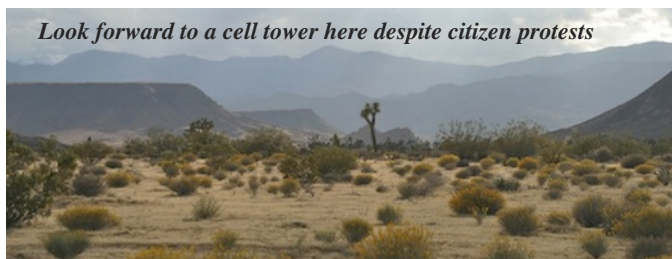
"A Scenic corridor is land that is visible from the highway. [Two of the] five legislatively required elements for scenic corridor protection:

4. Careful attention to and control of earthmoving and landscaping; and

5. The design and appearance of structures and equipment" —*Caltrans Landscape Architecture Program*

A 200-foot-wide Scenic Corridor? Nonsensical codes evidently define a scene as small area just beyond the shoulder, not as that attractive view in the background, contrary to the definition quoted above. Now a cell tower 800 feet from the road, an eyesore by any definition, rises in a vista of granite outcrops and volcanism. And no one was told.

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan marks Development Focus Areas in undisturbed desert habitat along 247, for industrial solar fields. The Town of Yucca Valley accepted a "stipend" from Verizon to site a cell tower in front of the black lava mesas saved from wind turbines.



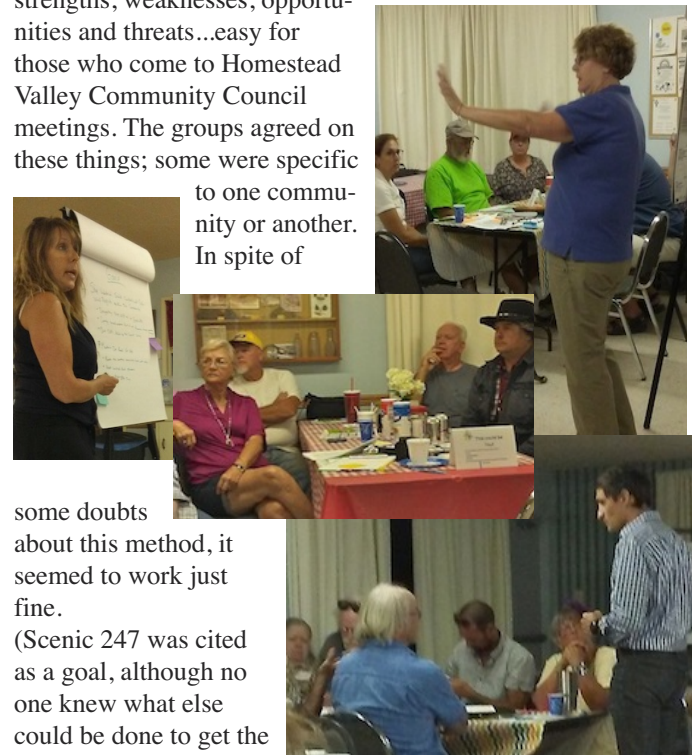
PHOTOS FROM TOP: BETTY MUNSON, JIM HARVEY AND BARBARA HARRIS

Ideas at the Homestead Valley Community Plan Workshop

The County's workshop for updating the Homestead Valley Community Plan turned out to be well-attended, quite lively, and the planners got more than enough participation and plenty of opinions. This first workshop was held in the Johnson Valley Community Center on Monday evening, September 12.

The meeting divided into four groups. The consultant team drew out comments from everyone, each comment was recorded and posted for later review.

Residents of Landers, Flamingo Heights, Yucca Mesa and Johnson Valley reported on what they see as community strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats...easy for those who come to Homestead Valley Community Council meetings. The groups agreed on these things; some were specific to one community or another. In spite of



some doubts about this method, it seemed to work just fine.

(Scenic 247 was cited as a goal, although no one knew what else could be done to get the County to move on it.

We hope citizens' assessments of community values and unmet needs actually become the Homestead Valley Community Plan. We hope the planners actually read it.)

At the HVCC meeting the following week, the consensus was: we may have been wasting our time. We hope citizen input actually translates into County zoning and codes this time!

Find the 2007 HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY PLAN on www.hvccsite.org. Comment online on www.countywideplan.com 2nd HV Workshop in Yucca Mesa November 17

PHOTOS BY JOANNA WRIGHT