

January 30, 2018

These are concerns that we have thought about since we heard about this project and read their proposal. All of Newberry should be concerned. The Newberry Community Services District does not have zoning "powers" but can represent the community as a whole by sending a request to the Soil Conservation District to determine what damage will be done with this much disturbance of the soil.

I request that these comments be included in your minutes of this meeting.

Jim and Pamalla Barber
43774 Cottonwood Road
Newberry Springs, CA 92365
760.953.8318

PROBLEMS of SUNPOWER CORP.

BLOWING DUST AND SAND:

This last year (2017) has been bad. We have had wind from all directions even though it usually blows from the west/ south west. There is nothing that can be mitigated when the top is disturbed to this extent.

TRAFFIC:

Traffic will increase during construction and after. This equals more wear on the existing roads and more costs to the County.

Minneola is the only paved road. Using existing dirt road or building more dirt roads only add to the blowing sand. Are they going to be brought up to County standards (paved) and is the County going to take them over.

COST TO THE COUNTY:

Will adversely affect the value of our property (decrease). What does the County gain?

AIR QUALITY:

Adding more dust to the air will make it even more difficult for people that live here. Also the diesel engine will affect those downwind.

COST TO NEWBERRY SPRINGS:

There will be no local jobs created, nor any benefit to the Community.

ZONING (RURAL LIVING):

They indicate in their proposal that "previously disturbed land" will only be used (except some BLM). This is incorrect as they land in front of our home is zoned RL. We have had our property for over 50 years and the land in front has never been farmed/cleared, etc.

PANELS:

Panels change the wind flow. The speed increases at the bottom. This problem was encountered at Solar 1 and 2 and disturbed the soil.

SUN POWER CORP:

56.3% of their stock is owned by Totale Power, a French Company. This information is easily obtained by going on Nasdaq. Their panels/parts are manufactured in either Mexico or the Philippines. What they do is install these construction projects and then sell them. When they sell the project, do the stipulations that the County sets transfer also? Lost 40 cents per share in 2017 – no earnings reported

SUMMARY/QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED:

- This will create sand problems in the ENTIRE Newberry area, not just the adjacent property. The blowing sand just increases as it travels across the ground, stirring up more blowing sand. One of the first areas to blow is along the railroad area. It has closed I-40. This is where they intend to install high tension lines.
- Not one of the people selling property to SUN POWER CORP. live in the area.
- We need an environmental study performed before starting construction.
- We need to involve the Soil Conservation District and their vegetation specialist to determine the problems that occur with this project. Leaving roots in the soil will not stop the wind erosion.
- Will any preparation be made so that flooding will not occur?
- Do the Planning Commission stipulations transfer also?
- Are they required to post a large enough bond to cover the damage done to homes by the sand?
- Will the County recoup costs of removing sand damage done to roads/homes?
- A concern is also that a large enough bond is set up to cover costs of removing sand from roads and homes.
- Has the CHP been contacted. The blowing sand has caused a closure. And this will continue to occur as long as the valley does not get enough rain.
- What people from outside Newberry do not understand is that damage can occur upwind and cause problems for miles downwind. We see it each year during the windy Spring.