

NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

Established 1958

Board Minutes
October 22, 2019

Call the meeting to order. 6:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Springer asked all present to rise, face the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call.

Present:

President Springer
Vice President Deel
Director Paulsen
Director Unger

Absent: Director Clark

Also Present : General Manager Jodi Howard, District Treasurer Kerri Zurcher and members of the public.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion Director Deel to Approve agenda as presented, Seconded Director Paulsen.

Vote: **Unanimous**

Motion Passed

2. Public Comments:

- a. **General Public-**
- b. **Community Reports:**
County Supervisor
Sheriff-

3. Reports

- a. General Manager-
- b. Staff
- c. Strategic Planning Committee "Civic Hub"- planning committee will have a meeting November 6, 2019 @ 6 p.m. Newberry CSD building.

4. Agenda Items-

- a. **Newberry CSD support the petition to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to install PM10 Air Monitors in the East Mojave with the Recommendation that they consider Lucerne Valley and Daggett/ Newberry Springs. Both are locations threatened by Utility Solar which will compromise (destroy) the air quality in the area.**
Motion Director Paulsen to have Newberry CSD sign on to this letter to CARB. Seconded Director Deel.
Vote – Unanimous
Motion Passed
- b. **Review of CSD Appeal of Daggett Solar Project.**
No Action Taken.
2 Directors will be interviewing CEQA Attorneys and bring back Results to next regular meeting.
- c. **Proposed Policy Addition for us District Social Media.**
No Action Taken.
Bring back next regular meeting.
- d. **Possible Date Changes for November and December CSD Regular Meetings.**
Motion Director Springer to change meeting dates to November 12, 2019 and December 17, 2019 6 p.m. Seconded Director Paulsen.
Vote: Unanimous
Motion Passed

e. Approval of Minutes for September 24, 2019.

Motion Director Deel to accept minutes as presented. **Seconded**
Director Paulsen.
Vote: **Unanimous**
Motion Passed

f. Approve Bills Paid and Presented.

Director Deel recused herself and left the room.
Motion Director Paulsen to approve bills paid and presented. **Seconded**
Director Unger.
Vote: **Unanimous**
Motion Passed

5. Old and New Business-

Policy-Social Media

Attorney- update Daggett Solar Project Appeal.

6. Directors Comment-

Director Deel- attached website newberrycsd.net

7. Adjournment: 7:33 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

draft

1. **Purpose** – The purpose of this Policy is to provide the public, the District, the Board of Directors, managers, and employees, guidelines on the use of social media which includes the District website and the District Facebook page.
2. **Public Information** – The District maintains an official website at www.newberrycsd.net, and a Facebook page at Newberry Community Services District, that are used to publicly disseminate official district information. No other site, page, blog, or other social media means are authorized or sanctioned as official District information. If an unofficial site presumes to identify itself as an official voice of the District, the District should be notified immediately so District Counsel can take appropriate action.
4. **Public Participation** - The public is encouraged to interact with the District through the email contact on the website, personal contact at the District office, phone contact with staff, and participation in the regular monthly board meetings. Comments, opinions, requests for service and information are handled best through these channels.
5. **Management of Social Media sites** – The District General Manager has the authority to manage the sites and their contents. The Chief or designated staff has authority to post information related to the Volunteer Fire Department.
6. **Content of the Social Media sites:** No material may be posted in connection with the political campaign of any Director or candidate for Director of the District, nor any content dealing with confidential information. Agendas, Minutes, and Calendars may be posted, and background information on topics that will be discussed by the Directors and/or that are of interest to the community.
7. **Directors and the Social Media sites** – Directors are not authorized to post content to any District Social Media page on behalf of the District. Directors shall not create or maintain any Social Media page on behalf of the District.
 - (a) **“Comments”, “Likes”, or “Sharing”** – In order to avoid any violation of the still unclear applicability of the Ralph M. Brown Act to social media, Directors may not comment or “like” any post on the District Social Media pages. Nothing herein prohibits a Director from “sharing” a District post to his/her own Social Media page, or any other Social Media page.
 - (b) **Other Social Media sites not maintained by the District** – Directors must exercise the same guidelines on non-District websites, blogs, or Social Media sites to avoid any implication of the Brown Act or other applicable laws.

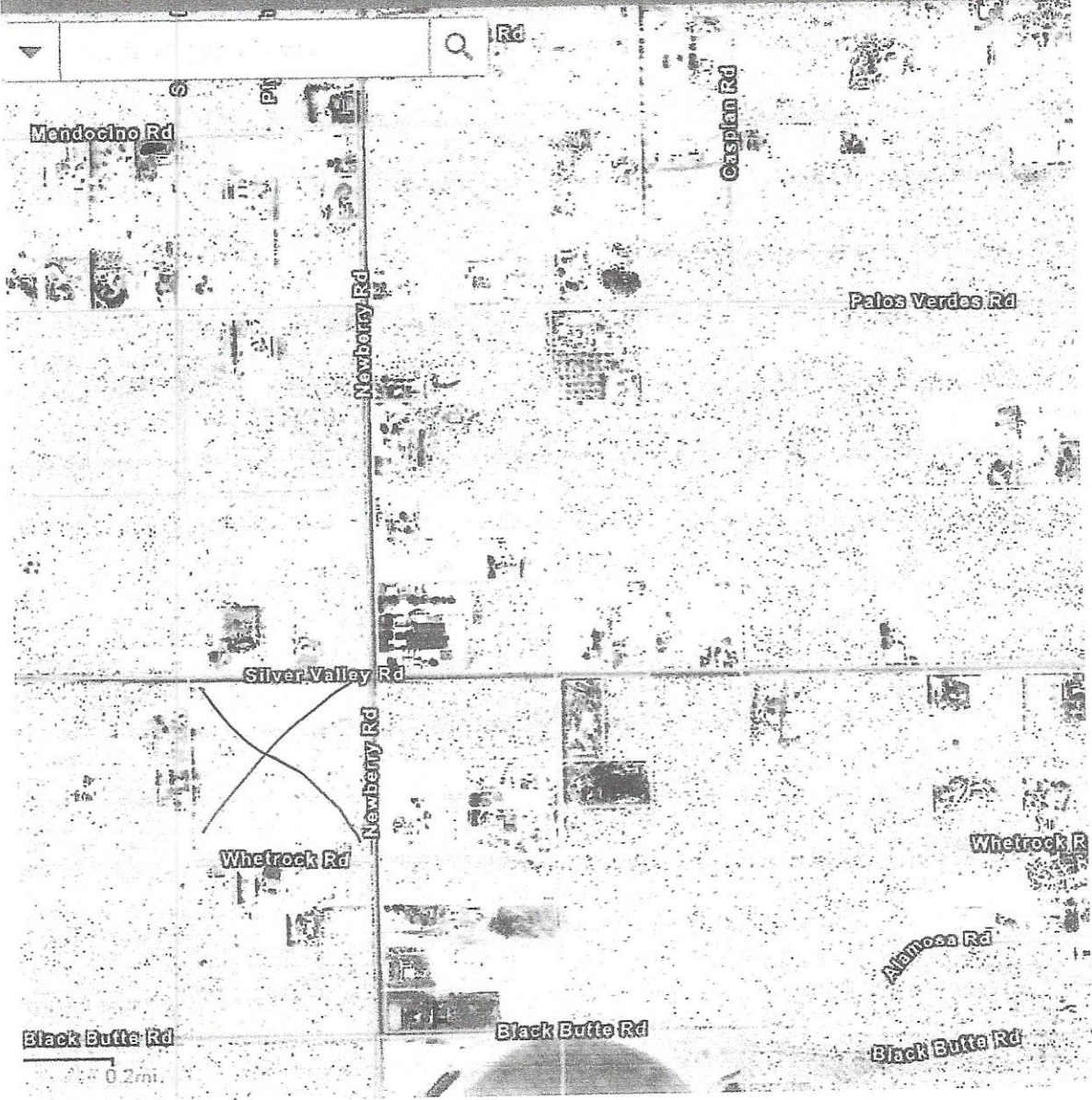
8. Prohibited Use by Directors and Employees – Due to the District’s status as a public entity, all electronic communications from District devices are subject to public disclosure laws.

(a) Directors and employees of the District are prohibited from using provided computers, cell phones, or any other electronic devices and networks to access personal email, social media, or browse the internet for personal use for any reason, at any time.

(b) Directors and staff should use District email accounts and addresses when doing District business.

(c) This does not prohibit Directors from activities such as writing a letter to an editor or posting to a local web forum; however, caution must be used to not have a dialog with other Directors directly or by a chain of messages.

Public San Bernardino County Parcel Viewer



Parcels:

ParcelNumber

OwnerName

LandValue 38,488

ImproveValue 0

PersPropValue 0

ExemptValue 0

HOX

Acreage 38.78

TaxStatus ASSESSED BY COUNTY

TRA

Zoning RL-5

ZoningDesc Rural Living-5 Acre Minimum

Jurisdiction County Land Use Services office

JurisURL [More info](#)

BaseYear 1975

PAGEMAP

AssessDescription VACANT LAND

AssessClass SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL



Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District

15415 W. Sand St., #103, Victorville, CA 92392

Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association

P. O. Box 193, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Newberry Community Services District

30884 New, Newberry Springs, CA 92365



Morongo Basin Conservation Association

P.O. Box 24, Joshua Tree CA 92252

November 1, 2019

Richard W. Corey, Executive Officer

California Air Resources Board

P.O. Box 2815

Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Northern San Bernardino County PM₁₀ Monitoring

Dear Mr. Corey,

We request that the California Air Resources Board establish two or more PM₁₀ continuous monitoring stations in the North Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County. Land development and climate change are driving increases in windblown dust emissions in this area, and the lack of regulatory monitoring data representative of this area is adversely impacting public health as land use decisions are being made on the basis of air quality data being collected in cleaner, upwind areas.

Historically, California's deserts have been sources of windblown dust in areas experiencing high wind velocities and ample supplies of loose sand. These sources, in the absence of human disturbance, are considered natural sand transport paths and are exempt from air quality regulatory control. Increasingly, however, development activities and illegal grading/native vegetation clearing in some of these desert areas have further disturbed soil surfaces, removing geological and biological crusts that formerly shielded these soils from aeolian erosion. One such area is the North Mojave Desert where population centers (Lucerne Valley, Daggett, Yermo, and Newberry Springs) are small, economically disadvantaged, and environmentally threatened.

Protection of air quality in these communities is delegated under state law to the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). Also, under state law, air districts such as MDAQMD, are encouraged to monitor air pollutant levels to determine whether areas under their jurisdiction have attained federal and state ambient air quality standards. Currently, MDAQMD continuously monitors ambient PM₁₀ concentrations in Barstow, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, and Victorville (see Figure 1). The southwestern portion of San Bernardino County where these monitors are located covers approximately 4,000 square miles. The remaining unmonitored portion of the County are the North Mojave Desert and East Mojave Desert covering approximately 16,000 square miles.

Climate change is causing soil moisture levels to decline in the Mojave Desert, resulting in the elimination of desert shrubs and plants that survive within narrow bands of moisture levels. As surface vegetation thins, surface roughness heights decline, resulting in increased wind velocities on soil surfaces.

State law incentivizes the replacement of fossil fuel-powered electrical generation by renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic and wind. As a result, North and East San Bernardino County have become the host of an increasing number of very large utility solar farms – with many applications filed and being processed, some covering many square miles in area. The construction of these renewable energy projects necessitates the removal, or fracturing of the geological and biological crust with its supporting subsurface mycorrhizae that serves to stabilize the surface and also sequester carbon (see attached [Flora](#) article). Without this protective crustal barrier, the soils degrade, becoming highly emissive surfaces that, under the force of the prevailing westerly winds, cause near zero-visibility dust storms that inundate roadways and bury structures, and harm the health of downwind residents. Scientists estimate that recovery of the biological soil to full functioning can take hundreds to thousands of years. Climate change is forecast to only exacerbate these effects.

We have petitioned the MDAQMD to begin installing regulatory PM₁₀ monitoring stations in communities impacted or threatened by these projects, but to no avail. As a supplemental strategy for assessing emissions levels from completed projects, we have requested the San Bernardino County Planning Department and the MDAQMD require upwind and downwind fence line monitoring of PM₁₀ as conditions for operation of these projects. To date, we have been rebuffed.

In the absence of programs to collect ambient PM₁₀ air quality data in our communities by local authorities, we are petitioning the California Air Resources Board to fill this critical data void by establishing one or more PM₁₀ regulatory monitoring stations in the North Mojave Desert. We request that you particularly focus on Lucerne Valley and the Daggett and Newberry Springs

area east of Barstow, where utility-scale solar projects, sited on sand transport paths, are currently under review without site specific baseline data for PM₁₀.

On behalf of the above organizations we thank you for consideration of our request. For additional information regarding this request, please contact Pat Flanagan, patflanagan29@gmail.com, at 760-362-4156.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bell, President MDRCD and LVEDA

Robert Springer, President Newberry Springs CSD

Steve Bardwell, President MBCA

Cc: Brad Poiriez, Executive Director, MDAQMD

Alan J. De Salvio, Deputy Director, Mojave Desert Operations

Terri Rahhal, Director San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department

Dawn Rowe, Third District Supervisor, San Bernardino County

Robert Lovingood, First District Supervisor, San Bernardino County

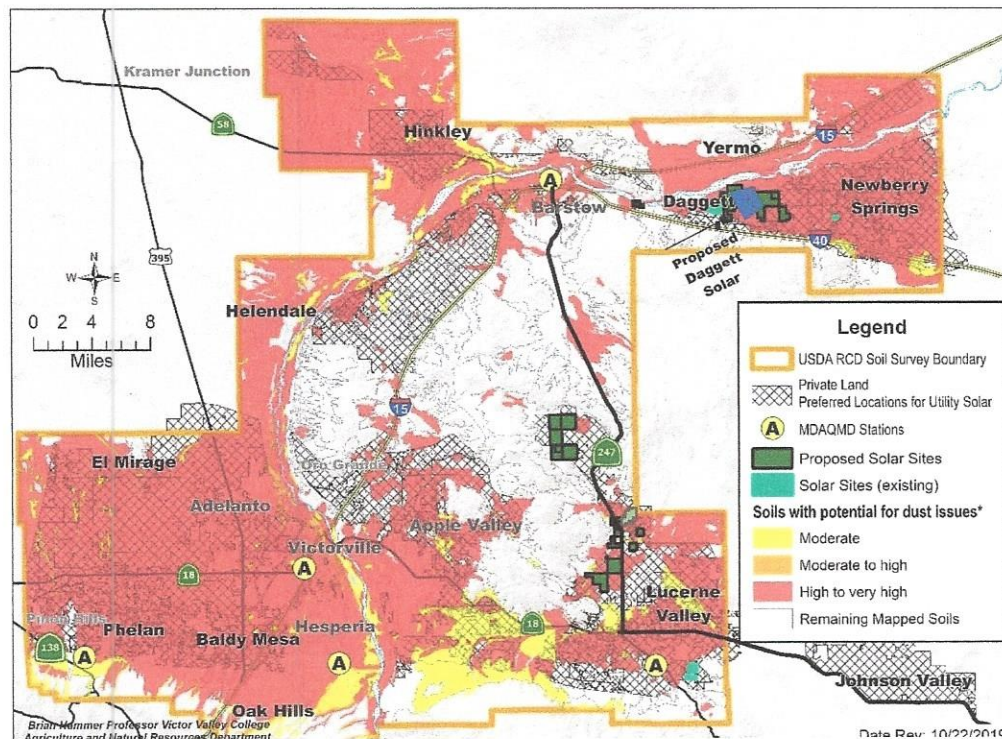


Figure 1: North Mojave Desert Air Quality Monitoring Stations, Soils, and Proposed Solar Sites