

NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

ESTABLISHED 1958

February 1, 2018

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Two weeks ago we received word that a 1,200 acre Solar Project was proposed for Newberry Springs. We are a small economically disadvantaged rural community in the Mojave Desert. We feel we are being targeted for that very reason. The last solar project that was built in Newberry Springs with much protest from our community is a disaster. Sand from the project buries the homes across from it.

This letter comes from a Special CSD meeting held January 29, 2018 to learn the will of our community regarding this solar project. Those who expressed their concerns on the whole are opposed to this project and have asked this CSD to represent them regarding this matter. At the meeting the CSD board of Directors voted to express our opposition to the project.

Their reasons for objecting are:

Blowing dust and sand: When the top crust of our desert is disturbed, the wind picks up the next layers and hurls them for miles. One of the worst areas is along the RR tracks (as is the proposed project). This area has blown so bad that it has closed I-40.

Traffic: Our roads serve a rural agricultural community. They will not survive the construction. There is only one paved road in the project's area.

Benefits: We haven't found any.

Costs: County will lose tax dollars as value of surrounding homes decrease. Increase in road maintenance. Few if any local jobs created. No increase in property tax on Project land. Loss of view scape as arrays proposed are 15-20 feet high and stretch about 4 miles east to west.

Water: We are an adjudicated area. The project property is not pumping water. Even though the project purchases pumping rights; the increase of water use will cause the rest of the adjudicators to be further ramped down. This includes our Community Services District that provides water for our Volunteer Fire Department to fight fires. And with the lithium batteries

being proposed, one spill in a rain storm would contaminate the water for the whole valley. In comparison the Hinkley Chromate would be like Sunday School punch.

Additionally is that according to the California Public Utilities Commissions' Office of Rate Payer Advocates (ORA's), SCE's and PG&E's recent submissions to the CPUC state that "no additional RPS (renewable procurements) are needed until 2033 or the foreseeable future" and none were requested in 2016 and 2017.

The Newberry Springs CSD in their capacity as the sole elected local representatives have begun the process assigned to it by appealing to you for any help you can give our small community to fight this invasion.

Sincerely,

Robert Springer

President