

12/17/2019

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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

COUNTY CLERK  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

My family and I understand that you will soon take up the appeals filed against the Conditional Use Permit issued for the Strauss Wind Energy Project. We have signed leases to have the Strauss wind turbines on our land and we wanted to share our perspective for why this project is so important for the future of our family's agricultural operation and preserving the natural character of the land.

We own nearly 1,000 acres of land in Miguelito Canyon, just south of the City of Lompoc and our family has grazed cattle on this land for over 120 years. For decades, the operation was profitable, but changing economics and persistent droughts due to our changing climate have made it difficult to sustain the operation. We would like nothing more than to preserve the land for future generations who can maintain grazing, but under current conditions, we may have to end grazing all together and look into other ways to generate income off the land.

The income we will receive from the project will ensure that we will be able to continue our operations as we have for generations to come. The supplemental income we receive from the project will help with long-term and short-term debts and allow us to improve our operations. Most importantly, the sustained income will subsidize our revenues in years where we are less profitable, and ensure that the current land uses and grazing continue in perpetuity.

As longtime stewards of this land, we care deeply about maintaining its future character and purpose. The Strauss Wind Energy Project allows us to do exactly this. By placing over 1,600 acres in permanent conservation easements, the Strauss Project will help preserve the natural beauty of the area as well as the habitats for sensitive and endangered native plants and wildlife, all while we are able to maintain grazing and our agricultural livelihood. The Strauss Project is a progressive example of meeting the objectives of both economic and environmental interests, all while allowing a responsible renewable energy project to move forward which is critically needed in California and in Santa Barbara County.

We hope you will consider all of these factors and our livelihoods and deny the appeals filed against the Strauss Wind Energy Project so that construction can begin immediately.

Respectfully,

*Gerald E. Scolari*

Gerald E. Scolari

*Sandra K. Scolari*

Sandra K. Scolari

*Rosebel V. Scolari Cameron*

Rosebel V. Scolari Cameron

*LeRoy Scolari*

LeRoy Scolari