

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment - Group 2 #7

From: Renee ONeill <chasingstar2701@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 4:48 PM
To: sbcob; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Lavagnino, Steve; Williams, Das
Cc: Villalobos, David
Subject: Public Comment re Utility-Scale Solar
Attachments: BOS re Utility-scale solar, 7-13-2021.docx



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Good Afternoon,

Attached, please find my one-page letter to submit for public comment re Utility-Scale Solar (Agenda D-7). I plan to speak on this item, tomorrow, via Zoom.

I had previously submitted letter re Agenda D-8, Suarez Cannabis Cultivation project and may speak on this item, as well. I'll let you know, tomorrow.

In addition, I may consider speaking to Admin items A-57 and A-58 but will let you know in the morning. Otherwise, no need to call on me other than for item D-7, for sure.

If possible, I prefer to speak toward the end of commenters. It helps me settle my nerves. Thanks!

Best Regards,

Renée O'Neill

July 13, 2021

To: The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Cc: The Santa Barbara County Planning Commissioners
Re: Utility-Scale Solar

Honorable Chair Nelson and Members of the Board,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to weigh in on this item. Generally speaking, I am a proponent of developing alternative, green energy sources but I am opposed to having large-scale industry, of any kind, developed in our remote, inland communities. I support homeowners' development of solar systems for personal use, on private lands and putting solar systems on buildings, parking lots, etc., in appropriate regions.

I guess the bottom line for me is this. I do not want to see our beautiful, scenic lands covered in hundreds of acres of glaringly reflective solar panels, any more than I want to see hundreds of acres of obtrusive hoop structures on these once, pristine lands.

Upon review of Board documents, I have the following concerns:

1. Allowing commercial-scale industry of any type, including solar industry, in Tepusquet Canyon and other small, rural unincorporated communities, presents risks that are similar to allowing commercial cannabis industry. Tepusquet Canyon is inappropriate for this type of use because we too, are "...characterized by steep slopes and areas with outstanding resource values, including environmentally sensitive habitats and/or watersheds... and unsuited for intensive development."
2. Tepusquet Canyon Road is narrow, winding and mostly undivided. It has many blind, hairpin turns and is deemed substandard. Increased levels of commercial vehicles and employee traffic pose a risk to our community. An expansion of use to our road would add to the level of heavy, commercial industry traffic.
3. Commercial industry will have heavy, negative impacts on flora and fauna, especially in the remote regions of our County.
4. Re Environmental Review: I am confused about the interpretation of CEQA Guidelines. I understand that developing the ordinances may not be subject to CEQA but the proposed Utility-Scale Solar Projects *will*, most certainly, "result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment." When will CEQA become involved? After projects come before the PC/BOS?
5. Re Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: I strongly disapprove of using P&D's Long Range Planning Division Budget (\$200,000), Cannabis tax revenue (\$171,000) and Planning and Development Budget funds (\$29,000) for consultant services. This amounts to \$400,000 for consulting costs, alone!!! This use/abuse of taxpayer funds infuriates me because the BOS has refused to fulfill their promise to protect public health and safety, by funding an additional, Sheriff's Cannabis Compliance Team, for FOUR YEARS!!! How can you justify spending that amount of money on *consultant services*, when you won't protect countywide residents, from illicit cannabis industry?!?

Respectfully Submitted,

Renée O'Neill

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Emily Engel <emilyaengel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 5:14 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: BOS Meeting 7.13 Public Comment on Utility-Scale Solar Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Amendments

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk, Here is my public comment on the proposed Utility-Scale Solar Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Amendments. Thank you, Emily Engel 914 California Street Santa Barbara 93103

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

Please support the staff recommendations regarding the proposed Utility-Scale Solar Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance Amendments - Scope of Work. The more we can do as a community to move toward renewables is essential in fighting climate change and securing the future for our children, like my 11 and 6 year olds.

Thank you for your service and all the work you do for Santa Barbara County.

All best,

Emily Engel 93103

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Emily A. Engel, Ph.D.

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Recent book: [A Companion to Early Modern Lima. Brill's Companions to the Americas, Volume 2](#)

Associate Editor: [Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture](#)