November 1, 2013

TO: Thuy Hua @ thua@planning.lacounty.gov
FROM: Richard Hague @ rhague7@aol.com
RE: Draft Renewable Energy Ordinance

Thuy:

First, thanks for the presentation last Saturday at AV College. At this time I have a couple of concerns relating to both solar and wind alternatives here in the west end of Antelope Valley. I understand that the ordinance is to be a neutral instrument simply setting down rules for these two alternatives. I am concerned mainly about placement of both wind turbines and solar panels at the industrial level. The Antelope Valley, with its’ wide open spaces, is an attractive place for industries in both arenas, as we here have come to know. Right now I can look north and northeast and see what appear to be large lakes. They are, in fact, vast solar “farms” (SR1 and NRG), in place and expanding. The means by which they got their CUPs has never been clear to me since they did so as the first of their kind several years ago. Also looking north across the Kern County line I see a very large number of wind turbines along the foot of the Tehachapi Mountains and also surrounding the town of Mojave, especially at night with their blinking aircraft warning lights.

We (CCWAV) got involved (2011) when NextEra attempted to place 95 huge (500 ft tall) wind turbines along Portal Ridge, an SEA established around 1980 by the County. Element was also working to place turbines on SEA land near the California Poppy Reserve. We resisted and both projects have been withdrawn.

The parts of the draft ordinance regarding industrial wind turbine facilities need to take into account the large amount of research done in connection with their effect on people, both physiologically and mentally, and on property values in their vicinity. “Vicinity” can mean several miles. I know you are very busy and asking you to take time to read volumes of such research is asking a lot. I have here a web site for a 14 page piece published in July of 2011. It reports on this topic, mainly in Canada but also in the US and elsewhere. It is: http://bst.sagepub.com/content/31/4/321 Perhaps the ideas/research here can influence placement of such an industry in the AV.

With regard to solar industrial level projects we are concerned with the dust and its potential for harm (valley fever, disruption of traffic and ordinary life in its vicinity) as well as the view shed. We have examples of these problems from already established industry here (note...
above).
Thank you,
Sincerely,
Richard Hague,
CCWAV
661 724 1623