

## LVEDA'S SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES – MARCH, 2013

### What's worth doing – what's the biggest bang for the buck! – who does it? Need to fill in the lines (Yes – No – Who).

**Roads:** (see separate list). LVEDA continues as lead. This is a no-brainer – have to keep it up. Chuck and Richard and \_\_\_\_\_?

**Numerous solar/wind projects:** Continue opposing heavily subsidized, utility-scale projects on public lands (which not only consume the sites – but require more protection and less multiple use of other public lands set aside for mitigation/compensation for these projects – or “federalizes” private lands that go off the tax role). Provides little if any economic benefit for us. Project by project – respond to solar projects on private lands subject to LVEDA's and MAC's siting criteria. *Also critical to weigh in on the Desert Renewables Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) – which has all of Lucerne Valley focused for solar/wind projects.* Richard and Chuck work with CDC which is taking the lead.

**AB 32** gives the state authority to treat CO2 as a "pollutant" - which can't end well with our dysfunctional legislature and enforcement agencies (ie: Air Resources Bd.). County opposed. Major consequences for our cement industry. Mit. take the lead? \_\_\_\_\_

**AB 811:** Waiting (long time) for County action which allows property owners loans for home solar - repaid via prop. tax bills. Do we pursue with County (that doesn't want to do it)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Marine Base expansion** into LV and JV: We have standing via comments on draft and final EIS's. No protest was allowed in the recent Record of Decision and our economic impacts were shined on. Defense's budget might not allow the expansion anyway – but have to assume it could happen. Our only recourse is Congress (Paul Cook) – plus support from Assemb. Donnelly and Sups. Lovingood and Ramos.

**Effects of the Feinstein "Monument" Act (S2921):** It only protects the integrity of the portion of the JV OHV area not consumed by the military expansion – plus prohibits mining within its boundaries. Some good aspects. Do we fight if it comes back again? \_\_\_\_\_

**BLM Route Designations** (“travel management”) in W. Mojave. \_\_\_\_\_

**Code Enf.:** How active do we want to be re: very visible parcels in such disarray displaying our “cosmetic challenge”? Is there an economic benefit? Includes Illegal grading/de-brushing of parcels with numerous reported violations over the years - with no County enforcement. ASK LEADER TO EMPHASIZE THE "GOOD ASPECTS" OF TOWN. GET TOWN BUSINESS INVOLVED. INVITE COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT TO LVEDA MEETING TO DISCUSS GRANTS, ETC. RE: FOCUSED

CLEAN-UP OF VACANT PARCELS/DETERIORATING STRUCTURES - NOT A "TOWN SWEEP" THAT COULD TRIGGER A BUREAUCRATIC MESS. DO SOME VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UPS - WEEDS, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

**Unresolved County water hauling policy.** (Absolutely must fight). Denial of water hauling and building permits to new development – it's only a County EHS policy – with only a “strong recommendation” from the State – it's not included in Dev. Code. A disaster to our outlying residents with no or poor groundwater sources. This is more than just a "water issue" - it is a "property right taking". Our position – “legal hauler – legal source” must be the only requirements. *Simplest way to deal with it – Sups. Lovingood and Ramos just kill it?*  
Jim/Betty/Richard/Chuck and??

**County land-use permitting problems:** We were making headway with some resolution - had meetings - but now stalled due to resignations/problems/reduced funding, etc. within County Land-Use Services Dept. Will re-start process after Sup. elections. (Need First and third Dist. on board with us). Likely Richard and Chuck.

**Status of water/sewer grant(s):** (Props. 84 and 50 and USDA applications). Sewer apps. were not filed. Would likely get “low” ranking anyway since nitrate “pre-emption” is not ranked as high as “remediation” – (gotta have pollution problem first). USDA loan for systems consolidation was not processed – county does not have necessary “collateral”. *May still be hope re: prop. 84 “pre-aps” to state DHS for water system consolidations. Success unlikely this go-around.* Continue or drop it – or give to the MAC since Special Districts has to be involved since it is the only entity with water/sewer powers throughout the community? Best project now would be consolidations of Center Water/both schools/Market and Shop Center/possibly Vista Water Co.? \_\_\_\_\_

**Utility Undergrounding** along commercial strip: At least 3 letters with forms sent to commercial property owners from Custer Rd. east to Fire Stations – 1 or 2 from SCE - the other from LVEDA and MAC. Many property owners have not responded. Continue with the full project – or focus on the stretch between the 4 way stop and Ladera - or let SCE and the County take the \$ to a more enlightened community (which it certainly could)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mojave Ground Squirrel:** Need County's help to fight Department of Fish and Game's (now “Wildlife”) requirement to mitigate/compensate for the squirrel - which beyond a doubt isn't present in Lucerne Valley. Terrible precedent - every project in LV on any parcel with any vegetation could get hit with it - which is only resolved by a very expensive trapping in the spring - another hit on our economics. Hit on the new Sups. after election – or forget about it?  
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**Rail Spur Land Exchange:** Pursue again a land exchange along the rail spur to privatize BLM lands - setting stage for more industrial use associated with

cement and limestone products – concrete pipe manufacture, etc. - rail hauling – less truck traffic? (Prior talk with BLM - "not doing administrative exchanges anymore" - we would probably have to pursue a legislative exchange – maybe get it part of Feinstein's Desert Act if it surfaces again). Need help from County and political clout from all the plants and sand and gravel operations. (Better get this done before all mitigation/compensation lands are consumed by "renewables"). Chuck working with Mickey at Barstow BLM re: possibility of admin. exchange

**CalFire Fee (tax) – south of 18 and 247:** LVEDA joins with County – Farm Bureau – Jarvis Foundation – etc. to oppose – litigate – move boundary up to BLM and USFS \_\_\_\_\_

**Cushenbury Wash – combined flood control and percolation project:** A study has been done – would involve MWA and County Flood Control. Likely Chuck, Richard and our Watermaster Committee. Trying to get it included in the updated MWA Integrated Regional Water Mgt. Plan – would have to be CEQA-ready by 2015.

**State Septic Policy – requires 2 ½ acre min. parcel size for septic tanks:** Doesn't kick in for 4 or 5 years – and certain areas could be exempted with a Plan done by County/MWA and the Col. RWQCB.

**LVEDA's 501c3 "charitable status":** Recently rescinded by state and IRS. Linda and Dave got us reinstated?

**A declining economy** - that affects our very survival as a functioning community. (from discussion at June 2012 LVEDA meeting).

LV needs to carefully define a specific kind of business to attract, rather than "riding off in all directions." Whether that target should be tourism, manufacturing plants, or cottage industries, a singular focus, at least to start with, should help to mobilize some interested parties. \_\_\_\_\_

How to get the word about LV out. County Fair with a small booth that shows our neat features? CofC does one now at High Desert Opportunity, which is a different audience totally. \_\_\_\_\_

Support and advocate bed and breakfast/resort/dude ranches. Use internet sites? Help with permitting". Hammer's Race, OHV activity, etc. all can be draws. \_\_\_\_\_

Identify LV as a cottage community, where people do things at their own homes – develop the idea of an expo to identify and expose to attention this group of businesses - would require a couple of organizations joining together. (Note: The County does not require a business license and it's not difficult to get a home

business permit). Develop a directory for artists and art activities that are located here. Serena Harvey to head up a LVEDA committee – with help from John Bush, etc.

Orchards are a good Ag. use – fairly water efficient – help keeps us rural – increases property tax revenue. Find someone who speaks Korean and reach out to the Asian community who are developing jujubees? Utilize the image of the “old west”. Do a pistachio/etc. festival like Newberry Springs? \_\_\_\_\_

Hwy 247/Old Woman Springs Rd./Barstow Rd. "Historical/Scenic" designation. Advertise local attributes - promote tourism - as long as it wouldn't preclude or restrict legitimate land-uses (ie: mining, etc.). (SCE will likely avoid Barstow Rd. alignment for its proposed trans. line due to this endeavor. It works).  
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Tourism is the easiest thing for the County to deal with per the Third Dist. Develop the LV Museum with a building, etc. – help obtain grants? \_\_\_\_\_

There is less volunteer help to put events together any more. The young people are not coming up in the organizations now. Help recruit? \_\_\_\_\_

Schools: Tap into our excellent FFA program. Help the School Dist. with more such trade curriculum – stop the loss of Average Daily Attendance – families moving out. Current status – might be stabilizing. \_\_\_\_\_

Double R Bar Regulators at Lions Club - find out how to publicize Lucerne Valley at their events. \_\_\_\_\_

Is Special Districts "outsourcing" CSA 29's projects to non-local contractors? Can CSA 29 be authorized to contract locally - at least for certain projects? \_\_\_\_\_

Actively advertise our available commercial/industrial parcels - seek projects - get a broker to work on commission? \_\_\_\_\_

"Keep our \$ in town"! Major promotion via Leader, etc. - get businesses involved w/Chamber and LVEDA? \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE): Here are some thoughts and “reality checks” based on past discussions: Any major chain like McDonalds, etc. would be opposed - but unlikely to site here with our population. Our Community Plan and zoning are fairly specific re: the "kind of business to attract". Solar and Wind are coming to the desert – preferably not here - just trying to force them into the more appropriate locations - private or fed. lands. These things are so heavily

subsidized for start-up – thus when in operation could fail – can't compete with alternative forms of energy – we get more blight. Most construction workers would be brought in - most unionized - with most of the proposed projects only requiring 1 or 2 full-time employees to operate - some managing a number of sites. Over the years we have experienced new business start-ups - proprietors obviously wanting to do stuff they know how to do – competing with too many other businesses already doing what they know how to do - but not sustainable in our small town – and there's not much we can do to help. Can work if the business is a "hobby" that the owner is willing to subsidize with retirement income, etc. A center lane on 18 for left turns the entire length through town would solve a lot of the Caltrans issues – better to do it all at once instead of these expensive individual r/l turn projects - we've tried - but no \$ for such a major road project. Caltrans has little choice but to regulate access to any major business (ie: dude ranch, etc.) on Hwy 18 up to Cushenbury since not only is it a state highway dedicated to "free flow" - gotta make safe turning movements to avoid conflict with 80,000 lb. trucks coming downhill and unloaded trucks moving fast uphill. Hobby farms are considered 'AG' - which just by itself is permitted in any zone and requires few if any specific permits. Commercial activities on site create traffic and turning movements - and can be regulated.