

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

Re: RETI/DRECP – 09- RENEW - EO-O1 – RENEWABLE ENERGY EXEC. ORDER

From: Chuck Bell, Sec.

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LVEDA's Mission Statement:

Provide a forum for discussion and action on important community issues – promote infrastructure improvements – work with County and developers to promote development that is both “economic” and compatible with our rural lifestyle, environment and resource availability.

Granted, we have wind and sun which should be shared with our countrymen. But we also have the Mojave Desert which is a treasure unto itself - which cannot be consumed for the benefit of the over-urbanized coastal basin. Both “environmental” and “infrastructure sensitivity” must be factored into siting decisions. We already provide that megalopolis with limestone, cement, aggregate (with its incessant truck traffic), recreation (particularly the resource-consumptive and largest OHV open areas in the world), numerous solar and conventional power plants, transmission line/pipeline corridors, tremendous amounts of acreage for expanding military bases (critical for our nation's defense), public open space, immense areas set-aside for habitat protection, etc. etc. The RETI/DRECP analyses should include a quantitative assessment of the megawatts of solar power that could potentially be generated within the urban areas of demand (ie: roof top and parking lot systems) prior to any further commitment of public land resources to the subsidy of urban areas. It should also take into account the nation-wide options for nuclear plants at locations with sufficient water sources.

This process must include an in-depth survey of Calif. Desert plans and maps – identifying the limited areas available and suitable for solar plants - listing and quantifying the amount of acreage/sq. miles and alignments dedicated to all the land-uses that we already provide s. Calif. - to fully understand why we need a "Solar Energy Siting Element" to our current BLM and County Plans. If this endeavor does that – then it's well worthwhile.

The siting of renewable energy projects should not displace private sector opportunities – with the cheaper use of gov. land competing w/solar plant options on private land (ie: fallowed agricultural land in s. Cal. counties that cannot otherwise be developed due remoteness, water shortages, etc.) - allowing landowners to make the best use of their properties. Very few if any of these fallowed parcels are subject to Williamson Act constraints.

We also have to deal with severe water shortages (particularly in the western portion of the Mojave Desert subject to the Mojave River Basin Groundwater Adjudication) – and the dilemma "where do we mitigate the impacts of all these proposed projects."