

**From:** Howard Smith <[hsmotorsports@msn.com](mailto:hsmotorsports@msn.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 1, 2023 7:47 PM

**To:** Cynthia Draper <[cdraper@inyocounty.us](mailto:cdraper@inyocounty.us)>

**Subject:** Comments on Renewal Barker Solar and Renewable Energy Permit.

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May 1,  
2023

To whom it may

concern.

My name is Howard D. Smith. I live at 2021 Homewood Canyon Road Homewood Canyon. Ca. 93592. I support the proposed Solar and Renewable Energy project near Trona. I have lived in the Trona area since 1977. I owned a 5- acre parcel of land next to the newly finished Barker Solar and Renewable Energy facility since 1980. My 5 acres were mostly fenced & used to store junk cars & scrap metal. I have spent much time on the property & did not experience any inconvenience while the present facility was being built. One big reason I support this project is I own 6 rental properties in Trona. Trona has two very large coal fired boilers. I can go to my properties on any given day & find coal dust lying on the cars. I know that Solar and Renewable Energies are clean & safe. Trona is a small town so news travels fast. I hear there maybe one or two people objecting to this project. One of the persons objecting had concerns about the area being rural residential and not industrial development is not appropriate for the area and will damage property rights and the health and lifestyle of families living in the area. It will introduce industrial activities that will create additional safety concerns for residents and children who live and play in the area. This is a ridiculous statement! Not many years ago the Inyo board of supervisors had a very good meeting at the golf course near Trona. The meeting was well posted in advance. My wife & I attended along with about 50 other local residents. The future plans for the area we are talking about were talked about, inc. solar, wind and pot cultivation at that time. NO ONE voted no to any of this. I would like to address another concern. One person in opposition is saying that, 1. Inyo County has allowed the operator to destroy existing vegetation and wildlife habitat just months prior to the permits being submitted despite the use being clearly for solar development. 2. At a minimum the public is unaware the project area is actually home to the largest habitat of the endangered Mojave Ground Squirrel in California, and likely other species of concern as Inyo County says there are none present such as the Desert Tortoise, and Burrowing Owl which are mentioned in the permit documents. This is not true. I worked for Mojave pistachio relocating the Mojave Ground Squirrel. It lives 45 miles to our north & cannot live in this heat. I also relocated the Desert Tortoise, and Burrowing Owl. Because of my previous experience I took great time & effort searching for Desert Tortoise, Burrowing Owl and snakes. I have spent over 6 months clearing my 5 acres looking for all the above. I did not find any birds, snakes or tortoise! Not one in all that time. Thank you, Howard Smith