

Sent Via Email (inyoplanning@inyocounty.us)

To: County of Inyo, Planning Commission
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526

Re: May 3, 2023, County of Inyo Planning Commission Meeting, Agenda Item Nos. 7 (Renewable Energy Permit 2022-01/Barker) and 8 (Renewable Energy Permit 2022-02/Barker)

Dear Members of the Inyo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors:

My property is adjacent to the existing solar facility and adjacent to the proposed project expansion involving the two permits under consideration. I have lived with my family on my property since 1974. This includes three generations that currently live with me including my son, daughter, and granddaughter. I have experience with construction projects around Trona over the many years and retired from Caltrans several years ago.

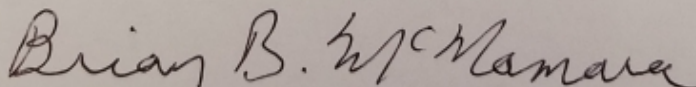
We have used the parcels on which we live for agriculture including raising animals for food including chickens, pigs, cows, and other livestock. We enjoy living in a natural area, with its wildlife and native vegetation as well as the beautiful vistas in every direction. Expansion of this project will destroy this natural area which I grew up in and ruin the quality of life for my family for generations to come. These solar plants eliminate all presence of the natural environment on the land which they are constructed and seriously degrade the surrounding native environment including wildlife, vegetation, air quality, roads, aesthetics, and human health. Inyo County has not evaluated these impacts correctly. The permit documents also do not discuss any impacts to or from power lines or corridors which will be used for transmission or other later projects.

My home is immediately downwind of the current solar plant and these associated proposed projects. We have been affected by blowing dust from them for at least a couple years now. We have repeatedly observed construction of these facilities without any dust control measures. We also have observed no protection for the desert tortoise during the construction. In my experience, it is well known that these measures need to be in place for any construction project in this area. Also, during the construction, a large amount of material was pushed onto my property and left there. We have never observed any security on the project which is unmanned. Overall, the project has been a sloppy, half-complete collection of material piles and unused equipment that shows no concern for visual appearance and protection of the public.

I oppose the construction and operation of these projects. It has been my experience that Inyo County is unable to manage anything in our remote part of the county. This area has been treated by the County for many years as: "Out of sight. Out of mind." This has been shown again with the recent construction and permitting. Also, the owner of the project shows little care for his neighbors or compliance with regulations. I was NOT notified by the owner regarding submittal of applications for the proposed projects as required by the REGPA. Since Inyo County lacks the resources to make any effort to supervise the project nor cares at all about enforcing rules and regulations, we expect even worse things to come if these permits are approved.

My family and I support the comments of John Mays, his legal counsel, and Tom Kidder. We urge the Planning Department and Board of Supervisors to deny these permits and remove all Rural Residential parcels in the area from the Trona REGPA. The solar use as proposed here is not the proper use for these areas.

Thank you,



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