

Permit 2022-01/Barker Solar Permit 2022-02/Barker Solar and Renewable Energy Permit

Tom Kidder
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My name is Tom Kidder Property owner bordering on two sides of the project site. I am a retired Facilities Manager for California State Parks. While employed by CSP I was a project manager/consultant for multiple solar projects state wide. I say this so it is known that I am an advocate of solar and not against solar in the appropriate locations following the law and proper procedures. In addition to my comments, I would like it to be known that I concur with all comments and finding made by my neighbor John Mays P.O. Box 583 Trona, CA 93502

No notification from County or Applicant – REGPA 2015 General Plan Revision Gov-2.3 County shall provide the opportunity for the public to engage in the planning process at the onset. and 2.4 Developer must notify residents and/or land owners.

Applicant has stated his intent to block my driveway (Moses Ln.) Moses Ln. has been maintain by my family and has been the access to my home for more that 60 yrs.

Staff report states “Located on land that is highly disturbed with no natural habitat and has been previously graded” Applicant circumvented CEQA law by clearing the land just months before submitting project applications and with total disregard for the law or health and welfare of the nearby residents. Three of the four lots purposed in these two projects where unspoiled desert fauna with the same vegetation and wildlife habitat as the adjacent protected BLM lands. Inyo county is complicit in this action by their own admission as stated in the staff report “Has been previously graded”. The evidence is also readily available on Google Earth. In addition, work on these projects continues to move forward even though there is not a permit to do so. Crush rock has been delivered to the project site for months and continues to be delivered a recent as today 4/28/2023. There is several hundred yards of crushed rock now onsite and zero dust control measures have been taken. (Attached photos taken 4/27/2023)

The now damaged project site was habitat for the listed and endangered desert tortious and Mojave ground squirrel and potentially others. In fact, I have seen both of these species on and near my property. Because proper surveys were not completed, we do not know if there has been any take and therefore should assume there was.

Environmental Review - Mitigated Negative Declaration is the improper environmental review process for the above reasons just stated.

Staff Report states - Vacant land to the north, south and west? My home shares boarders to the north and east of the project. The project is 350 feet from my front porch and directly in my viewshed. There is also a home site 30 feet from the project site. The permitted manufactured

home was removed in the 80's and the infrastructure is still there I intend on placing a new home in this location. This property value will plummet if this project moves forward.

This community is zoned Rural Residential, Residential being the word to emphasize. It is completely improper to put a purely commercial operation in a residential community. The county and the applicant are attempting to take advantage of a disadvantaged community. I have personally spoke with many of my neighbors about these solar projects. Every person I've spoken with is upset about it but not willing to speak up. Many are afraid of the county and the applicant. The county and the applicant are attempting to take advantage of an underserved low-income community. Inyo County Code clearly states the purpose for rural residential properties are "to provide suitable areas and appropriate environments for low density, single family rural estate type uses"

I have health concerns from the dust that the barren land is now producing this affects not only the residents in our Inyo County community but the residents in Trona as well.

These projects will bring increased traffic, road impacts to our unpaved roads and safety concerns in our community.

These solar projects set a bad precedent for future development. I am a 3rd generation owner of this property my daughter and grandchildren (4th and 5th generations) live in Trona and will own our little piece a paradise someday. It will be a sad day if we are over taken and surrounded by solar panels.

The REGPA 2015 General plan amendment needs to be revisited. It is inappropriate and unacceptable that all of the 5-acre rural residential parcels are included in the Trona SEDA. These purely commercial uses are a detriment and have many negative impacts to the natural environment and residents of our small community Ultimately, I would like to see these 5-acre RR parcels removed from the Trona SEDA and returned to the Residential Estate designation

I ask that these projects be denied and the REGPA 2015 General plan amendment be revisited and adjusted with the wildlife, environment, health wellbeing and quality of life of the residents in consideration.