

Dear Mr. Sackett:

July 9, 2018

The Antelope Acres Town Council met on July 6, 2018 and determined that the Town Council is in opposition to the Centennial Project.

We would like to provide the following comments. At this point in time we oppose the Project based on several factors. There are many unavoidable significant factors with regard to air quality, traffic, biological resources, special hazards, water quality and quantity, emergency services, public health and many additional impacts to our community.

Additionally there are cumulative impacts as yet undefined or not yet adequately reviewed as the final documents have not had a substantial final review given an insufficient amount of time for a final review and comment period.

Over the years the Centennial representatives have briefed our community on the progress of the project. This is an extremely significant undertaking to build a city of over 19,000 homes with a complete infrastructure to support a community of that size with manufacturing and commercial plans in place that will support almost 60,000 people.

This project has permanent and inevitable far reaching effects on surrounding rural communities and

Antelope Acres will see unavoidable effects such as permanent traffic, noise, air quality and health impacts due to the project itself. Over time it will drive projected revisions to Interstate Hwy 5 and Hwy 138 which when implemented will change the face of our community forever and sacrifice at least sixteen properties which mean the loss of sixteen family homes to our community and that is the current projection, not necessarily the final plan.

Our community has already been invaded by solar projects and the entities given the responsibility to protect us have not created a plan to assure that our health and safety are protected.

Lancaster City officials and L. A. County Regional Planning have allowed all planned projects to be completed with no regard to their cumulative effects.

There is no oversight to create sane growth in the renewable energy industry. Jurisdictional boundaries are adding to this dilemma as there are no coordinated efforts between the responsible entities to change these conditions.

It concerns us that the AVAQMD (the lead agency) had "no comment" when the DEIR and the FEIR were released.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD)s comments reported that "construction emissions would exceed significant air quality impacts would exceed CEQA significant thresholds for VOCs and NOx after incorporating Mitigation Measure (MM) 11-2 and MM 11-3 14 and that the localized construction impacts could be significant and unavoidable since construction activities in one or several planning areas may affect already-established sensitive uses within the proposed project area. After mitigation these impacts would remain significant and unavoidable." We strongly disagree with that statement and want strict oversight by L. A. County Planning to assure that CUP requirements are not abused. We do not want the future to tell a story of regrets that the Centennial Project overshadowed the rights of the residents of the west side of the Antelope Valley.

"The Antelope Valley has never been properly assessed for compliance with the National or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) for PM 2.5. And not properly assessed for compliance with the National AAQS for PM 10 though it is established that the Antelope Valley community does not comply with California's AAQS for PM 10.

Is the AVAQMD relying on Fugitive Dust Rule 403 to police the effects of dust and air quality? This document is not adequate and needs review and revision. This is an important element of the project, for without a substantial enforceable plan the stated significant impacts may not be identified and monitored adequately as the air quality data is "undefined."

Emphysema, COPD, Asthma and Valley Fever statistics show dramatic increases in the Antelope Valley with no change in sight. California and the Antelope Valley still face a significant drought which will add to the near and long term air quality and health issues. The Antelope Valley already has the highest incidents of COPD in the United States and in 2017 had the second highest number of Valley fever cases in the State of California according to the L. A. County Dept. of Public Health.

There are water quality and quantity issues pending due to the water adjudication lawsuit judgment. A Watermaster has been established which will affect everything from the loss of current agricultural land use by possibly forcing as much as 20,000 additional acres of farmland out of production. This will exacerbate the fugitive dust and air quality issues already identified, with no mention to adequate water being available for use.

The health and safety of our residents and its wildlife are at stake.

Sincerely,

Virginia Stout, President  
Antelope Acres Town Council