

Ryan Lodge - Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board~ my comment RE: deadline Oct 13th

From: David <davidw4@gmail.com>
To: <RLodge@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: 10/13/2011 3:07 PM
Subject: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board~ my comment RE: deadline Oct 13th
CC: David <davidw4@gmail.com>

Hi Ryan,

Following is my comment "for the record"
 I intend to attend the December 1st meeting (thanks for the notice of same)

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 To:  
 Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
 Comment (for the record) regarding RWQCB Meeting of December 1st, 2011 at 8:30 am  
 submitted today by David Webb

With construction work, a proposed batch concrete plant and eventual solar panel washing, the solar company will use millions upon millions of gallons of water.

After construction, about six million solar panels will require washing to remove dust, bird dung etc...Where will that gray water go?

The Carrizo Plain is abundant with all types of birds, small and large.

We all know big birds leave big droppings.

A short list of the larger birds that live in the area would be pigeons, ravens, owls, hawks and eagles.

Solar panels will be great "dung targets" for them.

The Sunpower solar project requires water for construction, dust control and road building.

Construction is currently in process and is slated to be in progress for at least two years.

We are told that water from Sunpowers only high yield well is very high in suspended solids.

On December first I will be curious to hear how this solar company's plan to conform to Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Boards requirements for containment of the brine they have left from the reverse osmosis process.

And also what they intend to do with the R.O. system's clear water after they use it for panel washing, road construction, dust control etc...

I wonder if the natural watershed can handle all that water after it is used ? And how will the vernal pools and plant-life downstream be effected?

Airborne dust from the dried brine is also a serious concern.

Hot summer days in excess of 100 degrees will trigger dust devils. Some, 100 yards high...

The soil in the Carrizo Plain harbors valley fever and anthrax spores. A natural occurrence to this area.

Long time residents have concerns regarding intensive solar construction and dry brine that will stir these spores up and carry them airborne on the wings of our powerful summer winds..

My wife, Rosemarie, has breathing difficulties from her bout (15 years ago) w/valley fever. She must (now) use a breathing assist machine nightly.

Valley Fever has taken neighbors and beloved pets. They died too young.

A few years ago a local cattle rancher at a BLM/C.P.N.M. cattle grazing scoping meeting stated; "**Everyone knows there is anthrax in Soda Lake**" This is a concern that all should consider..

Cattle and sheep have died in this area from anthrax.. They died at an elevation above Soda Lake.

The water wells in the area produce a very high content of suspended solids...We have a neighbor that ask his well driller to quit drilling after about 400 feet depth. The reason, poor quality and very low yield of water.

That well was very close to and at about the same elevation as the Sunpower well.

Our family has lived in this area (about 1/4 mile south/east of the solar site) for about 30 years. We are unaware of any residents in the area that have wells that produce water that is low enough in suspended solids to be of potable use.

The water, if not excessive in minerals will percolate fine through a septic field for a 2 bathroom home. A fiberglass septic tank is preferred instead of a concrete one.

Drinking water is purchased and potable well water has been available from the (monthly tested) CSD /Cal-Fire well for the currently

(about 30) resident/families that have high mineral wells since the California Valley subdivision was founded in 1960. Over the years many of California Valley two & one half acre lots have been water-well drilled and subsequently undeveloped due to the water (high suspended solids) quality. Homes in the area of the solar project are few and far between for this reason. The homes that can be found are at a lower elevation than the Sunpower project site. South, West and East.

All watershed (from man and rain) flows into "Soda Lake" in the C.P.National Monument (roughly three miles south of the solar site) There are a string of "Vernal Pools" between the solar site and Soda Lake. One of the vernal pools is about the size of a football field. These pools (dry in summer and drought years) are home to the tiny "brine shrimp" that are state and federally listed as endangered and have official biological species names. All water runoff that washes into these ponds that first washes man-made material or is discharged from a man-made 'brine pond' can effect this sensitive eco system downstream.

I could write more on this important subject but am running out of time and will submit this 'as is'  
thank you Ryan

Sincerely,  
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