



One Voice for the People of Homestead Valley

PO Box 3694, Landers CA 92285 www.hvccsite.org

Director (210)

Attn: Brenda Williams, 1620 L St. N. W.: Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036

**A RESOLUTION BY THE
HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL, LANDERS, CALIFORNIA,
PROTESTING THE CHEVRON ENERGY SOLUTIONS
LUCERNE VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT**

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2010, Chevron Energy Solutions has published their Final Environmental Impact Statement concerning the 516 acres of rural desert land they plan to destroy to install solar panels;

WHEREAS Chevron has been less than accurate in their claims of how many homes will be served by the Lucerne Valley installation;

WHEREAS when challenged on their claims, we were told they would reply to us, and never did;

WHEREAS Chevron has refused to discuss the cost of this project, since it has been shown that 45MW of PV solar when installed at point of use is much cheaper;

WHEREAS Chevron declared itself undecided as to the technology to be used: 1) polycrystalline silicon and/or 2) thin-film cadmium telluride, a substance with unknown impact when used over large areas for many years.

WHEREAS although this project is planned to be approved in two stages, getting approval for the second stage will be easy once the damage has been done, and Phase II will certainly require a transmission upgrade;

WHEREAS rooftop point-of-use solar panels are now a viable alternative with the implementation of AB811 low cost energy improvement loans, repaid on property taxes, and even the EPA requested the analysis of possible alternatives be expanded to include point-of-use generation;

WHEREAS the alternative of rooftop point-of-use will create jobs for the long term, increase property values without increasing assessments, only affect already developed land, and would require NO additional transmission lines;

WHEREAS every study, including that of the Department of Energy, shows rooftop point-of-use installation on homes and businesses is not only faster to bring on line, but cleaner and cheaper generation;

WHEREAS satellite imagery shows several major and minor washes crossing the site, demonstrating outwash toward the highway during the typical high intensity local storm activity.

WHEREAS recent flash floods less than 3 miles from the site demonstrated how damage to the land and the highway is multiplied by destruction of the desert habitat.

WHEREAS the gentle sloping site of the installation was actually created by thousands of years of such flash floods.

WHEREAS Chevron, the BLM and consenting “environmentalist” groups judge this typical high desert community of plants and animals as being of low scenic and habitat value;

WHEREAS we as residents of the high desert not only disagree with this judgment, but also argue that acres of creosote bush, shrubs, Joshua Trees and the varied plants in the washes are absorbing carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen at a great rate, absolutely free to the taxpayer and the ratepayer.

WHEREAS Chevron and the BLM label this area as disturbed ground, we find that naturally-formed desert pavement and wash erosion is also considered disturbed ground;

WHEREAS Chevron has made sure to request a solar right of way on both sides of Santa Fe Fire Trail Road, so the roadway can be counted as “disturbed ground” also;

WHEREAS Chevron downplayed the amount of blading and scraping to be done, they finally admitted the entire 516-acre desert habitat would be destroyed.

WHEREAS Chevron expressed uncertainty as to the type, efficacy and environmental impact of chemicals being studied for dust control.

WHEREAS the “fast track” shortcutting of environmental protections leaves these and many other environmental questions incompletely studied or answered;

WHEREAS we consider the “fast track” program a mandate to put large amounts of taxpayer money into the pockets of the renewable energy corporations, and to make politicians who represent all the people look good to the few still convinced that industrial-scale renewables are the answer to our energy issues;

WHEREAS these short cuts will inevitably lead to irrevocable damage, in complete contradiction to the so-called environmentalist aims of the renewable energy advocates;

WHEREAS Chevron has failed to prove any benefit for the local residents, while expecting them to live with depressed property values, destroyed scenic values and increased electric bills;

WHEREAS even the most ardent advocates of industrial-scale renewable energy sources are forced to admit their use will make electricity more expensive for the consumer;

WHEREAS even the most ardent advocates are not able to show that one single coal-fired source will shut down as a result of the proliferation of the industrial-scale renewables;

WHEREAS we feel as though this protest is a waste of both our time and yours, because the BLM seems to be all too ready to deal with Chevron and completely disregard the comments of the public who supposedly own the public lands you administer;

WHEREAS it is still our duty and mission as a Council to speak out for residents of the unincorporated area known as the Homestead Valley to local, county, state and federal officials;

WHEREAS the Homestead Valley is a major target for similar renewable energy projects;

WHEREAS the Homestead Valley, being adjacent to Lucerne Valley, would undoubtedly suffer from the domino cumulative effects of energy companies being able to argue that Chevron slipped through with only lip service to environmental protections;

WHEREAS once this is done it cannot be undone;

THEREFORE we most vigorously protest this misuse and destruction of our public lands, and the certainty that private lands will follow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED that this Resolution protesting the approval of the Chevron Energy Solutions Lucerne Valley Solar Project be approved and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Homestead Valley Community Council is hereby authorized and directed to transmit this protest to the Bureau of Land Management and any public forum.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of September 2010

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Harvey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

James Harvey, President HVCC