

**LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE
LUCERNE VALLEY AND JOHNSON VALLEY, MUNICIPAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL
FOR
THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PLANNING APPLICATION
INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL & EIR SCOPING**

The following application has been reviewed by the Land Use Advisory Committee regarding the Initial Study Environmental and the Environmental Impact Report Scoping.

Date of committee review: May 21, 2015

Project #:	Applicant:	L.U.D.	Case Planners:
P201400433/CUP	Lucerne Valley Solar One, LLC	LV/Ag	Tracy Creason & John Oquendo
APN's 0449-181-07, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39 & 40			

Comments:

The Land Use Committee submits the following comments:

1. Aesthetics: Lucerne Valley is known for its pristine views. More of the valley's views will be forever lost because of unsightly solar panels. With the views spoiled, the enjoyment of the desert will degrade and property values will decrease as well as scenic highway views blighted.
2. Air quality: The dust from the grading and scraping of these projects is excessive and unacceptable. It's a health hazard, it's destructive to native vegetation and wildlife, and the potential of Valley Fever is too significant to ignore.
3. Biological resources: This acreage is home to the desert tortoise, kit fox, various squirrels and other rodents, Joshua trees, and Mojave Yucca. After the land is graded and scraped, these will be gone. The rodents will flock to the nearest residences to survive. This land is also a wildlife corridor that connects the San Bernardino Mountains with the Ord Mountains.
4. Climate Change: There has been no research regarding the scraping and sterilizing of our desert to determine if there will be lasting negative effects on our climate. How will this be addressed?
5. Cultural Resources: Native American Indians migrated back and forth between Lucerne Valley and the San Bernardino Mountains annually. Many of their traces are buried beneath our desert floor. This project may disturb and/or destroy not yet discovered Native American artifacts.
6. Geology and Soils: The desert soil took thousands of years to be structured to absorb storm water and to resist flood and wind erosion. Plants and microbes are a part of that structure. When the soil is scraped and graded, that erosion resistant structure is destroyed for hundreds of years. The grade at this site is too severe for this project and will lead to undesired flooding and erosion.
7. Hydrology and Water Quality: The less disturbed the soil is, the better the percolation to the water table and the higher quality of our groundwater. With scraping and grading on such a

large scale, more water will flow in flash floods and be contaminated with the brackish water below the dry lakes.

8. Noise: During the lengthy construction, the noise is disturbing to humans and animals. After construction, the noise of the pivoting panels is very disturbing to nearby residences. This is well documented wherever solar farms are allowed to locate next to residential neighborhoods.

9. Utility/ Service Systems: A project of this scope requires a significant amount of water. With California in a state of drought, this project will have an impact on available water in an adjudicated groundwater basin.

10. Alternatives to the Project: There is an excellent alternative to this poorly located project. Just a few miles north of this proposed project is a six to seven square mile ideal site, considered ideal by many residents of Lucerne Valley and the only site suitable for solar panel power generation. The land is flat, will require nearly no grading, is unsuitable for other beneficial development, is naturally screened by self-watered tamarack trees and is naturally resistant to erosion.

11. Cumulative impacts: As more acres of Rural Living (RL) and Agriculture (AG) lands are converted to solar power generation, the area will become blighted with most residents moving away and property values will decrease. Tax revenue will decrease. This will harm the economies of both Lucerne Valley and San Bernardino County. Wildlife will also relocate away from the area. More of the beautiful desert will be denuded.

All solar projects should be placed on hold until the County Plan update and the Lucerne Valley Community Plan has been completed.

The LV-JV MAC is reserving consideration to submit additional comments and recommendations after the Draft Environmental Impact Report is released as well as final comments prior to and possibly during the public hearing for approval consideration.

The LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 21, 2015

ACCEPTED THIS 16TH DAY OF JULY, 2015 BY THE LV-JV MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Richard Selby, Chairman

Committee Members: Roger Peterson, Chairman, Richard Selby, Jean Magee, Chuck Bell, Brian Hammer