



WHAT!?! Another Solar Project?

Another solar project is proposed for Weldon. Foresight Renewables (<http://www.fsrenew.com/>) is part of Foresight Inc., a larger company. It proposes a solar facility in Weldon, to be called Nicolis, a short distance from the RRG site. A Nicolis LLC is referred to, but as of now we have found no information on it.

Foresight began their process through Edison, rather than Kern County, and the County Planning Dept. has no info on Nicolis. So Foresight has a commitment to have Edison purchase power, but no CEQA process in motion.

Foresight does not yet own the land - they have an option to purchase 150 - 220 acres of the 538-acre parcel. So we don't know exactly where on the parcel the project would be located, other than it would be between Kelso Valley Rd. and the neighborhood to the east. It is just south of the Middle School, and the Valley Estates Tract in Weldon.

A friend of PKRV spoke with Foresight, who said Foresight is concerned about community opposition, and that the Edison contract may be transferable to other locations, and they are considering other sites.

This supports PKRV's concern that if ONE solar project is created in the KRV, it will be followed by more. There are potential sites throughout the Valley.

Another Solar Project? (continued)

Thus Foresight is correct to be concerned about community opposition. Of hundreds of people I have spoken to since March, perhaps two think big solar power plants in the KRV are a good idea.

PKRV has studies from the Center for Health, Environment & Justice showing that often projects are sited in demographic areas of older, less affluent, and more conservative people. This is because studies show such people are less likely to mount an effective opposition.

Interesting, don't you think? While we are busy keeping up with our lives, people elsewhere are considering how to use our Valley for their own purposes. But we don't have to fit the mold.

NOTICE: EIR for KERN VALLEY SPECIFIC PLAN to come out this month! Watch for it!

About Preserve the Kern River Valley

“What’s happening with the solar plant Renewable Resources Group (RRG) plans in Weldon?” Our neighbors want to know!

PKRV meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm, at the South Fork Elementary School. Our website is pkrv.org.

Since the community gathering in March 2010, over the proposed Weldon solar plant, there has been growing concern by residents.

We have over 4000 signatures on petitions. We are researching solar technology and water banking, taking photos of work on RRG property, BBQ fundraising for busing residents to county meetings in Bakersfield, writing county planners, writing editorials, speaking at group meetings, and waiting for the draft Environmental Impact Report. We are neighbors with a common cause.

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