



Hi-Desert Star



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Homestead council protests Chevron solar field

By **Rebecca Unger**

Hi-Desert Star

LUCERNE VALLEY — The members of the Homestead Valley Community Council approved a resolution that was sent to the Bureau of Land Management this week in protest of a Chevron Energy Solutions proposal to build solar-energy fields on 516 acres here.

In the resolution, the unincorporated communities of Yucca Mesa, Flamingo

Heights, Landers, and Johnson Valley refuse to be considered "a major target for similar renewable energy projects."

"I am astounded at the support this project has received from so-called environmentalists, including The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club," remarked Betty Munson of the Homestead Valley Community Council.

The council's resolution ar-

gues in favor of rooftop solar panels, which it claims will create jobs, improve property values without increasing taxes and not require transmission lines.

"Chevron has failed to prove any benefit to local people, while expecting them to live with depressed property values, destroyed scenic values and increased electric bill," the Homestead Valley resolution charges.

Munson said the comment

period for the project ends Sunday, but e-mails to lucernesolar@blm.gov will still get through

"This is just the first of many proposals to use cheap public lands for industrial use, with solar fields and wind turbines that could rise up to haunt us for years," Munson warned.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Rebecca Unger at runger@hidesertstar.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

This wilderness area in Lucerne Valley is in a proposed site for a solar field.