



*P.O. Box 3694 Landers, CA 92285 [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)*

To: California Public Utilities Commission  
Docket Office, Room 2001  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

May 19, 2014

**Re: Letter to CPUC in opposition of Coolwater Lugo Transmission Project, proceeding #A1308023**

The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) is a coalition of the four Homestead Valley communities of Johnson Valley, Landers, Flamingo Heights and Yucca Mesa. These California High Desert communities share a common history and economy, and common goals as established by community consensus in the Homestead Valley General Plan approved by San Bernardino County in 2007.

HVCC is currently seeking Scenic Highway designation for State Highway 247, which is already declared as eligible for such status. It connects our communities with Yucca Valley, Lucerne Valley and Barstow. The original Scenic 247 campaign presentation displayed on Page 1 a full-width photograph of a dramatic and beautiful vista – and it is part of the planned route for the proposed Coolwater-Lugo transmission corridor. This landscape would be completely marred by pylons carrying transmission lines.

Any industrial project visible from Highway 247 will have a devastating impact on valuable scenic attributes and the largely visitor-generated economy of the High Desert, counter to our scenic designation mission.

The Scenic 247 campaign has been sponsored by community organizations, museums and businesses along its full length from Barstow to Yucca Valley. It is in the hands of San Bernardino County Land Use Services and the Mountain and Desert Tourism Marketing Campaign, contracted by the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency.

HVCC has been on record for many years opposing the siting of industrial-scale renewable energy projects and transmission lines in the desert. We strongly advocate the encouragement of rooftop and parking lot solar installations at the point of use in the already-built environment. This solution achieving the mandated

levels of power generation from renewable resources is faster, cheaper, much less destructive to the desert, relieves grid congestion reducing the expense of expanding infrastructure, and is much less vulnerable to wide-spread power failure.

Coolwater-Lugo is an outgrowth of hasty and often misguided energy policies, and a perfect example of a major negative impact on rural communities which will receive nothing from it, no jobs, no reduction in rates, and no enhancement of visitor attractions.

We urge that permitting for it be denied.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rick Sayers, HVCC President

Cc: Third District Supervisor James Ramos

Third District Field Representative Bev Lowry

Assemblyman Tim Donnelly

State Senator Jean Fuller

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Sayers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Date of signing: May 19, 2014

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