

Cumulative Defects

OVER 5,000 ACRES IN LUCERNE VALLEY NOW TARGETS FOR INDUSTRIAL SOLAR, uniting opponents from the Morongo Basin, Homestead Valley, Lucerne Valley and Apple Valley.

Policy 4.10 has caused all this grief. These few paragraphs in the new Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) for the County General Plan, hailed by all as protection from huge solar projects in the desert intruding on unincorporated communities, were removed from the RECE by the Board of Supervisors last August. For

further study. Meantime, developers' applications continue to accumulate.

In the Supervisors' hearing we saw and heard the unions and builders who say these projects benefit us, bring jobs, etc. etc.

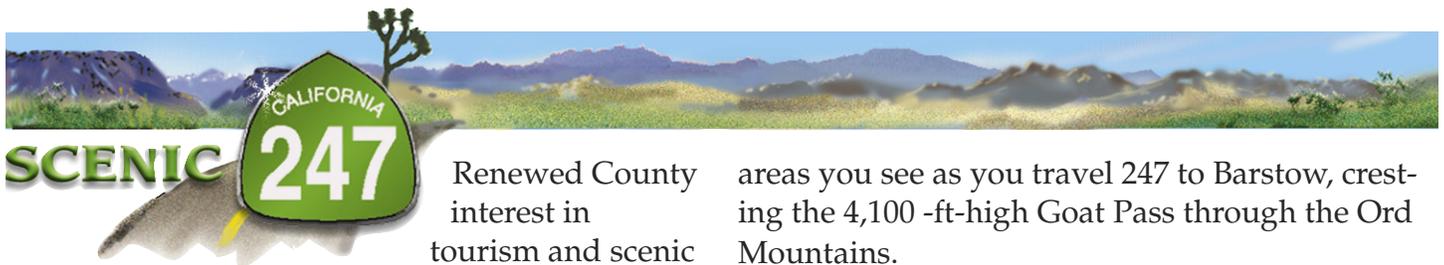
Our proofs they lie: from east to west, in Joshua Tree see Cascade Solar and Lear Ave Solar; in Lucerne Valley see Lone Valley Solar on Camp Rock Road. Badly sited, generating clouds of dust along with power for urban areas and few permanent jobs, these show-and-tell the whole sorry story of industrial-scale renewable energy projects destroying desert habitat. Yet they want more; even as utilities

no longer want to purchase that power, even as power gets exported out of state at California ratepayers' expense.

HVCC has long supported solar power sited on rooftops and parking lots. We like using power where it gets generated; utilities like building expensive long transmission lines.

A grass roots campaign at Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings urged that Policy 4.10 be reinstated *as originally written*. We hope the Planning Commission and the Supervisors hear us and act.

See the original Policy 4.10 and the alternate wording the unions like at www.hvccsite.org



Renewed County interest in tourism and scenic highways has bumped started our Scenic 247 campaign again. Members of the Scenic 247 Committee had a ride-along with two Caltrans Landscape Architects on March 29, to help understand the requirements for a Visual Assessment of the scenic corridor and how man-made intrusions can detract from it.

County objectives contrast with the solar projects (above) proposed for North Lucerne Valley – sites on both sides of 247 that could blight scenic wild

areas you see as you travel 247 to Barstow, cresting the 4,100 -ft-high Goat Pass through the Ord Mountains.

Caltrans says: "The intent of the State Scenic Highway Program is to protect and enhance California's natural scenic beauty."

"If a highway is listed as eligible for official designation, it is also part of the Scenic Highway System and **care must be taken to preserve its eligible status.**"

The Committee awaits the County's promised Letter of Intent to Caltrans, the sooner, the better!

See The Case for Scenic 247 on www.scenichighway247.com