

Meeting Date: October 8, 2024
Agenda Item No. 19
Batch No. 01

From: bearpress@san.rr.com
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Thank you
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 10:40:34 AM

I was at the City Council meeting yesterday, and I want to thank the staff who helped us figure out how to cede time to another person during public comment on S502. You helped several people learn how to participate in the democratic process! One poor kid was terrified that he'd have to go speak when I asked him if he would be willing to cede time to Shan Hueng, but he was willing to do it. He'd never heard the term "cede" before. He was so relieved when I told him he didn't have to speak - just had to raise his hand. A day he'll never forget!

Thanks,
Patty Riddle

RAD
Racing Against Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Lorraine Kent](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Meeting Date: Sep, 24 2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION
Date: Saturday, September 28, 2024 7:39:47 PM

To: The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Rancho Santa Fe regarding the critical need for a **NEW** comprehensive review of our fire safety protocols and resources for the **Proposed Harmony Grove Village South Housing Project**.

Harmony Grove Village South, Housing Project, **requested and received a waiver of State Fire Code Standards that require secondary egress on dead-end road projects**. So, ask yourself why it was granted. If you had family in this **High-Risk Fire Zone**, would you approve of a **one-way in and one-way out option**? Waiving fire codes can have consequences:

1. **Few access roads exist in rural areas**, leading to bottlenecks during evacuations, trapping residents and hinder emergency responders, especially on **dead-end streets**.
2. **Narrow or Unpaved County roads** must be wider to accommodate large vehicles, fire trucks, or traffic volume during an evacuation **on dead-end streets**.
3. Residents need to become more familiar with changes in evacuation routes **when a new development is built**, and changing emergency protocols make it challenging to execute a swift evacuation.
4. Natural obstacles such as rivers, hills, or steep terrain change **with new development, complicating escape routes and reducing safe evacuation options**.
5. As residents **evacuate simultaneously**, traffic jams can occur, increasing the risk of panic and accidents escaping from **dead-end streets**.
6. **Rapidly changing fire conditions render specific routes unsafe**, necessitating last-minute changes that residents may need to be made aware of.

As a long-time resident living within Rancho Santa Fe area, we knew of children at R. Roger Rowe School who lost a parent in the 1996 Elfin Grove Fire. His name was David Hammond, and he was a wonderful father and loving husband who left behind two young children. That fire burned over 8,500 acres and **destroyed 101 homes** in La Costa, San Marcos, Elfin Forest, and **Harmony Grove**. That fire began off the west side of **Harmony Grove Road about** one mile north of Questhaven Road. Had the winds changed direction that year, most of Rancho Santa Fe would be gone. We must take **proactive measures** to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents within the San Dieguito Planning Area. There are notable instances in California where limited access routes contributed to tragic outcomes during wildfire evacuations. Here are some general areas and events where access issues have been particularly impactful:

1. **Camp Fire (2018)**: In Paradise, many residents were trapped due to narrow roads and heavy traffic as they attempted to evacuate. **The main routes out were limited**, leading

to significant delays. Deaths = 85

2. **Woolsey Fire (2018):** Areas in Malibu experienced **congestion on narrow, winding roads, which complicated evacuations and contributed to the panic.** Deaths =3
3. **Thomas Fire (2017):** Residents in Ventura County faced **challenges on limited access roads,** leading to dangerous situations as they tried to escape the fire's path. Death = 2
4. **Witch Fire (2007):** Residents on rural north county roads **struggled with evacuation due to traffic congestion and limited routes.** Deaths = 2
5. **Cedar Fire (2003):** In San Diego county highlights the **dangers of narrow, winding country roads, where residents have been unable to evacuate quickly.** Deaths = 15

2024 Fire Year Outlook

“While the number of fires in the state is keeping pace with the five-year average, **the number of acres burned is much higher than the five-year average.** Climate predictions indicate **above-normal temperatures in all of California,** resulting in an **abnormally high fire risk** for the remainder of the year.” Quote: [Fire.CA.Gov](https://www.fire.ca.gov)

What may have been acceptable two or five years ago is no longer valid based on the abnormally high risk and increasing temperatures. **This information alone should warrant significant consideration for public safety.** These conditions underscore the critical need for updated fire planning, improved infrastructure, and an updated emergency plan to prevent future loss of life. Please consider **eliminating all fire waivers in San Diego County.** A waiver on life-saving measures seems criminal.

I urge the Board to mandate a **NEW FIRE REVIEW** for the Harmony Grove Village South Housing development project. A thorough assessment will allow us to identify gaps in our current evacuation system, update emergency access options, and enhance fire safety in this high-risk zone and save lives.

Respectfully,

Lorraine Kent

Current San Dieguito Planning Group Member (Seat 8)

Former RSFA Board member 2021-2024

Public Interest Committee member P.I.C.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Val Mid](#)
To: [FGG, CAO Mail](#); [FGG, Public Comment](#); pym.sandiego@gmail.com
Subject: [External] Oct 5th 2pm Event
Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 8:01:21 AM
Attachments: [48807C2F-1A77-441B-8B64-32801D9552C1.png](#)

To Whom It Concerns,

I highly urge you to read this message with an open mind and reconsider your positions.

Falsehoods, misstatements of fact, and examples of racism are only recently perpetuated solely by the murderous Islamic supremacists known as Hamas and its backers who include the dictator of Iran.

Their goal is to silence Jewish, Arab, or Palestinian voices altogether. I highly encourage you to condemn continuously both Hamas, its supporters, and the murderous Iranian regime's leaders who thrive on Anti Semitism and racism. If not, then history will remember and record your unwillingness to condemn the real McCarthyism 2.0 and the new rise of Holocaust Denialism.

Moral conscience truly haunts me and many others in the recent global events of six Israeli hostages being killed (with ongoing Palestinian civilians' deaths caused by Hamas' anti semitic and racist ideology), one of them is an American. Another died in false promises of humanitarianism in Gaza. Also, I surely hope the moral compass still appeals to you.

Please observe the case of careful consideration of Pro Palestinian groups and movements such [sjp.csusm](#), [nc4p_backup](#), [osiders4palestine](#), [stepsacrossborders](#), [sandiegokat4palestine](#), and [northcounty4palestine](#) who are unfortunately involved themselves by conducting in acts of vandalism and harassment (on college campuses, San Diego, etc) such as interrupting and harassing at CSUSM mayor's event.

Pro Palestinian groups and movements' actions in the past and possibly in the future are shockingly comparable to white supremacy, Neo Nazis and Holocaust Deniers whereas many of these infamous hate groups are joining and infiltrating Pro Palestine movements.

Moreover, both Jewish and non Jewish students are being targeted on academia and non-academia grounds at higher rates than before as a result; feeling unsafe or unwelcome on anywhere (whereas in contradiction to their rules that everyone from different ethnicities is welcome).

It is also shocking to see the genocidal ruthless and racist dictator of Iran (who has enormous lists of civil and human rights violations) endorsing the Pro Palestine's college students' movements.



Khamenei.ir 
@khamenei_ir



Dear university students in the United States of America, you are standing on the right side of history.

6:41 PM · 5/29/24 · **1.5M** Views

643 Reposts **1K** Quotes **2.7K** Likes **395** Bookmarks



imgflip.com

The WW2's White Rose etc Memorials still reminds many daily of how many should not stand by against immoral actions and shocking displays of dishonest attitudes by those who mock the historical injustices.

“Just because so many things are in conflict does not mean that we ourselves should be divided” —Sophie Scholl (White Rose)

Please do not indulge yourselves with the rise of Anti Semitism and racism that seems to surround their atmosphere and climate.

Thank You

Jennifer & Jason Boes
[REDACTED]

September 30, 2024

Nicholas Koutoufidis, Planner
Planning & Development Services
County of San Diego
5510 Overland Ave, Suite 110
San Diego, CA 92123

RE: **Record ID: SDC PDS RCDV 09-06-24 MUP24-012**

PROJECT NAME: Clean Energy Valley Center APPLICANT: Nova Renewables LLC

We are in complete opposition to the above referenced BESS project planned for Valley Center, CA. We urge the County PDS to deny the Major Use/Discretionary permit. The following are some comments/concerns regarding the proposed BESS Storage Facility and Solar Farm at 15225 Rock Hill Ranch Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082.

First, a facility like this should be built in a proper industrial location.

It has been well documented that these BESS facilities come with inherent fire hazards among a host of other safety deficiencies. One of the most prevalent being fire hazard.

Valley Center is a known area of serious wildfire concern. This project proposes building yet another possibly serious fire and health hazard for our community right down the street from an existing unwanted BESS (which has had a fire). Not to mention the huge existing 54 acre solar farm (which has also had a fire) across from the proposed BESS.

There have been numerous BESS mishaps due to “thermal runaway” and other fire hazard situations in the U.S. and around the globe. Arizona experienced a serious fire situation from a BESS where numerous firefighters were injured due the toxic chemical inhalation and intense heat from the battery fire.

We are questioning the urgency and placement of these projects. There is also noted concern from engineers and fire experts about the proper fire/toxic hazard mitigation plans or lack there of for these facilities.

See quote from SP Global Market, written by Garrett Hering, 24 May 2019:¹

“Still, lithium-ion has fueled the battery-storage revolution and continues to be, by far, the most commonly deployed technology. And industry officials continue to lose sleep over possible future fires”

“Lithium-ion batteries can burn, “ said Ben Ditch, a fire researcher at FM Global. “The fact is the hazard exists. ...It is something a lot of us have been worried about for some time.”

These facilities are being built all over communities without any tried and true means of eliminating the toxic fume hazards and fire risks. See below a quote from an article on S&P Global Market, written by Garrett Hering, 24 May 2019:

“As projects proliferate, driven by demand for solutions to integrate intermittent renewables into grid operations and to offset the need for fossil fuels, the industry is being forced to acknowledge that fires, most of them linked to lithium-ion batteries, are occurring with troubling frequency. Incidents over the past year include the blaze in Arizona along with more than 20 energy storage systems that have reportedly caught fire in South Korea, putting the world's hottest energy storage market on ice amid a safety probe. Fires linked to lithium-ion batteries also have hit Europe and Australia.”

It is already known that it takes copious amounts of water for many days to try to expel these fires. The watershed is then contaminated. The decision has to be made to either pollute watershed areas or let toxic fumes burn in our community. How is either decision a good one?

Quote from Trace International Report via BBC.co.uk, 5 July 2023:ⁱⁱ

“We remain concerned about the impact of the chosen locations that could have such a detrimental effect on the local environment and important infrastructure should a fire occur,” the chief fire officer added.

Aesthetically, the BESS facility will obviously be an eyesore and “out of place” among the rural homes, trees, livestock, agricultural crops and vegetation. The BESS facility will most likely eliminate the previously mentioned attributes of our town.

This stretch of Valley Center Road (part of the scenic highway corridor) is part of a beautiful valley and one of the reasons we moved to this area of Valley Center.

At this point, two BESS facilities and two large solar farms within a 1.5 mile stretch of Valley Center Road is undoubtedly going to negatively affect property values due to bad aesthetics and potential fire and health hazards.

Why not find a location that isn't within close proximity to schools, or among residential homes, crops, Star Valley Park, casinos, and mountain leisure locations, etc. This is a main thoroughfare in Valley Center. This project will definitely be an eyesore and possibly dangerous to our community.

We understand the need for future renewable energy sources and the ability to store clean energy. We are not against the technology or ideology but we do have concerns with the urgency and the location of this project!

May we remind you many community members don't have the time or energy to send in formal comments as they are busy working and paying bills, etc. Just know that we are not alone in this commentary.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jason & Jennifer Boes

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the names and contact information of the signatories.

ⁱ <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/burning-concern-energy-storage-industry-battles-battery-fires-51900636>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-66097217>