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S.W. Ela to: aramirez

08/20/2012 05:25 PM

1 attachment



Ela - Comments to the Board of Supervisors 21 August re Excelaron Appeal.pdf

Ms. Ramirez:

Here it is. Sorry I took so long. I can't seem to attach the entire four pages of comments. I hope to have those to you tomorrow morning.

Thanks!

Steve

TRUNCATED AFTER ONLY ONE PAGE.

ITEM # 32
MEETING DATE: AUGUST 21, 2012
PRESENTED BY: STEVE ELA
RECEIVED PRIOR TO MEETING
POSTED ON: AUGUST 20, 2012

COMMENTS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RE
EXCELARON'S APPEAL OF DENIAL OF ITS CUP

21 August 2012 STEPHEN ELA

[I regret that I will be unable to attend the continuation of the May 15 hearing of Excelaron's appeal of the denial of its CUP. Please accept these comments in lieu of my oral comments.]

Dear Chairman Patterson and fellow Supervisors:

My name is Stephen Ela. I've lived in unincorporated Paso Robles for fourteen years. I commented to your Planning Commission on February 20 on the Excelaron CUP. My comments concluded, as did those of your Department of Planning and Building (DPB), and your Planning Commission, that the Excelaron Conditional Use Permit – CUP – be denied.

I have one theme today. Those supporting the Excelaron CUP are on the wrong side of history. They are mired in the twentieth century, stuck in the second industrial revolution and the dirty fossil fuels that drove that revolution.

Those who have consistently opposed the Excelaron CUP are living in the twenty-first century. They are members of the third and final industrial revolution, that being driven by clean renewable energies largely derived from the sun.

Those favoring the Excelaron CUP are not only stuck in the twentieth century but – knowingly or not – they have already lost. They have lost their battles with local governments in our county

and in the courts of public opinion. They are struggling to win some battles but they have lost the war.

In general we can expect this result for those who look back instead of forward in time. That is, those living and working in the past have lost all their wars. This is true about the great issues of economic and social injustice as well as about the issue of energies fueling industrial revolutions.

So why are we even here today, attending the continuation of Excelaron's appeal of its CUP? The answer is obvious to most of us. Those supporting Excelaron's appeal are members of – or doing the bidding of – the one percent of the people who currently hold global economic and political sway.

These folks fancy that they have not lost the war. Indeed, they continue to expend great effort to ensure that their proxies win major and minor battles in the active and ongoing war for which of the two energy revolutions we and other citizens of world will occupy.

But the result the one percent's struggles will certainly lead to a collapse of human civilization as we now know it. Fossil fuels are dirty because the chemical result of using them to drive an industrial revolution is carbon dioxide. And carbon dioxide – CO₂ – is the major greenhouse gas, the increasing production of which is already leading to the extraordinary weather events expected to occur with man-made climate change.

Many of us in San Luis Obispo county – particularly in the North County – are on the extreme edge of the extraordinary weather event that much of our county is experiencing. This extreme heat and drought spreads east throughout much of California and the States west of the Mississippi River.

For the people in this huge area the drought is more important than the heat. And that's true for us as well. Continued long-term drought threatens our County's major industries — agriculture and tourism.

Indeed, very recent predictions expect the whole northern hemisphere to remain under conditions of extreme drought until at least 2100. These predictions have been summarized in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the influential Australian climate blog Climate Code Red.

Your Board has been much involved with the perils of drought in the issues you, members of your DPB, and your Planning Commissions have addressed in the past few years. Further, there is no reason to expect that all of you, and many attendees at this continuation, will become less involved in the future.

Drought is crucially relevant to this continuation. As water becomes ever more precious in this county, the huge amounts of water that Excelaron proposes to use — regardless of its technology or whenever it might exploit that technology — will be relevant to all of us in the county.

We cannot afford that water, now or in the future. If Excelaron is serious about requesting a delay, it needs to tell all concerned today how much water it plans to use and from where it plans to get it.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I trust that this afternoon this Board will unanimously deny Excelaron its appeal. To not do so, even to

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approve a delay, as David Sneed in Sunday's Tribune reported Excelaron plans to ask for – will only make our long term problems worse.