

Minutes of the meeting of the Tehachapi Cummings Land Trust (TCLT) Board of Directors on October 11, 2011 to consider the mitigation proposal by Recurrent Energy relative to Their Cummings Valley solar proposal.

Directors present: Chuck McCollough, President; Jo Anne Huckins, Vice President; Sally Fox, Secretary; Laurie Rude, Corresponding Secretary. Absent: Priscilla Mester, Treasurer.

President McCollough opened the meeting with information about the proposal to mitigate the negative effects of a three hundred plus acre solar farm on prime agricultural land in the middle of Cummings Valley by donating a Conservation Easement on land elsewhere.

Vice President, Jo Anne Huckins reviewed the criteria for land characteristics qualifying for a Conservation Easement in order of importance:

1. Agricultural value, especially when suitable for producing healthful food for human consumption.
2. Scenic viewsapes visible to the public.
3. Recreational values open for public use.
4. Historical value.
5. Preservation of important wildlife.

It was immediately apparent to the Board that the land proposed for the Solar farm has the two most important qualities for preservation.

McCollough mentioned that in communications with Grimmway Farms, they have stated that they would like to buy the property to expand their organic vegetable production.

Jo Anne pointed out that the stunning views of well tended farms and open space from tourism sites such as the wine tasting patios of Souza Family Vineyard and Triassic Legacy along with other existing and future tourism sites would be spoiled by a huge array of solar panels. This would be true as well for the many homes in the hills surrounding the valley. It could adversely affect the agritourism enjoyment of visitors crossing the valley on Pellisier Road.

In the general discussion that followed it was agreed that no other piece of land would likely have a fraction of the preservation value of the proposed solar site.

Jo Anne moved that the Tehachapi Cummings Land Trust position be that the proposed mitigation is not acceptable. Seconded by Sally Fox, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Fox, Secretary

Cc: Cummings Valley Protective Association.
Smart Growth, Tehachapi Valleys
Lorelei Oviatt, Director Planning and Community Development
Zack Scrivner, Second District Kern County Supervisor