

To the Board of County Commissioner
Santa Fe County
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Letter of Intent

This letter is regarding the Santa Fe County Planning Commission's Final Order regarding a CUP for a 96-megawatt solar facility on 684 +/- acres of an 828-acre tract" case no. 24-5200, also called the Rancho Viejo Solar Project.

I appeal that order and will explain the request and the basis of the appeal.

I am the president of the Registered Organization (RO) "New Mexicans for Responsible Renewable Energy" (NMRRE). In addition, the property of my husband and myself is the closest to this project. We have been opposing this development from the start in the summer of 2022.

On february 20, 2023, several of my neighbors and myself filed the first petition (see Exhibit 1) to the Santa Fe County Planning Commissioners and County Commissioners via Jose Larrañaga. On Sept 25, 2024, we became the RO "NMRRE". On October 18, 2024, we requested to become an intervenor for the Hearing Officer's (HO) hearing (see Exhibit 2), which was denied. On January 5, 2025, we requested to become an intervenor for the meeting of Planning Commission (see Exhibit 3), for which we received standing. Based on this history we are of the opinion we should be granted standing for the upcoming meeting of the County Commissioners.

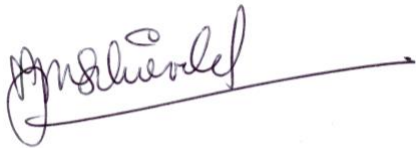
The basis of the appeal is the following:

1. The Hearing Officer was a well-informed, independent expert appointed to evaluate the CUP. On December 23, 2024, after careful consideration, she advised against it, detailing the apparent inconsistencies with the SLDC and SGMP. She also noted the lack of prove from the part of the Applicant with regards to there being no potential loss of property value.
2. During the meeting of the Planning Commission the arguments from the Applicant and Staff were insufficient in refuting the conclusions of the HO.
3. The Chair was clearly biased and should have recused himself.
4. By granting standing to any person who had an opinion on this project without considering proximity to it, an unbalanced amount of arguments was presented. Many arguments were put forward in favor, but frequently were not related to the applicable criteria of the SLDC, which unduly influenced the members of the Planning Commission.
5. By limiting the time parties with standing had to 30 minutes, we were unable to bring our arguments across to the members of the Planning Commission.
6. The Applicant misrepresented many aspect of the project, which provided a wrong impression of safety and a lack of negative consequences.

7. The questions from the members of the Planning Commission members indicated that the level of knowledge with respect to the ins- and outs of the project was limited.
8. The same applied to several of the Staff employees.
9. The largest study assessing the potential loss of property values, was not included in the arguments presented to the Planning Commission members.
10. In the time leading up to the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting, many questions from residents to County Officials were not, incomplete, or incorrect answered.
11. Documents released after IPRA and Public Records Requests were redacted, without what looked like legitimate reasons.
12. While the residents were severely restricted in contact with the County Commissioners, Staff and attorneys had unlimited access.
13. The deliberations by the Planning Commission members were held in a mere 45 minutes in a closed session. There was only one member who opposed that and he stated that, in this case, there should be transparency. With such an abundance of protest by residents, both the time spend on it by the Planning Commission members and the fact it was behind closed doors, do not create the trust that the public interests were served. Only the person appointed recently to the Planning Commission, voted against. This unfolding of events raises suspicion about undue pressure from parties.
14. In the decision, the objections of the HO were not addressed. I find it worriesome that the opinion of a qualified, independent person is put aside by persons who, in comparison, are less informed.

Based on these 14 items, it is my opinion that the Planning Commission members made the wrong decision due to incorrect information. In the interest of the residents in the vicinity of this project the Board of County Commissioners should be provided with the facts as we have collected them over the past 2,5 years.

On behalf of the Registered Organization New Mexicans for Responsible Renewable Energy,
May 2, 2025,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dr. Selma Eikelenboom-Schieveld", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Selma Eikelenboom-Schieveld MD PhD
President of the NMRR
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