

commentletters

From: jooligr@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:15 AM
To: commentletters
Subject: 2/2/16 Board Meeting Item 7



Amending and readopting drought related emergency regulation for urban water conservation.

I realize it's a rather late date to be commenting but I didn't see that this emergency drought resolution applied to my town and the surrounding communities. The diversion of water is right in front of us all and we haven't realized until now what we have been seeing. The flurry of activity in town is all in preparation for solar fields that have not been constructed. Yet. Unincorporated communities have gathered signatures for petitions to stop the solar fields and believe they've been successful in stopping them and as a result have been lulled into complacency.

Everything is easier in hindsight and now it's easy to see how and why unincorporated communities have been neglected. People in at least one community have tried for years to get building permits to add on to their homes and have been denied if they have hauled water. Solar companies buy up the houses in areas where solar fields are planned leaving them vacant which in turn limits the number of people that need to be notified leaving those that are left with little power. Populations are controlled in these communities and keeping them small limits the amount of water that gets used.

Just today our town is learning about Community choice aggregation. It allows a city or a county to choose what type of power its citizens get and from where. What we aren't being told is that the decision has already been made and solar fields are the choice with water for cooling them coming from the town's water supply. The water doesn't all belong to us of course and it's the water rights holders that now have the opportunity to sell it.

When this emergency regulation does expire solar fields will appear all across the Inland Empire and then and only then will people see and understand the important role water plays in solar. We just didn't realize and it's too late for some of our communities.

Whichever decision the State Board makes I'm confident it will be the right one.