



Newberry/Harvard Property Owners Association Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 12, 2018

The regular meeting of the NSHRPOA began a little after noon at the Newberry Springs Family Center.

Bob Vasseur mentioned that the May 24 Land Use Planning meeting may be critical in the approval process for the proposed gigantic solar projects planned for both our own area and Lucerne, Morongo Basin et al, and suggested that attendees to that meeting go to San Bernardino to voice their comments instead of at the Hesperia remote location so that the commission become aware that there are a large number of local residents opposed to these projects.

Most of the meeting involved the discussion of water issues. Wayne Snively pointed out there remains a significant overdraft in our valley that needs to be addressed with any method including continued court ordered rampdowns. Ellen and Jim Anderson listing other methods to alleviate the need for further rampdowns by taking steps to eliminate the increasing large use of our water resources by illicit users, the damming of upstream sources, and tendency to penalize Baja (our) for its overdraft while not addressing similar overdraft in upstream areas, issues which they maintained are not being examined adequately by either the county or the Mojave Water Agency as our Watermaster. The Johnsons also mentioned that there has been an ad hoc committee formed with MWA directors Cox, Lowry and Jim Ventura that may attempt to address the local water issues. Bob Vasseur said that any actions taken in the form of damaging rampdowns to current users that are party to the court judgment as stipulators may result in property abandonment with attendant loss of property taxes vital to the support of local services such as fire and emergency response, and that any offsetting increase of property taxes from the opposed solar development would be robbing Peter to pay Paul.

It was suggested that parties on both sides of the water issue present bullet points at our next meeting that can be effectively used to formally launch a campaign targeting both government and the media to get water usage to a more acceptable level by ultimately forcing government to take a more active part in eliminating illicit heavy water usage, and preventing upstream abuse as well as taking making effort to prevent the inequitable treatment of Baja in favor of upstream areas that promote unsustainable desert population growth with developments such as Tapestry.

Bob Vasseur pointed out that, in order to acquire more clout with various government agencies, we need to launch a membership effort near the end of the year which may require donations from existing members to initiate the mailings and property research necessary to such an effort. Wayne Snively generously offered to make an immediate donation but Bob Vasseur asked that he put it off until some time in the October time frame after our summer break from July to September.

Because of the need for funds for the end of the year membership drive, it was decided to continue to pursue a small-claims suit against the NSEDA to recover funds taken from the Association during the so-called dissolution of 2016/17.

The meeting adjourned at about 1:15 p.m.

Robert A. Vasseur, President

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