

July 26, 2011

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I am writing to comment on the recently issued DEIR for the Excelaron/Mankins Project in Huasna Valley.

I am extremely concerned about the amount of noise this project will generate. The DEIR indicates the noise is a Class 1, significant impact that cannot be mitigated to reduce the impact.

Yet, when I read various sections of the DEIR, it says the noise will be mitigated. This seems contradictory to me. In section 2.3.2.5 on Noise Abatement, various measures are discussed as “noise reducing mitigation efforts”. I guess what that means is there will be attempts made to mitigate the noise, but that the noise will still be a class 1 impact that cannot be mitigated. At the end of this paragraph, such mitigations are referred to in a very generalized way as...“using a variety of methodologies...” That is very vague for a mitigation that will not mitigate the noise, according to the Class 1 designation of noise. It makes no sense.

Additionally, in this section there is reference to mitigating the noise of equipment such as generators. There is no specification as to at what time of day these generators will be running. Perhaps a more effective mitigation to the generator noise would be to have them only running when most residents of Huasna Valley are away at work, as in “normal business hours”. I cannot find anywhere, yet that address the hours of the work day for the drilling operation. This issue needs to be addressed in the DEIR. As stated in the Executive Summary, ...” a significant and unavoidable(Class 1) impact to land use would result from noise associated with the drilling operations...even with the implementation of these measures the impact would still be significant.”

Since there is no way to mitigate the noise from the drilling operations to an impact that would be less than significant, this project needs to be stopped. It is simply not acceptable to alter our peaceful, quiet environment which is one of the main reasons we chose to live here. Since the DEIR has discovered that noise is a class 1 impact, that should be enough to utilize the “No Project Alternative”.

What we heard at the county’s workshop meeting on July 11 was that no clear mitigations will work to improve the noise issue – SO, YOU’RE RECOMMEND NOTHING?

Please require clear and concise measures to reduce as much noise as possible.

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