

Resolution #08-07

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH TENSION POWER TRANSMISSION LINES IN MORONGO VALLEY & THE MORONGO BASIN

WHEREAS, The residents of the Morongo Valley are aware of a proposed project by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to build high tension power transmission lines through the Morongo Valley and Morongo Basin, claiming this is for the purpose of attaining alternative energy goals in the Los Angeles region. This proposed project is called the "Green Path North" by the LADWP. Hereafter, in this resolution, the proposed project will be referred to as the "Power Project".

WHEREAS, the local residents of the Morongo Valley and the Morongo Basin will not receive, and have no desire to receive, any benefit or energy savings from this proposed project,

WHEREAS, the "Power Project" is inconsistent with, and will be very detrimental to, the primary goals and concerns identified by residents of the Morongo Valley in the Morongo Valley Community Plan, which are:

- A. Conservation of natural resources and scenic beauty
- B. Protection of the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
- C. Maintain the natural desert landscape and appearance

Furthermore the "Power Project" will conflict with and will have an adverse effect on every key concept of the recently adopted Morongo Valley Community Plan (Infrastructure; Housing; Conservation; Open Space; Safety; Land Use and Economic Concerns); and

WHEREAS, the "Power Project" will cause an immediate and dramatic drop in local residents' property values due to destroyed views along currently designated scenic corridor of Highway 62; and

WHEREAS, the "Power Project" will make it more difficult to protect The Big Morongo Canyon Preserve as a wildlife preserve and wildlife corridor. This wildlife preserve and corridor is vitally important due to the tremendous loss of habit in the immediate vicinity due to recent wildfires: 2005 Morongo Valley, *Paradise fire* – 3000+ acres; July 2006 Morongo Basin, *Sawtooth/Millard* conflagration - 80,000+ acres; July 2006 Joshua Tree - *Covington Flats/Pushwalla/Whispering Pine* conflagration – 1650 acres; and

WHEREAS, many of the large slow growing plants (junipers, Joshua trees and pinon pines) offering cover, food and nesting sites to local animals were destroyed by the recent fires and are forecasted to be replaced by 60% biomass of exotic grasses offering little or no food, cover or habitat for resident animals that desert ecosystems offer and,

WHEREAS, the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and surrounding vicinity is home to a large number rare birds, plants, reptiles, amphibians and mammals which will be further stressed by the "Power Project." Examples of such animals and their status are as follows: Least Bell's Vireo (Federally & State Endangered); Triple-Ribbed Milkvetch (Federally Endangered); Southwest Willow Flycatcher (Federal & State Threatened); Arroyo Toad (Endangered) Summer Tanager (Special Concern); Yellow Breasted Chat (Special Concern); Yellow Warbler (Special Concern); Bighorn Sheep (Federally listed "sensitive"); Desert Tortoise (Threatened) and,

WHEREAS, there is a personal risk for many home and property owners, that their property will be seized via eminent domain and,

WHEREAS, there are possible health concerns for people living in proximity of high tension transmission towers and power lines,

WHEREAS, there is an increased public safety threat due to fire from high tension towers which could be severed by accident or by natural disaster such as an earthquake; and

WHEREAS, this proposed project will have a negative impact on the Morongo Valley's commercial districts, greatly limiting the already restricted economic prospects of the region. It is implausible that investors will open businesses in the vicinity of the project and shoppers will be unlikely to shop close to high tension transmission towers; and

WHEREAS, the residents of The Morongo Valley have voiced their strong objections against the "Power Project" and their strong desire to support The California Desert Coalition in their opposition to said "Power Project";

NOW THEREFORE, THE MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. The Board is strongly opposed to the "Power Project" and to any high tension power lines passing through, or within sight of the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Morongo Valley or the Morongo Basin.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 21ST day of August, 2007.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO) ss.
MORONGO VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT)

I, Ma. Folz, Board Clerk of the Morongo Valley Community Services District, County of San Bernardino, State of California do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. _____ was regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of said Morongo Valley Community Services District at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 21ST day of August, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES: Osborne; Egan; Brewer; Swaint; Goldberg

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Ma. Folz
Board Clerk
Morongo Valley Community Services District

Chuck Asher
President
Morongo Valley Community Services District

Attest :

Ma. Folz
Clerk to the Board