

Coachella Valley leaders take stand on Green Path North

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The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' executive committee passed a resolution opposing the project after hearing extensive public opposition to the idea of putting transmission lines through Desert Hot Springs and wildlands in Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and the San Bernardino National Forest.

Green Path North is a proposal by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to carry renewable geothermal energy from the Salton Sea to Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The language is stronger than other committees had urged. CVAG's environmental committee earlier this month suggested sending a letter saying they are "significantly concerned," while the technical advisory committee had suggested holding off on taking any stance.

"There is a need to bring geothermal power from Imperial County to Los Angeles County, but there are existing corridors, and that's what they should be looking at," Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson said.

While still in the early stages, the plan already has come under intense fire from locals, including the Desert Hot Springs City Council. As a member of CVAG, the council asked the agency to take a formal position as well.

"There is another route that these lines can and should take," said Desert Hot Springs Councilman Russell Betts, who is not a member of the executive committee but spoke during public comment.

"Everybody wants jobs. Everyone wants green energy. But it can't go through our community."