

### President Rick Sayers Asks, Where Have All Our Representatives Gone?

The battle against the siting of industrial solar fields in Rural Living zones continues, and the February 17 meeting of the HVCC at Landers Belfield Hall heard much discussion about it.

The sentiments among San Bernardino County residents seem to include frustration and a growing disillusionment with elected officials who were thought to be on the citizens' side in objections to these industrial installations in residential areas.

Worries over language in the recently-revised and seemingly toothless ordinance, worries over the misleading permit applications being submitted by the solar companies, worries over the lack of notification to the communities involved...all were expressed at this meeting. Attendees at recent Municipal Advisory Council meetings, which included residents of the four Homestead Valley communities, reported to the HVCC that these opinions expressed at the MACs should be not only be transmitted to Third District Supervisor James Ramos, and to the other four supervisors as well.

Petitions and mailings were discussed. HVCC President Rick Sayers detailed for the record his communications with Federal and State officials on these renewable energy mandates that are now expressing themselves as losses in revenue to the County and to rural property owners.

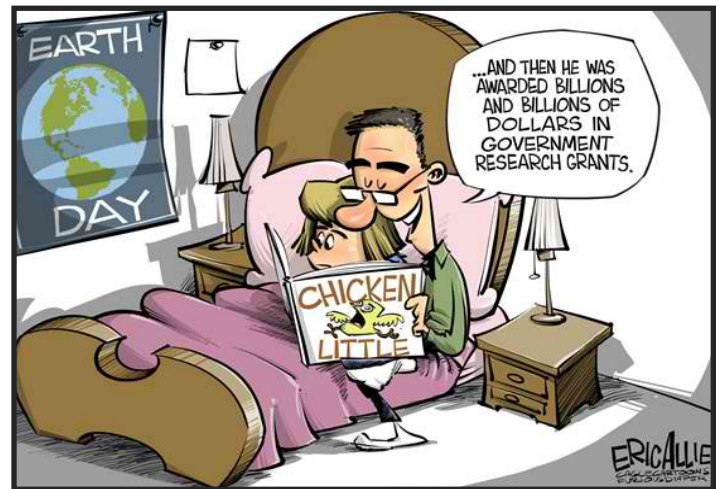
The County loses because no property tax assessments are made for the industrial solar "improvements." It will also lose revenues as nearby residential properties lose value. The damage to our open space attractions are undeniable;

the loss of revenues from tourism is inevitable. The County is making efforts on one hand to encourage visitors to the high desert, while on the other hand it is not able to resist demolishing the high desert.

The California drought hitting the headlines seems to be ignored by the solar companies. Their water usage in construction and operation is underplayed in permit applications. The question is raised: will artificial renewable energy goals trump the citizens already living here? Rick Sayers has asked the Governor.

He has also asked Senators Feinstein and Boxer, since they should have the welfare of the state at heart. He has invited State Senate and Assembly members to address HVCC and listen to the citizens on this issue.

We hope his efforts will pay off soon. "Saving the planet" by destroying the California desert is not a good trade-off.



#### Next HVCC Meetings:

- Monday, March 17, 3:00 pm at Yucca Mesa
- Monday, April 21, 3:00 pm at Johnson Valley

### Sheriff Reports on Hammers Week

Sgt. Rick Collins told the February meeting that the Sheriffs Department had three officers in Johnson Valley, and State Parks and the BLM staffed Hammers Week heavily. A few DUI arrests were made the first day, and had a restraining effect on that behavior. No major injuries were reported, either to race participants or to spectators. CHP traffic

control at Boone Road successfully shortened the delays experienced last year as thousands of spectators arrived and departed. Hammering Productions foots the bill for everyone's time on duty, except the Parks people who are paid from the OHV green sticker license fees.

Collins agreed that Hammers Week is a major boost to the local economy, and they expect to return next year.

[www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)

Calendar of Events • News of HVCC Projects and Issues • The 4 Communities • One-Click Donations with PayPal  
HVCC = Johnson Valley + Yucca Mesa + Flamingo Heights + Landers