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January 31, 2025

TO: Sandoval County Commissioners:

Katherine A. Bruch (D) - kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov

Jon Herr (R) - jrherr@sandovalcountynm.gov

Michael Meek (R) 2025 Chairman - mmeek@sandovalcountynm.gov

Jordan Juarez (R) 2025 Vice-Chairman - jojuarez@sandovalcountynm.gov

Joshua Jones (D) - jjones@sandovalcountynm.gov

CC: Sandoval County Manager:

Wayne Johnson - wjohnson@sandovalcountynm.gov

I am submitting this correspondence to express my opposition to PCR Energy's proposed Diamond Tail Solar Plant, which is proposed to be located at the midpoint of the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway.

I have resided in District 1 of Sandoval County since 2011. Katherine Bruch and Wayne Johnson are well aware of my extensive involvement in community service and advocacy aimed at preserving and enhancing the quality of life for East Mountain residents when it comes to Open Space and Trails. I currently lead three non-profit organizations, and am on the board of a fourth.

In recent years, there seems to be a theme with Sandoval County decision makers to stick whatever it is in the 'Forgotten SE Corner'.

- A few years ago we were told after-the-fact that our local trash hauling services would be taken over by Universal Waste. We lost our local L. Mora and East Mountain services. Our rates went up to justify roll-off containers being placed in remote areas of the county to curb illegal dumping. Placitas protested before the decision was made, and they got exempted. We got the shaft.
- About the same timeframe, our local volunteer La Madera fire station was told that it was under review to be shut down by the county. Fortunately, it was a study only, and it didn't happen. But it was upsetting to the residents, to possibly lose the only service that the county provides out here.

I understand that the county would like the additional revenue. One of PCR's charts

anticipates county revenue of \$1M per year for 30 years. As a homeowner, I pay \$5K per year in real estate taxes in San Pedro Overlook subdivision. My neighbors in San Pedro Creek Estates pay about the same. These two communities comprise over 200 high-end homes, and are about 50% built-out. That's currently \$1M per year revenue for the county in real estate taxes, and \$2M per year once they are fully built out. Not to mention the neighboring traditional communities of La Madera and Puertecito. We all contribute to the county coffers. What services do we get? No Parks & Rec, no schools, no health care facilities. The county offices are an hour's drive around the mountain. The County Sheriff's response is an hour at best, if they come at all.

As far as the Diamond Tail Project goes... good idea, bad location. There have to be other suitable locations within the county which have private ranchers seeking a revenue stream such as solar.

I strongly urge the commission to recommend relocating this project to a more appropriate site that does not compromise the viewshed of our Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, or to deny the application entirely.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Mike Madden

East Mountain Regional Trails Council(EMRTC), co-founder

Sandia Collaborative, management chair

Friends of the Sandia Mountains(FOSM), president

Turquoise Trail Regional Alliance(TTRA), open space & trails director