

Cynthia Saiz

Subject: FW: ZNCH-24-005: Move the Diamond Tail solar project to the West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC)
Attachments: Letter_to_SandoCo_Commissioners_WMSEC_Feb_2025.pdf

#

From: Connie <elvisandi@yahoo.com>
Date: February 17, 2025 at 7:35:25 PM MST
To: Katherine Bruch <kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Jon Herr <jherr@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Michael Meek <mmeek@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Jordan Juarez <juarez@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Joshua Jones <jjones@sandovalcountynm.gov>
Subject: ZNCH-24-005: Move the Diamond Tail solar project to the West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC)

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Dear Sandoval County Commissioners:

Please take time to read my attached letter of support to move the ZNCH-24-005 project to a more appropriate location in the West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC). This new location is a perfect clean energy solution for Sandoval County AND protects the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Highway, existing wildlife habitat and hundreds of cultural sites.

Thank you very much!
Connie Henderson

Subject: FW: New Mexicans Support Diamond Tail Solar

#

From: Mariel Campbell <campbell@everyactioncustom.com>
Date: February 17, 2025 at 4:24:54 PM MST
To: Katherine Bruch <kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov>
Subject: New Mexicans Support Diamond Tail Solar
Reply-To: campbell@carachupa.org

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Dear Commissioner Katherine A. Bruch,

As a Placitas resident, I am writing to express my support for the Diamond Tail Ranch Solar Project in Sandoval County. This project would be an important step towards transitioning to renewable energy sources and reducing our state's contribution towards increasingly extreme climate threats. While it is easy to rush towards NIMBY responses when faced with landscape-level large scale utilities being built in beautiful areas, the reality is that drought and fire will continue to cause far more severe impacts on New Mexico statewide if we do not do something. Changes in climate are already affecting thousands of residents statewide. We should support solutions that help all citizens, and provide a liveable future for our children.

Thank you for your service to our community and for considering this important project.

Sincerely,
Mariel Campbell
Placitas, NM 87043-9117
campbell@carachupa.org

Cynthia Saiz

Subject: FW: ZNCH-24-005: Move the Diamond Tail solar project to the West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC)
Attachments: Letter_to_SandoCo_Commissioners_WMSEC_Feb_2025.pdf

#

From: Erin Venegoni <erinvenegoni@gmail.com>

Date: February 17, 2025 at 6:41:44 PM MST

To: Katherine Bruch <kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Joshua Jones <jjones@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Michael Meek <mmeek@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Jon Herr <jherr@sandovalcountynm.gov>, Jordan Juarez <jojuarez@sandovalcountynm.gov>

Subject: ZNCH-24-005: Move the Diamond Tail solar project to the West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC)

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Thank you very much!

Sent from my iPhone

Sandoval County Commissioners
P.O. Box 40
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Delivered via email

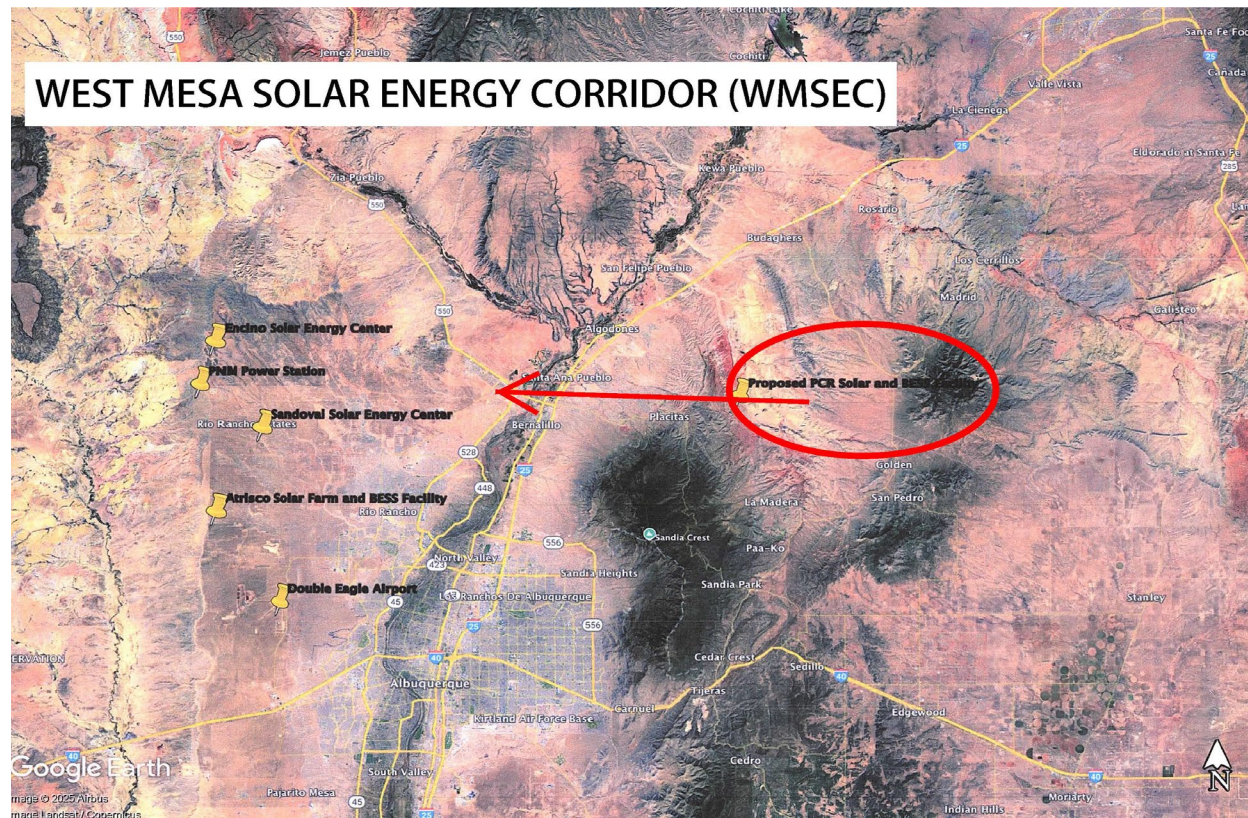
Dear Commissioners,

Many of your constituents and other community members in the East Mountains have strongly opposed the Diamond Tail Ranch solar project since its inception.

As you are aware, a special public hearing of an appeal of Sandoval County’s Planning and Zoning Commission approval recommendation is scheduled for February 18, 2025. While I am not opposed to renewable energy, there are strong arguments that Diamond Tail Ranch is NOT suitable for a solar energy facility.

Before the hearing, I request you research and consider a proposal from the East Mountains Protection Action Coalition (EMPAC) for an alternative location for PCR’s solar panel and battery storage facility: the existing West Mesa Solar Energy Corridor (WMSEC).

The reasoning behind placing the facility in the WMSEC addresses many of the challenges that I believe pose a significant threat regarding its current proposed location on Highway 14, a National Scenic Highway designated the Turquoise Trail. The entire 1833 PCR power plant will sit at the base of the Cibola National Forest and occupy approximately three-square miles of the Sandia Basin. It should be noted that this will be PCR’s (an Argentina-based family-run company) first solar facility to construct, install, and maintain. It will also be one of the largest solar energy power plants in the state.



The following outcomes can still be obtained using the WMSEC:

- PCR's proposed 300 construction jobs
- \$5.9 million in gross receipts taxes for Sandoval County
- \$540 million capital investment for Sandoval County
- Providing energy for 60,000 homes each year anywhere in the United States (although PCR has yet to secure a power agreement with PNM)
- Promotion of clean energy sourced from Sandoval County
- Protection of the existing wildlife and habitat on the Diamond Tail Ranch and the hundreds of cultural sites.
- Avoidance of delays due to possible litigation.

The following risks can be solved by utilizing what can be regarded as a natural location for PCR's facility in the WMSEC.

Diamond Tail Ranch Risks	WMSEC Solutions
Nearest fire station with ability to respond to lithium battery fire: Bernalillo County – 35 miles	20 fire stations within vicinity with 280 first responders
Distance to Cibola National Forest – 1.7 miles	Approximately 40 miles
Access road infrastructure to facility - 14 miles of gravel & rock (will require access to water to keep dust levels at minimum during construction of facility)	Road infrastructure already in place - asphalt
Proximity to residential and commercial buildings – 1.5 miles (very similar to recent Moss Landing solar facility experiencing four fires in recent years)	Proximity to residential and commercial buildings – 30 miles
Disruption of scenic highway with potential of impacting State tourism	None
Imminent danger of catastrophic battery and national forest fires.	None

There are other reasons to consider the WMSEC as a solution solar energy facility site, but those listed above are most important to me. I hope you will consider these strongly before making a decision

Sincerely,

Erin Venegoni

East Mountain Resident

Cynthia Saiz

Subject: FW: New Mexicans Support Diamond Tail Solar

#

From: Mariel Campbell <campbell@everyactioncustom.com>

Date: February 17, 2025 at 4:24:54 PM MST

To: Katherine Bruch <kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov>

Subject: New Mexicans Support Diamond Tail Solar

Reply-To: campbell@carachupa.org

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Dear Commissioner Katherine A. Bruch,

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Thank you for your service to our community and for considering this important project.

Sincerely,
Mariel Campbell
Placitas, NM 87043-9117
campbell@carachupa.org

Cynthia Saiz

Subject: FW: Please oppose the Diamond Tail solar project to protect culturally sensitive places

#

From: Kathleen Burke <kathleenmariaburke@yahoo.com>
Date: February 17, 2025 at 4:16:18 PM MST
To: Katherine Bruch <kbruch@sandovalcountynm.gov>
Subject: Please oppose the Diamond Tail solar project to protect culturally sensitive places
Reply-To: Kathleen Burke <kathleenmariaburke@yahoo.com>

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Dear Commissioner Bruch:

Please move the ZNCH-24-005 project to a more appropriate location away from residences and known protected cultural areas.

Our Federal Government has required that federal solar farms must not impede culturally sensitive areas such as the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Highway. Please protect our state's scenic byways by prohibiting a zoning change to permit industrial use. Please note that while many Sandoval County residents supported the Diamond Trail Solar development in the past, these residents are likely not inhabitants long the Turquoise Trail and therefore it has little to no effect on their lives. As you will notice, many of us living along the Turquoise Trail do not want this solar "farm" (it's not a farm), along our protected byway.

Thank you, Commissioner.

Kathleen Burke
Turquoise Trail Resident