

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 7/2/24 ITEM NO. RA 49, SO
51

July 1, 2024

To the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

This letter is regarding Tuesday, July 2, 2024, 9:00 Meeting- Rezoning Closure and Conditional Use Permit – Andrada Investments

When I stand on the roof of my house, I can look out 360 degrees and see that no taxes have been spent on our area except for Wilmot and Sahuarita Rd. We do not have fire or ambulance service, city water, or sewer. We pay for that ourselves because we are unincorporated. We don't mind because we live here by choice. So where does our tax money go?

Big business gets lots of benefits for building a solar farm. Those benefits are listed in Title 14. You can even dig up a pineapple cactus and move it! Wait, WHAT???

GREEN VALLEY NEWS--A Tucson environmental consultant who moved 30 Pima pineapple cactuses out of the path of bulldozers in the Green Valley area has pleaded guilty to violating a federal law that bans transport of endangered species.

(Dec. 22, 2003) Mary Darling, 48, faces sentencing Feb. 12 in U.S. District Court after pleading guilty in federal court Nov. 12 to a single misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act for illegally removing and transplanting the endangered Pima pineapple cactus.

The government and Darling have agreed to recommend a sentence that includes five years' probation, 90 days home confinement, 250 hours of community service and a \$5,000 fine.

Darling has long been involved in high-profile issues, generally on behalf of the business community. But on Nov. 12, she agreed to stop calling herself an environmental consultant, and to stop performing environmental consulting work for five years. She also agreed to a \$5,000 fine, 90 days of home confinement, five years of probation and 250 hours of community service.

MARY DARLING SAVED 30 PIMA PINEAPPLE CACTUSES FROM SURE BULLDOZER DEATH AND WAS PROSECUTED FOR IT!!!! SHE LOST HER FREEDOM TO EARN A LIVING AND HER FREEDOM OF SPEECH. SHE WAS PUT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AT HER HOUSE FOR THREE MONTHS AND WAS FINED \$5000.00!!!! SHE GOT FIVE YEARS PROBATION!!! THEN SHE HAD TO WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR FREE FOR FIVE YEARS. SHE WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN TUCSON WEEKLY'S "GET OUT OF TOWN" SERIES ABOUT PEOPLE THEY HATE.

But get this.....

"Mitigation banks allow developers who buy credits on preserved land containing endangered species to destroy such species on other property."

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WHAAAAAT???? IF THE DEVELOPER HAD BOUGHT CREDITS, HE COULD HAVE JUST DESTROYED THE PIMA PINEAPPLE CACTUS!!!! Mary Darling would have been safe.

Here are the three articles:

https://www.gvnews.com/news/environmentalist-pleads-guilty-to-moving-endangered-cacti/article_9af4eab8-fbd3-5e6b-b1a1-60b23438a52e.html/?utm_medium=internal&utm_source=readerShare&utm_campaign=ShareButton

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/issue-265/biologist-busted-for-moving-endangered-cacti/?view=save&id=109953&title=Biologist%20busted%20for%20moving%20endangered%20cacti&link=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hcn.org%2Fissues%2Fissue-265%2Fbiologist-busted-for-moving-endangered-cacti%2F&description=A%20darling%20of%20developers%2C%20consultant%20gets%20five%20years%E2%80%99%20probation%20and%20%245%2C000>

<https://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/get-out-of-town/Content?oid=1074834>

Mary Darling's life was worth less than 30 Pima Pineapple Cactus. So, if you are going to put up a solar farm, you can dig up the PPC's and relocate them. OR, you can buy credits and put the pineapple cactus in a blender if you want to. How valuable are solar farms to the city and what exactly do we not know? How valuable really are the Pima Pineapple Cactus to the State of AZ? How valuable really are the citizens of Arizona? So, I ask you again. Did Diamond Ventures or the State of Arizona do any human impact studies on the effect of a solar farm built too close to a residential area? Does NextEra Energy know the answer and they are not saying anything? Are there restrictions in place that prohibit solar farms from blocking all available growth and infrastructure in an unincorporated area that contains residential neighborhoods? How far away from a residential area should a solar farm be?

The claim that we benefit from the taxes is a misnomer. NextEra Energy says my community will get 39 million. If you read the fine print, it says: *Estimated over first 30 years of the project. That would be a little over a million a year. This is what their site says:

The Wilmot Energy Center II project is more than solar panels — it represents a significant capital investment in Arizona. Once operational, it will create good-paying jobs and millions in additional revenue for the local community.

The city of Tucson, NextEra Energy, and Diamond Ventures get a lot of money for building a solar farm in my backyard. This solar farm was in play two years before we were told about it.

A lot of thinking has gone into making big business prosper. Solar farms are the newest focus of our leaders. Little bones are thrown out from time to time to appease our small

minds. One of those is: if you have solar on your house, we will buy your extra power for 4 cents and sell it back to you for 11 cents. Thank you?

Another Board of Supervisors meeting is tomorrow where we will be blessed with 3 minutes to possibly change our lives for the better, forever. Three minutes is not time enough for me to get my questions answered before they okay the rezoning in my area regardless of how I feel about it. I called Spencer and he explained the letter to me. The letter still does not call it a solar farm. It calls it a utility-scale renewable energy facility. If you ask the solar company what size utility-scale is, they have no idea, but they are building one.

So again, did you do the Human Impact Study that I asked for regarding Solar Farms in a residential community? How far away from a residential community should a solar farm be? What is good for us? Here is another sample of what you care about according to Title 14:

H. To the extent possible, transmission lines that serve renewable energy systems shall be located to minimize their impacts on conservation land categories established in the regional environmental element of the comprehensive plan, and any subsequent amendments: Important riparian area, biological core management area, multiple use management area, special species management area, scientific research area;

A homeowner who lives on Andrada was at the pole meeting. She lives right in front of those poles. But nowhere in Title 14 is anything said about minimizing the impact of those poles on property owners, i.e. humans.

I am not asking that you don't build solar farms. I am asking that you consider the citizens who will be impacted by them and build them somewhere else. Please stop this solar farm effort. Inviting me to these meetings is just a formality. You continue to issue permits no matter how much I ask how far away from a residential community a solar farm should be. My research says 800 ft to 1 ½ miles. This farm is 200 ft off my property line.

Title 14: c. Minimum REID site boundary setback: Three hundred feet from residential structures existing at the time of REID site establishment. Three hundred feet from the boundaries of lands owned and managed for conservation purposes existing at the time of REID site establishment.

According to Title 14, the setback trespasses on our land and starts at our houses. But if the land is conservation land, the setback starts at the boundary of the land. How tricky you are.

Stopping infrastructure in an unincorporated area with a solar farm will not bring in significant taxes or benefits as the solar companies claim. The jobs are temporary lasting only until the farm is built. Giving solar toys to schools is not very impressive.

We don't have to incorporate to grow or realize dreams, but we do need space. Solar farms devour space for 30 years. Diamond Ventures has devoured this space for at

least 25 years and now wants to add another 30. Diamond Ventures laughed at me because I am not a horticulturist. I don't need to be a horticulturist to have a plant nursery or a dream. My plant nursery idea is huge and it is structured to benefit the people who visit. I think I feel a little like Mary Darling when nobody cared about her. Mary Darling didn't quit. She moved on. Dreams are a dime a dozen but they need space.

I would like my community's promised thirty-nine million dollars to go towards improving Kolb Road to go from Sahuarita to Andrada so I can realize my dream of providing my community with plants and so much more. I was told by Pima County that it doesn't even consider Kolb Road a road. Someone needs to show them the green Kolb Rd sign with the numbers on it at Kolb and Sahuarita Rd.

Lastly, I have never met Mary Darling. I am appalled by what was done to her. I am petitioning this board to grant Mary Darling five million dollars, tax-free by the State of Arizona for the loss of her finances, the loss of her freedom of speech, her reputation, her freedom to make a living, and the devaluation of her life over a plant. My plant nursery dream is worth far less than the part of her life that was stolen from her by our AZ Government that as far as I can see has no plans whatsoever to prosper the citizens of the State of Arizona.

The only one prospering from this mess (other than Diamond Ventures, NextEra Energy, and the state of Arizona) is not a human being. It is a thing in the form of a tiny cactus whose only lot in life is for its flowers to become food for animals, and yet it has been granted power by the state of Arizona to ruin some and prosper others.

So, one more time. Before you say yes to these permits to rezone to allow a solar farm to be built too close to my community, did you do a legitimate human impact study to find out how far away a solar farm should be from a residential area? Are there restrictions in place that prohibit solar farms from blocking all available growth and infrastructure in an unincorporated area that contains residential neighborhoods? If your answer is no, stop the process and do one. Do not issue any more permits to Diamond Ventures or NextEra Energy until you can issue me a scientific study that proves that this invasion of our unincorporated Pima County that stops our growth, is good for us.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ruth