

Re: UP 22-06, MET Towers

Thank for the map and Planning Report you sent me by email. I have looked at your planning report and map. I am concern about the proposed towers on the 473 acre parcel, namely proposed towers 1, 2, and 3. My major concern is that these towers are a prelude and a stalking horse for later large wind turbines to be proposed for the same location. It is likely to be a similar proposal as was recently denied by the Bureau of Land Management on Federal lands to the south for lack of information and analysis of environmental impacts. The land in the 473 acre parcel is similar to that for the so called "Condor Ridge" denied by BLM for very valid reasons under National Environmental Policy Act. We are also dealing with land that is not that different than land that was included in the recently approved National Monument. I am sure if there are any California condors at "Condor Ridge" I am sure if they are also to be found in the Morgan Valley area and the 473 acre parcel landscape. There are also a number of rare bats that live in the surrounding landscape that I have personally observed and that were studied after the Homestake Gold Mine was put into operation. The general area contains serpentine soils that are the unique home to many rare and endangered plants that have not been studied at all at that location. I have had knowledgeable plant people comment about the unique plants in the area located on the serpentine soils. It is not uncommon to find Indian artifacts in the Morgan Valley area as it was once the home of a substantial number of Native Americans who probably lived there year-round because of the many resources they needed that were present. There are grinding holes in the rocks and I have found arrowheads on my private property.

There is a very real and ominous fire danger in the 473 acre parcel and surrounding landscape. During the last fire to burn over the area, there were flames reaching heights of 200 feet or more. In the 473 acre area, the chaparrals burns off regularly every ten years or so from natural and sometimes accidental human causes. To protect from fire and service any structures, such as meteorological or wind turbine towers, would require the removal of many acres of the natural chaparral vegetation. I have personally found rocks at 473 acre area that contain visible asbestos fibers. Asbestos is also found in the many serpentine soils in the area. Any denuding of those areas for fire free zones, roads and general construction will risk the release of asbestos fibers and dust into the atmosphere. At present, the roots of the chaparrals plants quickly re-sprout and hold the soil after a fire. That would not be the case, for denuding the landscape for construction and fire free protection areas.

Sincerely yours Jay E. Bates, Concerned Morgan Valley Land Owner for 56 years

PS: I am a retired graduate Civil Engineer and Environmental Specialist