

PRIOR ACTIONS AND COMING ATTRACTIONS REPORT
Week of February 14, 2011

February 15, 2011 Board Meeting

This meeting was cancelled because there were no items.

February 22, 2011 Board Meeting

The Agenda will not be out until Wednesday. As noted earlier 2 key items will be 1) a first look at how the County will balance the proposed FY 2011-12 budget, and 2) how the County will approach supervisorial district redistricting. These items are not yet posted so there will be more detail in next week's report on these items and whatever else surfaces.

February 10, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting

Informational meetings continued on both solar generation projects. Most testimony was supportive. Academics, business leaders, scientists, anti-nuclear activists, and interested citizens testified in favor. A person who seemed to be from the Sierra Club spoke against it because the facilities would be ugly, heat generating, cause glare, harm animals (foxes, birds, reptiles, school children), incite people to keep using more electricity, and generally cause the collapse of civilization. A few people used the hearing as an occasion to speak against the Diablo Power Plant. There is going to be a lot of detail and discussion coming up on undergrounding the power lines and housing during both the peak construction years (many employees) and then later for the permanent employees (much fewer employees). The projects contain dismantling plans for when they have ended their useful life. People were complimentary of this feature. They were also complimentary of the

plans' provisions for dedication of permanent open space. Some smart person did point out that conventional electricity is about 11 cents per kilowatt hour and solar is 23 cents. Tax subsidies, green incentives, and penalties like AB 32 may make this work but in the end market forces ultimately transcend politics.

Quip of the Week: After the public speakers were finished the Chair of the Planning Commission reflected on how they are going very slowly on these projects and giving very careful consideration. She then said something like "the applicants' time lines are not the Commission's concern". Is this the Commission's take on permit streamlining?

Climate Action Planning: Cal Poly Professor of City and Regional Planning Michael Bosch gave his report on "The State of Climate Action Plans in California and the Nation" There are about 100 jurisdictions nationwide which have adopted plans. Not surprisingly, about 30% are in California. Most are cities. California counties which have adopted are Marin and Sonoma. Yolo is close. Interestingly, the Professor pointed out that having a climate action plan, and notwithstanding AB 32, is not yet a mandate. Of course he believes that it is prudent for forward looking jurisdictions to have a plan in place. He summed up with "San Luis Obispo will be a leader". In terms of perspective one bit of information that was not provided is that there are 17,000 cities, towns, and villages in the United States with populations over 2500. There are slightly over 3000 total counties.

Gossip: It is rumored that the County will receive some sort of award for its adopted Conservation and Open Space Element. It will be interesting to see from where this comes.

Planning Commission Meeting of February 15, 2011

This meeting will focus entirely on the Sun Power Corporation permit application. The project is called High Plains II and is a 250 megawatt solar power plant on 4685 acres.

