

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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There have been recent reports of valley fever contracted by construction workers connected to two utility-scale photovoltaic facilities in San Luis Obispo County. Valley fever is an illness with serious health complications and prevalent in dry areas with excessive dust resulting from ground disturbance activities.

The County of Los Angeles has received numerous land use applications to develop photovoltaic solar electricity generating facilities on thousands of acres located in the unincorporated area of Antelope Valley. If approved, these projects can create excessive dust during construction and many of the sites are near residences. Both local residents and workers may be exposed to valley fever during construction if appropriate measures are not taken to minimize ground disturbance. As these large scale solar projects are planned across thousands of acres in the Antelope Valley, various methods of ground preparation may be used. Methods such as mass grading where solar panel arrays are to be located and disking or scraping used during construction have the potential to generate excessive dust during wind events. These methods are unnecessary since solar photovoltaic panels typically sit on concrete or steel piers that can be individually dug and poured to the correct height and level, irrespective of the terrain.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Directors of Planning, Public Works and Public Health to explore possible County Code amendments and require the following from all solar energy facilities in Los Angeles County:

1. An alternative construction method to mass grading, disking and scraping where solar panel arrays are to be located; and
2. That any grading, disking and scraping to access roads, walkways, required basins and berms be permanently stabilized with an earth stabilizing product that is acceptable to the Departments of Planning, Public Works and Public Health to prevent fugitive dust.

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