

NOVEMBER 06, 2023

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ACTON TAKES ACTION'S CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S NEXT DOOR POST TO THE ACTON COMMUNITY REGARDING HECATE GRID'S DUPLICITOUS AND DECEITFUL MISINFORMATION TACTICS REGARDING THEIR HUMIDOR 1 BESS PROJECT TO BE LOCATED IN ACTON, CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT — "THE GLOVES ARE OFF!"

I've made a decision.

Since May I have tried to provide everyone with nothing but facts and have tried to be as accurate as possible in every post. And now we're going to go one step further. We're going to expose the underhanded acts of Hecate.

We've all been going to "BESS school" for months now, learning about lithium-ion batteries... the good, the bad and the ugly. And we have decided we want no part of them in our beloved town.

I have tried to keep my posts respectful to Hecate, many times not even mentioning them by name, merely calling them "the developer".

This was purposeful.

Our residents are bright, educated and professional and our opposition needed to reflect that.

But a corner has been turned.

A line has been crossed.

The gauntlet has been thrown down.

And now ladies and gents, the gloves are off.

Our residents are now receiving pure propaganda by mail.

First came a beautiful, expensive brochure promoting the Hecate BESS, touting all things wonderful about "Humidor." It was accompanied by a letter personally addressed to, for the most part, the lady of the house. I'm sure there was a reason the men were not addressed... soon to be revealed.

The letter was professing HECATE's desire to reach out to our community and basically start the conversation about their project, seeking questions and comments from the recipients in hopes of gaining support to help get their project approved.

The problem is, this brochure and letter were mailed out to residents on October 6th.

Humidor was approved by LA County Regional Planning on August 1st.

So what gives? Why send this fancy brochure out 2 1/2 months AFTER the project was approved?

I'll tell you what I believe;

I believe our LAWSUIT that has been filed against this project has MERIT, and they know it.

I believe that they are trying to convince LA County (and themselves) that there is support for the remaining portion of their project still needing approval by LA County.

And which part is that, you ask?

This would be their Franchise Ordinance with LA County for the 230 kv TRANSMISSION LINE that will

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connect the 400 MegaWatts of lithium-ion battery storage to the SCE Vincent Substation. You see, the battery storage cannot function without that transmission line and the transmission line is equally useless without the batteries. According to CEQA, they must be considered as "a whole of the action," so the transmission line part of project cannot be separated from the battery portion.

And according to our zoning code, Franchise Ordinances are TRANSMISSION projects and are required to go through CEQA (CA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT).

Hecate had the finish line in sight when LA County issued a "NOTICE OF EXEMPTION to CEQA."

When the BATTERY part of the project was approved by a ministerial (simple site plan) review, the project was then automatically granted EXEMPT FROM CEQA.

But wait! Didn't we already say that TRANSMISSION projects are subject to CEQA? And that the transmission and battery parts of the project were required to be considered as "a whole of the action"?

Why yes we did!

So there NEVER should have been any issuance of a NOTICE OF EXEMPTION TO CEQA!

And unfortunately for Hecate, we have filed a timely APPEAL of that "NOTICE OF EXEMPTION to CEQA" with the LA County Board of Supervisors.

CHECK.

If the APPEAL is upheld by the Board of Supervisors, the EXEMPTION to CEQA is rescinded.

Their TRANSMISSION LINE will then be required to go through the CEQA process.

And guess what?

It most likely will not meet the standards of the CEQA statute and guidelines.

And they know it.

CHECK MATE.

So now comes "community outreach letter 2.0."

Only THIS one is addressed to, you guessed it, the MAN of the house.

Don't you feel better guys?

This 2.0 version letter professes gratitude to the letter recipient for their interest and show of support of their project.

Yes, you read that right.

They said SUPPORT. Even though the recipient has never contacted Hecate for any reason, much less to support this project that we all oppose!

And Hecate then continued with "we will work together to get this project approved".

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But wait! This project is already approved, right?

Not the FRANCHISE ORDINANCE for the TRANSMISSION LINE.

The CEQA APPEAL is pending and will go before our Board of Supervisors on DECEMBER 19th.

If we are allowed to comment during the hearing we will put out a 9-1-1 to those who have expressed interest in attending.

So, I hope that my lengthy explanation has you all feeling better informed about HECATE's motives behind their letters. And you now understand that Hecate will stoop to any level, even fabricating support by lying in their communications with you, trying to manipulate the story to fit their narrative. It's complicated, but the bottom line is they are showing they are willing to be dishonest

If that's what it takes to get this project approved.

What's that they say... when someone shows you who they are... BELIEVE THEM.

DON'T BESS WITH ACTON!

UPDATE [11.19 am PST – update to the post]

If you have received one of these letters, we are asking that you please keep it along with the envelope. Please do send me an email (ActonTakesAction@att.net) as requested above, but we are also devising a plan to use these letters in a different manner to squash Hecate's attempt to conjure support.

So, hang onto them, and I will be in touch soon when we have our exact method put together.

Here is a link to the **CEQA Guidelines** that apply to why this project should NOT be exempt from CEQA. Please read §15300.2 (a), (b) and (c).

<https://casetext.com/regulation/california-code-of-regulations/title-14-natural-resources/division-6-resources-agency/chapter-3-guidelines-for-implementation-of-the-california-environmental-quality-act/article-19-categorical-exemptions/section-153002-exceptions>

Trust me, we're all going to be a little bit smarter when this is over.

Respectfully,

Ruthie Brock

Chair

Acton Takes Action Community Task Force

ActonTakesAction@att.net

BY THE WAY... **CLICK HERE** TO READ MY NOVEMBER 6 2023, LETTER TO KENT TRUCKOR, HECATE GRID DIRECTOR, HUMIDOR 1 PROJECT CASTIIGATING HIM FOR HECATE GRID'S DECEITFUL PROPAGANDA AND MISINFORMATION REGARDING THE HUMIDOR 1 PROJECT.