



Linda Willgues

lived in Landers for 10 years and was a dedicated community-minded volunteer, serving as an officer of the Landers Association, correspondent to the Hi-Desert Star and newsletter editor. She was known to all the bargain hunters who love the Landers Thrift Store, as she and her helpers worked very hard to reorganize and improve it.

She was Landers delegate to the HVCC for several years. Even though she was forced by ill health to discontinue attending meetings, she faithfully continued to be the information pipeline, distributing e-mails and the HVCC Newsletter.



Newsletter photos show her during our 2010

Poker Run fundraiser, and at the presentation of the flag that flew in Afghanistan over one of the Marine units HVCC sponsored.

Linda lost her long fight with cancer on October 23. She was only 60 years old.

Landers residents whose homes lie within 1,000 feet of the Bowman Solar development were indignant that they did not receive the required notification by mail that this 35-acre project was to go in just up-slope from them. They also missed legal notices in the Hi-Desert Star and various radio announcements.

So it came as a bombshell to hear the County Planning Commission had ok'd the permit for s-Power to proceed with construction...and there were only days to appeal...and the fee would be almost \$1200.

An emergency meeting at Belfield Hall on Saturday, December 13, drew about 80 people from Landers and other Homestead Valley communities. A representative from s-Power was on hand to explain the project and answer questions. Too late.

The 1000-foot notification rule is ridiculous in the sparsely-populated desert where most parcels are 5 acres and neighbors are few and far between. The closest resident complained of construction noise, trespass and vulgar language by workers in the hearing of her kids. It turns out this was *not* s-Power jumping the gun on the permit, but an SC Edison contractor trenching in the Bowman

Trail right-of-way to tie into existing underground cables connected to the transmission lines along Reche Rd.

The protesters raised the money to pay the appeal fee, and filed the appeal before the deadline—which was the following Monday.

The Homestead Valley Community Council is on record since the days of the battle against the LADWP Green Path North transmission lines: *The better way to utilize renewable energy is solar generation on rooftops and parking lots in already built environments, at the point of use.*

The system the County now uses permits industrial projects on private property and fails to protect County residents and their property values. The Planning Commission ignores County General Plan requirements for development compatible with the character of desert neighborhoods. This has now resulted in what looks to be the first of many private property is being leased and sold for industrial projects. The cumulative effect is “upgrades” of power poles and transmission lines. Those already in place are not scenic. Who wants them? No one.

Is it any wonder the County, SCE and the developers are called sneaky?

First Industrial Solar in Homestead Valley