



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Request Form (ARF)

Deliver completed ARF and finalized agenda item to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk of the Board at the Yakima County Commissioners' Office, Room 232.

Prepared by: Julie Lawrence

Department: Commissioners

Requested Agenda Date: 10/17/23

Presenting: _____

Board of County Commissioners Record Assigned

#

255 - 2023

Action Requested – Check Applicable Box:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PASS RESOLUTION	<input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTE or AMEND
<input type="checkbox"/> PASS ORDINANCE	AGREEMENT, CONTRACT, or GRANT
<input type="checkbox"/> ISSUE PROCLAMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____

Document Title:
In the Matter of Opposing the Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Project.

Background Information:

Describe Fiscal Impact:
\$0

Summary & Recommendation:

<p>_____</p> <p>Department Head/Elected Official Signature</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Corporate Counsel Initial (for Agreements Only)</p>
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**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION**

**IN THE MATTER OF OPPOSING THE
HORSE HEAVEN WIND AND SOLAR
PROJECT**

255-2023

WHEREAS, the Scout Clean Energy LLC, applied for site certification with the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (Council) for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project on June 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project is a wind and solar energy generation facility proposed to be located in unincorporated Benton County; and

WHEREAS, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project is situated in an area with unique geological features, comprised of naturally vegetated steep slopes, native habitat, commercially significant agricultural land, and visual resources; and

WHEREAS, during the Council's public comment periods for the land use consistency and the draft environmental impact statement, the Board of County Commissioners emphasized the County's concerns and opposition to the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to WAC 463-30-050 and WAC 463-30-0660 (2), Benton County was deemed to be a party in the adjudicative proceeding for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project; and

WHEREAS, Benton County participated in the adjudicative proceeding to determine whether the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project satisfies Benton County's conditional use permit criteria by submitting briefing and providing pre-filed and live testimony; and

WHEREAS, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project will negatively impact and conflict with the Horse Heaven Hills viewshed, critical areas, agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance, and cultural resources while increasing the risks associated with fire and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project's industrial use, project size, and location makes the project inconsistent and incompatible with the required outright permitted uses in the Growth Management Act Agricultural Zoning District (BCC 11.17.040), the Washington State designation of long-term commercially agricultural lands, and the required conditional use permit criteria (BCC.11.50.040); and

WHEREAS, the Yakima County Board of County Commissioners is gravely concerned of the precedent being set by EFSEC for siting such facilities in areas of cultural significance, long-term commercially significant agricultural lands, and areas of high-fire-risk and impact to the health of local residents despite the clear request for denial by local elected officials, local Nation tribes and the public; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Yakima County Commissioners opposes the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project.

**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION**

DONE OCT 17 2023

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*