

No permit extensions for Borrego & Makepeace destructive solar projects

Ella Houlihan <ehoulihan@andover.edu>

Mon 10/17/2022 10:39 AM

To: Sonia Raposo <sraposo@wareham.ma.us>;

Sonia Raposo,

Dear Wareham Planning Board,

My family grew up in Wareham and it is a very special place to me. Please protect it, and the people there, by denying extensions to Borrego and holding a public hearing so community members can present you with new information about the how these projects will impact our drinking water and community.

Please look at your desk around you. I am sure you have a glass of water, or a water bottle in your bag. If not, you could likely get up and go to a sink or fountain and get fresh clean water in under 10 seconds. I encourage you to think about this precious resource, and consider how you single handedly have the power to change someone's access to clean drinking water.

AD Makepeace Co. is leasing the land to Borrego for 20 years. The land is in a residential and agricultural district. These companies will clear-cut at least 110 acres of forests for 68,000 solar panels and batteries. This threatens the drinking water of so many in your district.

Currently, many people think solar panels are the only way to go for a "green future." But if we don't do it right—by respecting the land from which we extract metals for the solar panel batteries, and by respecting the forests you threaten to clear to install them—we are causing more harm than good.

Here is a link describing the impact of lithium mining on Indigenous communities:

<https://www.ucsdclimaterewiew.org/post/the-lithium-triangle-how-electric-vehicles-are-putting-indigenous-communities-at-risk>

When the Planning Board approved the two solar projects in 2020, the Conservation Commission had not issued its order of conditions – this violated the Bylaw. Please work with our community to make a better world for everyone, and work to implement sustainability measures in a truly sustainable and equitable way.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ella Houlihan

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10/17/22, 11:17 AM

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