

No permit extensions for Borrego & Makepeace destructive solar projects!

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

Sonia Raposo,

Dear Wareham Planning Board,

Please deny the request from AD Makepeace Co. and Borrego Solar/New Leaf Energy (Borrego) for extensions of your 2020 permits for large ground mounted solar projects at 27 Charge Pond Road and 150 Tihonet Road.

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 our drinking water!

If you don't deny the extensions, please hold a public hearing so community members can present you with new information about the how these projects will impact our drinking water and community.

This new information includes:

Impacts on the Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer, our sole drinking water source, threatened by clear-cutting forests and removing the vegetation that filters and protects our water;

Scientific information from U.S. EPA about PFAS, the toxic, cancer causing forever chemicals, that runoff from solar panels;

Leaching of cadmium and telluride into the environment from large industrial solar projects;

Costs of disposing of solar panels – the two projects will have a total of 68,000 solar panels and lithium-ion batteries to be disposed of in 20 years;

Inadequate decommissioning fund based on outdated cost estimates;

Cumulative impacts of the 19 existing ground mounted solar projects in Wareham - hundreds of acres of forests already clear-cut and sand and gravel removed;

Cumulative impacts of the companies' solar projects along the Wankinko River and Tihonet Pond: the two projects part of a swarth of about 200 acres of industrial solar extending along the Wankinko River in Wareham that has clear-cut forests and removed sand and gravel;

The 150 Tihonet Road project abuts the proposed 140 Tihonet Road solar project where AD Makepeace Co. plans to remove 1 million cubic yards of sand and gravel—leveling one of Wareham’s highest hills; and

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.

Thank you for your consideration.

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