

## Energy Alternatives

This project will use a large amount of energy, mostly in the form of trucked in propane and diesel fuel. Burning these fuels is inefficient and produces emissions. The EIR should analyze the energy usage of this project and the possible alternatives to burning non-renewable fossil fuels.

Excelaron has stated that the use of grid-based PG&E electric power is not feasible due to a lack of three phase facilities in the area. The Huasna Valley Association contacted a PG&E engineer who stated that the main service line running along Huasna Townsite Road is a three phase primary line and that it would be feasible for PG&E to provide power to the proposed project site. Having grid-based power would eliminate emissions and noise from propane generators and reduce propane vehicle service traffic. This alternative must be considered in the EIR. Permitting a permanent industrial facility in a rural, agricultural valley that burns trucked-in propane as its primary energy source makes no sense.

A large solar array at the project site could provide some of the power needs of the facility using a renewable form of energy. Such a system would even benefit the applicant financially and could be built piecemeal as their project expands. At the termination of the project, operation of the facility could be turned over to the community as a benefit of the project. Maybe such a solar installation could form a noise-barrier roof over the shipping facility, further reducing impacts from the project.

In addition, solar water heating may be able to reduce some of the propane required to heat water to 150 degrees. The county ought to require EIRs to analyze the use of such renewable energy source alternatives in all projects that require a large amount of energy.

The EIR should also consider transportation of oil through a pipeline, as recommended by APCD, Huasna Valley Association, City of Arroyo Grande, and County of Santa Barbara, as an alternative to truck transport with its associated impacts on emissions, dust, traffic, noise, and energy use.