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Mardian Ranch photovoltaic plant OK'd



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KINGMAN - The Board of Supervisors approved one **solar** project and sent another back to the County Planning and Zoning Commission Tuesday. The Board approved a minor amendment to the Mohave County General Plan, to the **Mardian Ranch area plan** and a rezoning request for a 90-megawatt photovoltaic **solar** plant on 565 acres west of Pierce Ferry Road and four miles north of 23rd Street. The property was once slated for a golf course for the Mardian Ranch master-planned community.

The Board sent a request for another 10- to 15-megawatt photovoltaic plant slated for two parcels of land two miles east of mile marker 20 on Stockton Hill Road back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Two residents of the area protested the project at last month's Planning and Zoning meeting, saying it was not compatible with the surrounding residentially zoned properties. The commission recommended denying the request because the applicant was not at the meeting and they were unsure of the details of the project, said Planning and Zoning Manager Chris Ballard.

The applicant, James Miller, did attend Tuesday's meeting and said that the project would benefit the entire community by bringing in jobs and power to his neighbors. He said he had already contacted UniSource about selling the energy to them.

The Board voted to send the item back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Several members of the local Teenage Republicans chapter stepped forward to voice their support of both projects, saying they would bring necessary jobs into the area and help wean the U.S. off of fossil fuels.