

Matthew Recker

Sometimes the price of "innovation" is too high. It cannot come at the expense of nature. We cannot ask the environment to pay that price. The things that will be lost are found in only one place in our unfathomably huge universe—on our paradise amongst the stars. Whether it was by divine decree, or pure chance, we have been ordained to be the stewards of all life on our blessed Earth. It is imperative that we act accordingly, before there is nothing left to be the stewards of.

We are often told that "life isn't fair." But when we have the power to make it so, as we do now, why shouldn't we? The public who will be most impacted by this should be given ample time to both review and comment on the permit. Decisions made by those who won't have to suffer the consequences of them have created enough misery.

All this to say, the permit should be denied outright. Bloom Energy has already proven itself incapable of doing the right thing with its history of illegally dumping hazardous waste. Transgressions such as these cannot be allowed to happen again.

In the event the permit is not denied, a public and bilingual hearing should be held in English and Spanish in Santa Teresa. Those who cannot attend in person should be given the option to attend virtually.

Too often our brothers and sisters of less advantaged races are made to shoulder the burden of the consequences of "progress." Simply put, the granting of this permit would be no less than state-sponsored environmental racism. The past may not have been equitable, but the future can be. Doña Ana county's air is already below Federal standards. It cannot be allowed to be made worse.