

valerie estrella

The carbon dioxide pollution alone will heat our atmosphere at a much faster pace and promote the formation of even more ground-level ozone. Last summer, my 7 year old suffered a grand mal seizure while on the playground at school because the extreme heat led to electrolyte imbalances. My brother works outside everyday without shade or rest breaks and has nowhere to keep his insulin cool. I can barely pay my electricity bills in the summer as it is. We cannot afford more intense heat. The other toxic air pollutants are extremely dangerous—many of them at very low levels. How am I supposed to send my kids to school knowing what they are breathing in? Knowing it can cause permanent brain damage or breathing complications before they have had a chance to grow up. Fuel cells also create hazardous waste and the fuel cell provider for this project has a history of illegally dumping this waste and hiding it for several years. This company will likely repeat its bad habits, illegally dumping dangerous and undisclosed chemicals into our public landfills, and we will just have to wait until somebody notices? Our county has and continues to face an illegal dumping epidemic so how can I be sure that these systemic oversight failures we have locally won't continue and expand to include this dangerous and experimental fuel cell operation. A fine for illegal dumping does not undo damage or its spread once our aquifer and soils are contaminated. It also will not re-capture the volatile chemicals that are released into the air when hazardous waste is improperly stored and disposed of.