

Imperial Valley Press

THE SOURCE FOR NEWS

ivpressonline.com

50 CENTS

Tuesday, July 01, 2008

Editorial

Our Opinion: Wind Zero a boon, not a Blackwater

Wind Zero is not Blackwater. No matter how much the folks who make up the No Mirage-Ocotillo community where Wind Zero has proposed a racetrack and law enforcement training facility try to make that untruth stick, it is still an untruth.

What Wind Zero is proposing for the Imperial Valley could be extremely beneficial. Imperial County needs jobs and revenue from sales and property tax. All three could come from the Wind Zero project.

The idea of a pay-to-play racetrack for moneyed people with big gas-powered toys way out in the desert has a tremendous upside. The sheer size of the project would help the county in property taxes and then there's the money from the patrons of the racetrack, not just in fees to race, but gasoline and likely food, drink and lodging in Imperial County.

As if that wasn't good enough, the other selling point of this project is the positive effect it would have on the local law enforcement community. Nearly all of the Valley police chiefs and fire chiefs support the Wind Zero facility, because it would include gun ranges, city-like tactical training facilities and an area where officers and deputies can learn high-performance driving.

The hope is that this facility could eventually lead to a local police academy. We think that is an excellent idea. As it stands now, the closest training ground for prospective law enforcement officers is in Riverside County. To be able to house that same level of training at home would save the county and the cities lots of money and would likely be a better recruiting and retaining tool for local agencies.

We realize the men and women who have chosen to make a life for themselves in the No Mirage-Ocotillo area enjoy their peace and quiet, but they can't bury their heads in the sand forever. This is progress, and for a county in need of all the help it can get, Wind Zero is a boon. The benefit for the entire county far outweighs the inconvenience this project would have on a select few.