Cypress Creek Project was uncovered through requesting public records from the County. Residents have been inquiring about these projects since 2017 and each time they reached out to learn more, they were told that “No projects have been permitted.” This is a deceptive answer for those purchasing property and who have spent their retirements and hard earned money to purchase and develop in this county. Once these projects are permitted landowners will be stuck owning property that has lost its value. It is no different than the Enron scandal that robbed people of their savings.

There is a continuing investigation done on these projects. So far we know that there is lease agreements from Middle, Aloha, Big Horn, and Knight Road for DNR Land. There is another file that will show the SEPA checklist that was completed for these pieces of land back in February 2019.

The area near Knight Road, Potholes, Pine Forest, Block House, Glenwood Highway, Fish Hatchery Road all have been surveyed and are potential areas of concern for immediate development. Once they apply for permits they will be grandfathered under the Conditional Use Permit process. The fee to appeal your case will cost residents $4,000. If agreements aren’t met between adjacent property owners, they will find themselves fighting for their property rights against multi-billion dollar corporations. Only those within 300 feet of the project will be contacted. This is why we need ordinances now. We want our county to impose a moratorium so that ordinances can be written and our residents will be protected.

We continue to pressure our County Commissioners by attending the Board of County Commissioners meeting every Tuesday at 1 pm and addressing our concerns during Public Comment Period. To date only one Commissioner has motioned for a moratorium. Dan Christopher was voted out by the other two commissioners Dave Sauter and Jacob Anderson.

At the end of February the County Commissioners were invited to attend a solar tour in Prineville Oregon. The projects that were toured are 10 times smaller than the ones proposed in our county. The public was invited but was told that they would not be able to ask questions. This is a violation of our first Amendment. We then were given permission after we arrived however, we were unprepared to debate the bias information that the solar companies were delivering to the Commissioners. It would seem that the two commissioners are only interested in one sided information on industrial solar as both Dave Sauter and Jacob Anderson have yet to answer any of our emails.

This is a three part document of the Cypress Creek Solar Project. It will not be the only one as we know that many landowners have lease agreements with at least two other companies that have not yet submitted a pre proposal to the Planning Department. This should give you an idea the magnitude and scale that these projects will be. During the tour Cypress Creek mentioned that they will be ready to permit in August 2021 and construction should begin first quarter 2022. This is why we need action now!
These project removes valuable farmland and puts it out of commission for the next 40 years. This is happening across our nation. Some experts believe that it will detrimental to US markets if we use good farmland for utility scale solar projects. Doing so will make it hard for the US to compete with global markets. The land near Tucker Hill produced 50 bushels of barley per acre last year.
To be determined is a common practice. The Lund Hill Solar Project in Bickleton is Washington States Largest. Its Final Environmental Statement is full of “to be determined” statements and construction on it has already begun. According to Planning Director Mo-Chi Lindbald, The county does not have a final building plan for Lund Hill. This is unacceptable and we demand answers. Decommissioning, flood control, road maintenance, emergency management and water management should be transparent for residents to know what to expect should this be sited next to your property.
Propaganda page. In Oregon, State law forbids solar and wind projects in areas where soils rate suitable for farming. During the solar tour in Prineville Oregon the nearest resident to the Inverenergy Solar farm was 3 miles away. If this project is permitted it will affect 50 Klickitat County Residents.
See Figure 3 – Project Site Layout for the preliminary locations of the Project components.

Solar Arrays

The Project will have multiple rows of mounted solar PV modules installed in arrays which are repeated to make up the solar field.

PV Modules

The Project will use high-efficiency commercially available PV modules that are UL listed or approved by another recognized testing laboratory. The principal materials incorporated into the PV modules include glass, steel, and the materials for converting the sunlight into electricity. These materials will consist of monocrystalline silicon, polycrystalline silicon or amorphous silicon.

Ground Mount

The PV modules will be mounted either on fixed-tilt systems, horizontal tracker systems or a combination of each. Tracker rows will be arranged in north-south rows. Fixed tilt rows will be arranged in east-west. The maximum height of the solar panels would be up to 13-feet above grade.

The mounting system for the modules will be supported by posts driven into the ground. Depending upon soil and hydrologic conditions, the posts would be driven directly into the soil, but other foundation designs may be utilized depending on final engineering design. If trackers are utilized, they will have an additional meteorological system and battery or generator backup.

Additional Project Electrical Equipment

The Project will have a collection system connecting PV modules to the Project substation which may include underground, aboveground cable trays and overhead DC and AC electrical and communication cables or a combination of all. DC collection lines would connect the PV modules to the inverter. Inverters convert DC power into AC power. AC lines will connect inverters to transformers. Transformers will increase the AC power to medium voltage. Medium voltage AC electrical lines will connect to the high voltage transformer at the Project substation.

The overhead collection system may contain both electrical circuits and communication lines on the same structures. Overhead collection systems typically consist of wood or steel poles and are approximately 40' above grade. The underground collection system is typically buried between 36”-48”. The overhead height and underground depth may vary based on voltage, ground elevation, crossing requirements, safety codes and county codes.

Project Access and Internal Roads

The Project would be primarily accessed from a private driveway off of Knight Road, Meschecher Road, W, Fish Hatchery Road, Pine Forest Road, Tucker Hill Road, and Butts Road. The Project's two solar array areas will be connected by Knight Road. Private perimeter and interior roads will be built for construction and operation. Road improvements may be required as part of the Project.

“Road improvements may be required...” This is not acceptable. Our ordinances should demand this!