



City of Ketchum

News Release
June 16, 2015

Solar Farm Near Ketchum Could Be Halted by PUC Proposal

Hearing Set for June 24 in Boise

KETCHUM, IDAHO — A proposed community solar farm between Ketchum and Hailey “would in effect be halted” if the Idaho Public Utilities Commission reduces the required length of alternative energy contracts from 20 years to two years, Mayor Nina Jonas said.

Jonas made her comments in a letter to the PUC, which will hold a public hearing on the request from Idaho Power on June 24 at 7 p.m. at its office at 427 W. Washington St., Boise. The Ketchum Energy Advisory Committee played a major role in the development of this letter with Mayor Jonas.

The proposal to shorten contracts, she said, would make it difficult to attract investors and “is in conflict with our community goals.”

Jonas said “A major goal of Ketchum is to fulfil its comprehensive plan commitments. One of those commitments is to increase Ketchum’s use of renewable energy and to encourage the development of renewable energy projects. A strong economy, clean energy and a healthy natural environment are key components of Ketchum’s resilience strategy.”

In keeping with this local strategy, Ketchum-based Sagebrush Solar, has proposed an 8.5-megawatt community solar farm between Ketchum and Hailey. The company last year began negotiations for a lease on 50 acres of state-owned land in the Ohio Gulch area.

The Ketchum City Council voted earlier this year to go on record against the proposal. Other opponents include the Sierra Club, Idaho Conservation League, Snake River Alliance and J. R. Simplot Company.

Public comments may be submitted to the PUC through June 24 by writing to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720. Case number: IPE-E-15-01. In addition, a telephonic hearing will be Tuesday, June 30, at 7 p.m. The telephone number is (888) 706-6468 and the participant code, 4435939.

Additional information and comments are on the web at
<http://www.puc.idaho.gov/fileroom/cases/summary/PACE1503.html>.

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About the City of Ketchum

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The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit www.ketchumidaho.org.

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