



Features

Hootenanny takes aim at LA tower corridor

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Hi-Desert Star

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PIONEERTOWN — The California Desert Coalition will hold a “Stop the Towers” benefit hootenanny at Pappy and Harriet’s Pioneertown Palace 4 to 8 p.m. June 13.

The CDC is hoping to raise funds for its legal needs and other areas where expertise is required to fight Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Green Path North energy corridor, which could cut through the Morongo Basin.

Things may seem quiet on that front at the moment, but CDC Chairwoman April Sall warns not to get complacent. “We cannot forget the continuing threat of the transmission lines to our communities and to our desert lands,” she said, reminding the Hi-Desert of Green Path North’s threat to desert views and property values, as well as the possibility of properties being seized through eminent domain.

To underscore Sall’s urgency, the Department of Water and Power’s commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding for the transmission line project on May 19.

This MOU, also signed by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, sets the groundwork for moving ahead with the issuance of the Notice of Intent.

Anticipating that the notice will be issued this summer, Sall was emphatic: “The official process is about to begin, and it will be important for the community to become engaged in making comments during the periods provided.”

The hootenanny will be the place to get a progress report on the coalition’s ongoing efforts to stop the towers.

But the CDC promises it will also be the place for a “festive evening of fun and camaraderie,” featuring a buffet dinner, no-host bar, music by One Lane Blacktop, Rojer Arnold and Friends and keyboardist Diane Lakey, plus the opportunity to bid on silent auction items.

Items pledged for the auction include wares from local businesses as well as artwork by sculptor Steve Rieman, painter Chuck Caplinger, gourd artist Lupe Molina and bronze artist by Randy Polumbo.

More items, big or small, are welcome for the auction, and all tax-deductible donations will be acknowledged at the event.

To donate items, call Carol Miller at (760) 228-2811.

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