



Demand for Transparency: DEC Talking Points

1. True Transparency Requires Public Answers

The Oroville City Council recently pledged a commitment to governance ethics and transparency, yet critical details regarding the OroVerde Energy Initiative remain hidden from the public. The City cannot ask residents to support speculative energy initiatives without revealing who is building them, what technology is involved, and where they will be located.

2. Four Unanswered Questions the City Must Address

Before any further approvals, agreements, or site planning move forward, the City Council must provide explicit answers to four fundamental questions:

- **Corporate Identification:** Who are the unnamed private energy providers and project developers involved in this initiative?
- **Technology Disclosure:** What specific thermal or chemical processes (such as gasification, thermolysis, or combustion) will be used, and what are their lifecycle air emissions?
- **Site Location & Exposure:** Where are these proposed off-grid "greenfield" sites located, and which neighborhoods will border them?
- **Environmental Justice Compliance:** How will the City guarantee that these developments strictly honor *Butte County General Plan 2040* mandates protecting designated Community Opportunity Zones from additional pollution?

3. Precautionary Environmental Justice & Public Health

South Oroville and surrounding working-class communities already carry an excessive environmental burden, including historical industrial contamination and elevated local cancer rates. The City must commit upfront that no emissive industrial energy facility will be placed in historically overburdened or low-income neighborhoods.

4. Mandatory CEQA Oversight and Open Public Review

Private, off-grid energy proposals must not bypass public scrutiny through fast-tracked zoning exemptions. Any proposed thermochemical or industrial energy development must undergo a full, transparent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), complete with robust public notice and dedicated town hall discussions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32VzsgiwSE>

This local news coverage provides helpful background context on Community Development Director Patrick Piatt's update regarding the shift away from the traditional public utility model toward off-grid developer proposals.