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GATEWAY TO IMPERIAL COUNTY

"WRONG TECHNOLOGY ... WRONG AREA"



Ocotillo resident Mark Meech points out proposed projects in the Ocotillo area to Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, on Friday. AP PHOTO

## Wind project worries voiced

BY ELIZABETH VARIN  
Staff Writer

OCOTILLO — Residents got a chance to air their concerns over a wind farm proposed in the area.

U.S. Rep. Bob Filner, D-Chula Vista, said he would look into what pull he had with the Bureau of Land Management to get answers on issues presented at the town hall meeting Friday. The bureau and Imperial County are working on environmental impact reports before the Ocotillo Express project goes up for approval.

The project is proposed to generate 550 megawatts

of power by the end of 2012. It would include up to 193 wind turbines on mostly public lands.

Residents and others expressed concerns about the environment, cultural resources, recreation and more.

"We really feel that this is the wrong technology in the wrong area," said resident Mark Meech.

The area needs someone to help protect it from private industry, Meech said. The project will have a drastic effect on the area.

"None of us are professional lobbyists," he said. "We're just trying to get someone to listen to us."