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BLC File(s): 1190.99

10 February 2011

Via Facsimile Only to 202-208-5048
Ken Salazar, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Via Facsimile Only to 202-208-5242
Bob Abbey, Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5665
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System Project (CACA 48668); Imperial Valley Solar Project (CACA 47740); Genesis Solar Power Project (CACA 48880); Chevron Lucerne Valley Solar Project (CACA 49561); Calico Solar Project (CACA 49537); Blythe Solar Power Project (CACA 48811); Palen Solar Power Plant (CACA 48810); Desert Sunlight Solar Farm Project (CACA 048649)

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Abbey:

I represent La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle Advisory Committee ("La Cuna") and various individuals who are either members of one or more Native American tribes or the descendants of such members in connection with the above-referenced fast-track solar projects in California. La Cuna is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and a party to that certain *Amendment No. 1 to Memorandum of Understanding Between United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management and the Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council*, in which your agencies recognized La Cuna as being comprised of "15 indigenous and culturally aware individuals dedicated to physically protecting the Blythe Giant Petroglyphs, other geoglyphs, and several hundred sacred sites that are located along the Colorado River from Needles, California, to Yuma, Arizona."

My clients are deeply concerned about the effect that these eight solar projects will have on their religion, culture, and heritage and on the environment. Your agencies are required to initiate and complete consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470 *et seq.*, before giving approval to actions like these projects. The first six were approved without proper consultations--they are the subjects of lawsuits in the Southern and Central Districts of California--and my clients are concerned that the last two will likewise be approved without proper consultations. The purpose of this letter is to request that you initiate and complete the legally required consultations for all eight projects before

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any further action is taken on any of them (including but not limited to the issuance of notices to proceed to the project developers).

If you would like to schedule an opportunity to begin the legally required consultations, please do not hesitate to let me know. Proper consultations could result in improved projects that pose no significant threat to Native American religion and culture or to the environment. Consultations could also lead to the prompt resolution of the lawsuits filed over the approved projects as well as the avoidance of lawsuits over the projects not yet approved.

My clients and I look forward to hearing from you very soon. Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION

Cory J. Briggs

cc: David B. Glazer, U.S. Department of Justice (via e-mail only)

