DOCKET
08-AFC-13
DATE MAY 14 2010
RECD. MAY 14 2010

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission**

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| In the Matter of:<br><br>The Application for Certification for the Calico Solar Power Project Licensing Case | ) | Docket No. 08-AFC-13 |

# PETITION TO INTERVENE BY COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

May 14, 2010

Ruth E. Stringer, County Counsel
Bart W. Brizzee, Deputy County Counsel
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 4th Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0140
Telephone: (909) 387-8946
Facsimile: (909) 387-5462
E-Mail: bbrizzee@cc.sbcounty.gov

Attorneys for Intervenor
**County of San Bernardino**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
**Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission**

| In the Matter of:<br><br>The Application for Certification for the Calico Solar Power Project Licensing Case | Docket No. 08-AFC-13 |
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**PETITION TO INTERVENE BY COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

Pursuant to sections 1207 and 1712 of Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, the County of San Bernardino ("County") petitions to intervene in this proceeding.

Section 1207(a) grants "any person" the right to file a petition to intervene which sets forth "the grounds for the intervention, the position and interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, the extent to which the petitioner desires to participate in the proceedings, and the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner." Section 1207(c) provides that the "presiding member may grant leave to intervene to any petitioner to the extent he deems reasonable and relevant . . . ."

The County is a large and mostly rural county, with vast open spaces and sweeping vistas. The unique considerations of the County's location between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, with their intensive energy consumption, combined with climatic conditions and high proportion of federal lands, which comprise approximately 80 percent of the County, have attracted applications for numerous large-scale

renewable energy power plants. A plurality or majority of the dozens of proposed renewable energy projects are seeking land and rights of way in San Bernardino County.

The County's economic conditions are challenging. The population is scattered, with a few urban centers in the desert regions. Power transmission and transportation infrastructure are limited to a few corridors. The Calico Solar Power Project (Calico) proposes the construction, maintenance, and operation of an 850 megawatt (MW) solar electric generating facility on 8,230 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management in an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County. This project directly affects the County's immediate economic interests. The County asks that the Commission perform an adequate review of the impacts to the local economic conditions, including the generation of property taxes, jobs, housing needs, and the provision and cost of emergency services to the proposed power plant. CEC Staff is recommending that in order to mitigate the project's impacts upon biological resources, the project applicant be required to acquire 14,018 acres of mitigation land. These types of mitigation requirements are of great concern to the County since the project takes huge amounts of acreage out of a use that will generate tax revenues to offset County resources upon which the project relies. This loss of acreage represents a significant economic loss to the County which fully supports a fee in lieu program that looks to other mitigation measures beyond blanket habitat acquisitions.

The County's unique geologic conditions also present challenges. A cumulative impact to groundwater is an issue of increasing concern to the County and compliance with the County's groundwater ordinance is a minimum.

The County has an interest in the economic and environmental impacts of the Calico Project. The County supports the concept of renewable energy, when it is

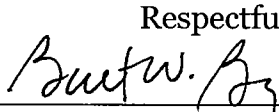
managed in an environmentally responsible and economically beneficial way but is concerned about projects that cause serious environmental hardship without providing countervailing economic benefits. The Commission's application process provides for a balancing of the Project's socio-economic and environmental impacts. The County's ultimate position in this proceeding will be determined based on all of the factors that will be considered by the Commission.

The County wishes to participate fully in all phases of this proceeding. Filings should be served on the County at the address listed below.

For the foregoing reasons, the County respectfully requests that the Commission grant its petition to intervene in this proceeding, and allow the County to participate as a party.

Dated: May 14, 2010

Respectfully submitted,



Bart W. Brizzee, Deputy County Counsel
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 4th Floor
San Bernardino CA 92415
(909) 387-8946 Voice
(909) 387-5462 Facsimile
bbrizzee@cc.sbcounty.gov

2414379

Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser
HUpublicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

## DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, **Renee Meyer**, declare that on **May 14, 2010**, I mailed hard copies of the attached **Petition To Intervene By County of San Bernardino, dated May 14, 2010.** The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: **[ www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solarone]**.

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

***(Check all that Apply)***

**FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:**

__X__ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

_____ by personal delivery;

__X__ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses NOT marked •• email preferred."

***AND***

**FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:**

__X__ sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below *(preferred method);*

***OR***

_____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**
**Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-13**
**1516 Ninth Street, MS-4**
**Sacramento, CA 95814-5512**
**docket@energy.state.ca.us**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.
*indicates change

Renee Meyer
**Renee Meyer**

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
**1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**
**1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
***For the CALICO SOLAR** (Formerly SES Solar One)*

## Docket No. 08-AFC-13

## PROOF OF SERVICE
***(Revised 5/11/10)***

**APPLICANT**
Felicia Bellows,
Vice President of Development
Tessera Solar
4800 North Scottsdale Road,
Ste. 5500
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Hfelicia.bellows@tesserasolar.com

Camille Champion
Project Manager
Tessera Solar
4800 North Scottsdale Road,
Suite 5500
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Hcamille.champion@tesserasolar.com

U**CONSULTANT**
Angela Leiba
AFC Project Manager
URS Corporation
1615 Murray Canyon Rd., #1000
San Diego, CA 92108
Angela_Leiba@URSCorp.com U

**APPLICANT'S COUNSEL**
Allan J. Thompson
Attorney at Law
21 C Orinda Way #314
Orinda, CA 94563
Uallanori@comcast.net

Ella Foley Gannon, Partner
Bingham McCutchen, LLP
Three Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111
ella.gannon@bingham.com

U**INTERESTED AGENCIES**
California ISO
HUe-recipient@caiso.comUH

Jim Stobaugh
BLM – Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520
HUjim_stobaugh@blm.govUH

Rich Rotte, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Barstow Field Office
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311
HURichard_Rotte@blm.govUH

Becky Jones
California Department of
Fish & Game
36431 41st Street East
Palmdale, CA 93552
HHUUdfgpalm@adelphia.netUU

**INTERVENORS**
California Unions for Reliable Energy
(CURE)
c/o: Loulena A. Miles, Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Ste. 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
lmiles@adamsbroadwell.com

Defenders of Wildlife
Joshua Basofin
1303 J Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, California 95814
e-mail service preferred
jbasofin@defenders.org

***Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep**
**Bob Burke & Gary Thomas**
**P.O. Box 1407**
**Yermo, CA 92398**
**cameracoordinator@sheepsociety.com**

Basin and Range Watch
Laura Cunningham & Kevin Emmerich
P.O. Box 70
Beatty, NV 89003
atomictoadranch@netzero.net

Patrick C. Jackson
600 N. Darwood Avenue
San Dimas, CA 91773
*e-mail service preferred*
ochsjack@earthlink.net

U**ENERGY COMMISSION**
ANTHONY EGGERT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
aeggert@energy.state.ca.us

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner and Associate Member
HUjbyron@energy.state.ca.usUH

Paul Kramer
Hearing Officer
HUpkramer@energy.state.ca.usUH

Kristy Chew, Adviser to
Commissioner Byron
e-mail service preferred
kchew@energy.state.ca.us

Caryn Holmes
Staff Counsel
HUcholmes@energy.state.ca.usUH

***Steve Adams**
**Co-Staff Counsel**
**sadams@energy.state.ca.us**

Christopher Meyer
Project Manager
HUcmeyer@energy.state.ca.usUH

*indicates change