



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office
690 West Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 581260
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260



IN REPLY REFER TO:
8120P
Genesis Solar Project
(CA-660.27)

NOV 26 2007

CERTIFIED MAIL-REPLY REQUESTED

Chairman Richard Milanovich
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

DOCKET	
09-AFC-8	
DATE	<u>11/26/07</u>
RECD.	<u>02/23/10</u>

Chairman Milanovich:

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as well as other laws and regulations, direct the BLM to consult with Native Americans when a federal undertaking has the potential to affect their interests or concerns. The Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to initiate government to government consultation for two proposed solar energy projects. Boulevard Associates, LLC (Boulevard) is proposing to develop a 250 or 500-megawatt (MW) thermal power generating project, called Project Genesis, on sites located between Desert Center and Blythe, California, on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Boulevard has filed an application with the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) grant on each of two sites. One site is located near Ford Dry Lake; the second is near McCoy Wash. The locations of the two parcels are described below and depicted on the enclosed maps. The proposed solar plants would be sited within these locations, but would not encompass the entire area.

Boulevard is considering several project alternatives for the Project Genesis solar electric power generation facilities in eastern Riverside County areas specified above. Each alternative is based on the concept of a solar plant "unit," which includes a solar power plant that uses steam turbine technology, a large solar collection field (capable of producing 250 MW of electricity), electrical transmission facilities, a natural gas pipeline, a water supply, and waste water treatment system.

Ford Dry Lake Solar Project Area. The Ford Dry Lake area is located north of Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) approximately 24 miles west of Blythe, Riverside County, California. Specifically, the Ford Dry Lake Solar Project Area involves all of Sections 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 and portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, 23, and 24 of Township 6 South, Range 18 East, San Bernardino Base Line and Meridian (SBBM). It also includes all of Sections 10, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24, and portions of Sections 9, 11, 13, 16, and 21 T. 6 S., R. 19 E., SBBM. These areas are depicted on the Ford Dry Lake and Hopkins Well, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic quadrangles (see enclosed map).

The Ford Dry Lake project area is located within an arid playa and low dune desert environment. The area is typically devoid of any vegetation. The elevation is approximately 120 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The McCoy Mountains are to the east and Palen Mountains are to the north/northwest.

McCoy Solar Project Area. The McCoy proposed project area is located north of I-10 approximately seven miles west/northwest of Blythe, Riverside County, California. Specifically, the McCoy Solar Project Area involves all of T. 5 S., R. 21 E., SBBM except Section 1. These areas are depicted on the Inca and McCoy Peak, California U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' topographic quadrangles (see enclosed map).

The McCoy project area is located on alluvium southeast of the McCoy Mountains. Elevations in the project area range from 490 to 650 feet amsl. The area is characterized by alluvial silts, sands and gravels, with patches of true desert pavement. The area is dissected by several small washes that extend from McCoy Wash.

BLM would value the participation of the tribe in identifying any issues or concerns that the tribe may have regarding this proposed project. BLM would be glad to meet with the tribe to brief you and to assist in identifying any issues or concerns. We particularly invite your comments regarding potential impacts to cultural resources or areas of traditional cultural importance within the area of the above project. We would also appreciate notification if the project lies outside your area of interest and you do not wish to consult or be contacted about this project in the future. Project contacts are:

Claude Kirby, Project Manager
Phone: 760-251-4850
Email: Claude_Kirby@ca.blm.gov

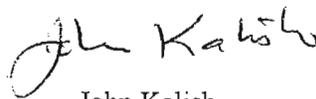
Wanda Raschkow, Cultural Resources Specialist
Phone: 760-251-4824
Email: Wanda_Raschkow@ca.blm.gov

Written comments on the project are appreciated and may be sent to:

John Kalish
Field Manager
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, BLM
PO Box 581260
North Palm Springs, CA 92258-1260

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,



John Kalish
Field Manager
Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office

cc: File
Richard Begay, THPO

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