



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607-4807



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L2623(JUBA)

DEC 18 2009

DOCKET
08-AFC-5

DATE DEC 18 2009

RECD. DEC 29 2009

Jim Stobaugh, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
BLM Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Re: CR CA-670-06-07/EIS CA-670-2006-33/CA-47740/ 8100P –
[Response to inquiry regarding NPS status as Cooperating Agency for the SES Solar Two Project (08-AFC-5), Imperial County, CA]

Dear Mr. Stobaugh:

The BLM has inquired and requested a response as to whether the National Park Service (NPS) should be identified as a federal cooperating agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under preparation for the SES Solar Two project in Imperial County pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act in accordance with 40 CFR 1508.5. The NPS has special expertise with respect to the project's environmental impacts to the Anza NHT, due our statutory responsibility, agency mission, and related experience in administering the Anza NHT. Therefore, NPS requests status as a federal cooperating agency for preparation of the EIS.

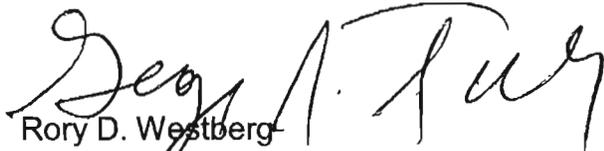
Please note that the NPS has also accepted BLM's invitation to participate as an Invited Signatory to the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the project, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.14(b)(3). The PA will specify how the BLM will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and resolve adverse effects that may result from the proposed undertaking (see attached letter confirming our status as an Invited Signatory for the PA). Due to NPS' role as both an Invited Signatory for the PA and a Cooperating Agency for the EIS, we request that BLM, to the extent feasible, consolidate project-related requests to NPS to minimize duplication of effort and to help both agencies cooperate efficiently in reviewing to the SES Solar Two project.

We look forward to advising BLM during its preparation of the EIS for this project. Naomi Torres, Superintendent for the Anza NHT, has delegated Steven Ross, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the trail, to work directly with BLM on both the PA and the EIS.

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You may reach him at (510) 817-1400, or steven_ross@nps.gov. Naomi can be reached at (510) 817-1438, or Naomi_torres@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Rory D. Westberg
Acting Regional Director, Pacific West Region

Enclosure

cc: -

Christopher Meyer, Project Manager, California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street,
MS-15, Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Vicki L. Wood, Field Manager, El Centro Field Office, Bureau of Land Management,
US Department of the Interior, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, CA 92243-4561