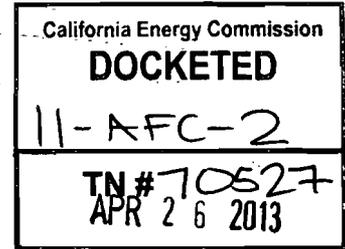


April 22, 2013

Commissioners Douglas, Hochschild; and,
Hearing Officer Celli
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



Dear Commissioners Douglas and Hochschild; and,
Hearing Officer Celli:

Since some time has lapsed for the suspension of the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS), I thought it would be an appropriate opportunity for me to share some personal thoughts and observations with each of you.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincerest gratitude for your unwavering interest and sensitivity afforded to me during my testimony and involvement in the recent evidentiary hearings held on March 12-18, 2013. After witnessing the proceedings, each of you is to be commended for your ability to receive complex and oftentimes diverging testimony, while maintaining and encouraging a professional decorum by all parties. Your collective approach resulted in orderly hearings that were ultimately conducted in a timely and systematic fashion.

Equally, my participation as the first American Indian Intervenor was both enlightening and thought provoking. When I first learned of the HHSEGS, I was moved because of my deep-rooted cultural concerns with a project that had profound and far-reaching effects on three culturally sensitive ethnographic landscapes. This culturally important information was identified in the Final Staff Assessment and concurrently shared during my testimony. As you learned, these landscapes are embedded in our traditional songs, stories and religion, which remain central to our survival and cultural beliefs.

Admittedly, I was unaware of the level of my responsibilities associated with this undertaking and the necessity for reviewing voluminous documents and other expectations that were later discovered. The time needed to adequately digest and address the information presented by the Applicant was informative, but appeared tactically submitted.

I learned about the nuances of *ex parte* communications and the limitations on my interactions and the formality of any discussions. I concluded timing was an essential consideration for me determining when to petition as an Intervenor, and how to best evaluate the forthcoming data. Naturally, personal experience was helpful and became a key issue in my gaining a better understanding of the project coupled with refining my strategy for reviewing and analyzing technical information.

Once involved, I remained focused on calibrating how to best articulate and defend culturally sensitive and proprietary information not often shared in a public forum. As a recognized traditional leader, cultural expert and traditional religious practitioner, from the Pahrump Paiute Tribe, I was taught early on by elders to always be extremely careful about how much and what information to divulge. Never taking this responsibility lightly, I relied upon the wisdom of people of the past and my early teachings. This foundation became the basis for several personal dilemmas that required continuous and serious deliberation.

Throughout the hearings, I found my familiarity with the process advancing, while confidence levels and interactions increasing. After watching the process and observing each personality including body language, I quickly learned how and when each party would become engaged. I then calculated what, when and where information should be appropriately interjected and how it would be best received.

Throughout my attempts to share cultural perspectives, I was reminded something commonly known and culturally understood, required a delicate balance with the audience to gain an appreciation of Southern Paiute epistemology. Hence, my describing the *10 directions*, as we know it, (north, east, south, west, up, down, past, present, future and yourself), along with other cultural perspectives presented during the Evidentiary Hearings.

Appropriately, I observed and always respected the gravity of the deliberations and the information presented. However, based on similar situations, Southern Paiute people recognize the importance of imparting levity during long and complex discussions. Culturally, we know when it should be tactfully interspersed. When done, professional friendships are developed; mutual respect is obtained and inhibitions diminish.

While there are certainly many more points to discuss, it remains my intention to write a more detailed and comprehensive perception of the process, observations based on my personal experience. When completed, I will forward each of you a copy of my perspectives, so that together we can encourage increased tribal involvement in future undertakings by the State of California.

Respectfully,



Richard Arnold
P.O. Box 3411
Pahrump, NV 89041

cc: Commissioner Robert Weisenmiller
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Commissioner Janea Scott