

Memorandum

Date: November 4, 2010

Telephone: (916) 651-0966

To: James D. Boyd, Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Anthony Eggert, Commissioner and Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission – Eric K. Solorio, *Project Manager*
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
09-AFC-9	
DATE	NOV 04 2010
RECD.	NOV 04 2010

Subject: **Staff's Status Report #5 for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (09-AFC-9)**

Staff respectfully submits this Status Report #5 for consideration by the Committee.

Recent Activities

Applicant recently filed its proposed Study Plan for the Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS) habitat connectivity study. Staff is reviewing the Study Plan and will file comments by Friday, November 12, 2010 then hold a workshop on November 18, 2010, in an attempt to finalize the plan.

Staff's Concerns Going Forward

It is important to mention that the MGS study will cost the applicant approximately \$1,500,000. Although the proposed MGS study will provide valuable information and data regarding the habitat and movement corridors of the MGS, staff continues to believe the site chosen by the applicant for the Ridgecrest project contains important biological resources that are deserving of protection. Staff remains concerned that approval of the project will lead to significant and immitigable impacts to not only the Mohave ground squirrel but also to the desert tortoise.

Regardless of the MGS study results, staff believes it is preferable, based upon what we know today, to preserve this site and surrounding area as opposed to developing it. Staff wants to reiterate that potential impacts to MGS are only one reason for staff recommending against approval of the project, as articulated in the draft Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS). The project's potential impacts to desert tortoise continue to be a significant concern given the population density on the site. Staff has not seen any new information that would change the conclusions articulated in the SA/DEIS. Consequently, we believe it is important, before the applicant spends \$1.5 million dollars on a MGS study, to indicate that impacts solely to desert tortoise lead staff to the conclusion that this project site should not be developed. We do not expect the results of the Mohave ground squirrel study to change our opinion about the appropriateness of the proposed site for development.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 7/9/10) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 11/4/10

TG



**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 *RIDGECREST SOLAR
POWER PROJECT***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-9
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 7/9/2010)**

APPLICANT

Billy Owens
Director, Project Development
Solar Millenium
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161
owens@solarmillennium.com

Alice Harron
Senior Director, Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161
harron@solarmillennium.com

Elizabeth Copley
AECOM Project Manager
2101 Webster Street, Suite 1900
Oakland, CA 94612
elizabeth.copley@aecom.com

*Scott Galati
Marie Mills
Galati/Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com
mmills@gb-llp.com

Peter Weiner
Matthew Sanders
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
LLP
55 2nd Street, Suite 2400-3441
San Francisco, CA 94105
peterweiner@paulhastings.com
matthewsanders@paulhastings.com

INTERVENORS

Desert Tortoise Council
Sidney Silliman
1225 Adriana Way
Upland, CA 91784
ssilliman@csupomona.edu

California Unions for Reliable Energy
(CURE)
Tanya A. Gulesserian
Elizabeth Klebaner
Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph &
Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com
eklebaner@adamsbroadwell.com

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

Western Watersheds Project
Michael J. Connor, Ph.D.
California Director
P.O. Box 2364
Reseda, CA 91337-2364
mjconnor@westernwatersheds.org

Kerncrest Audubon Society
Terri Middlemiss & Dan Burnett
P.O. Box 984
Ridgecrest, CA 93556
catbird4@earthlink.net
imdanburnett@verizon.net

Center for Biological Diversity
Ileene Anderson
Public Lands Desert Director
PMB 447, 8033 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90046
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa T. Belenky, Senior Attorney
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
E-mail Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Janet Eubanks, Project Manager,
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553
janet_eubanks@ca.blm.gov

Scott O'Neil, Executive Director
Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons
Division
1 Administration Circle
China Lake, CA 93555-6100
scott.oneil@navy.mil

Scott O'Neil, Executive Director
Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons
Division
575 "I" Avenue, Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
scott.oneil@navy.mil

ENERGY COMMISSION

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
jboyd@energy.state.ca.us

ANTHONY EGGERT
Commissioner and Associate Member
aeggert@energy.state.ca.us

Lorraine White
Advisor to Commissioner Eggert
lwhite@energy.state.ca.us

Kourtney Vaccaro
Hearing Officer
kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
esolorio@energy.state.ca.us

Tim Olson
Advisor to Commissioner Boyd
tolson@energy.state.ca.us

Jared Babula
Staff Counsel
jbabula@energy.state.ca.us

* Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser
E-mail preferred
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Teraja` Golston, declare that on, November 04, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached (09-AFC-09) Ridgecrest – CEC Staff Status Report #5. 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: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest].

The document has 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:

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

by personal delivery;

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:

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. 09-AFC-9

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.

Original Signature in Dockets

Teraja` Golston