

OFFICE OF THE

COUNTY COUNSEL

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM D320
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93408
TELEPHONE (805) 781-5400
FAX (805) 781-4221



WARREN R. JENSEN
COUNTY COUNSEL

ASSISTANT
RITA L. NEAL

CHIEF DEPUTY
TIMOTHY McNULTY

DEPUTIES
JAMES B. ORTON
ANN CATHERINE DUGGAN
PATRICK J. FORAN
LESLIE H. KRAUT
SUSAN HOFFMAN
CHERIE J. VALLELUNGA
SHANNON G. MATUSZEWICZ
NINA NEGRANTI
CARRIE WINTERS
WHITNEY McDONALD

September 16, 2011

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET

09-AFC-9

DATE Sept 16 2011

RECD. Sept 16 2011

Subject: COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO'S COMMENT LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' BRIEF OPPOSING MOTION FOR ORDER AFFIRMING APPLICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL WAIVER FOR THE RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT (DOCKET NO. 09-AFC-9)

Dear Honorable Members of the Energy Commission:

As authorized by the Commission's order of August 24, 2011 (Order No. 11-0824-8), the County of San Luis Obispo respectfully submits this comment letter and joins in the arguments made by the California Association of Counties (CSAC) in its brief opposing Applicant's Motion for Order Affirming Application of Jurisdictional Waiver for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (Docket No. 09-AFC-9).

The County of San Luis Obispo strongly opposes the Applicant's request for an order determining that a developer of a photovoltaic (PV) electrical generating facility has the discretion to voluntarily submit to the Commission's jurisdiction. The Applicant's request is particularly dangerous from San Luis Obispo County's perspective given that our county has recently permitted two large-scale (250 MW and 550 MW) photovoltaic plants. Those plants were only approved following a rigorous environmental and public review process that allowed the County to assure that appropriate mitigation of environmental impacts and impacts to county services would occur. Allowing PV companies to avoid this type of local review will have enormous impacts on local resources.

The Commission was expressly created by the Legislature to site and certify thermal power plants and related electric transmission lines only. (Public Resources Code section 25500.) Photovoltaic facilities are specifically excluded from the Commission's jurisdiction. (Public Resources Code sections 25110 & 25120.) Jurisdiction over such facilities is instead exclusively vested in local land use authorities by their constitutionally conferred police powers.

California Energy Commission
Re: Docket No. 09-AFC-9 Support Letter
September 16, 2011

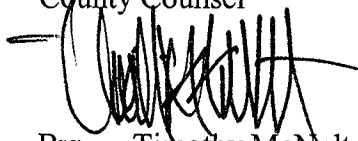
If the Commission issues Applicant's requested order, any county or city may, at the election of an applicant, be deprived of its constitutionally conferred police power to permit PV projects. The Commission has recognized that issuance of the requested order would likely have far reaching effects. Other solar power plant developers may seek similar orders and other counties, including San Luis Obispo County, may, at the election of those developers, be deprived of their constitutionally conferred police power to permit photovoltaic facilities.

The County of San Luis Obispo respectfully requests that the Commission deny Applicant's Motion for Order Affirming Application of Jurisdictional Waiver for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project. The County of San Luis Obispo further requests that it be added to the Proof of Service list as an Interested Agency for this Docket No. 09-AFC-9.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions concerning San Luis Obispo County's position, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

WARREN R. JENSEN
County Counsel



By: Timothy McNulty
Chief Deputy County Counsel

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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 8/15/2011)**

APPLICANT

STA Development, LLC
Billy Owens
Senior Director,
Project Development
1111 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
billy.owens@solartrustofamerica.com

STA Development, LLC
Alice Harron
Vice President,
Project Development
1111 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
alice.harron@solartrustofamerica.com

CONSULTANT

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

APPLICANT'S COUNSEL

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

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

STA Development, LLC
Jim Migliore, Associate
Environmental Management
1111 Broadway, 5th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
E-mail preferred
jim.migliore@solartrustofamerica.com

INTERVENORS

Desert Tortoise Council
Sidney Silliman
1225 Adriana Way
Upland, CA 91784
gssilliman@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 Middlemis, 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
E-mail preferred
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa Belenky
Senior Attorney
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104-2404
E-mail preferred
lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org

**INTERESTED AGENCIES/
ENTITIES/PERSONS**

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

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

**INTERESTED AGENCIES/ENTITIES
PERSONS (Cont.)**

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Michael Owens, Energy Coordinator
1 Administration Circle
China Lake, CA 93555-6100
E-mail preferred
michael.t.owens@navy.mil

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division
Michael Owens, Energy Coordinator
575 "I" Avenue, Suite 1
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5049
E-mail preferred
michael.t.owens@navy.mil

Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake
CAPT Jeffrey Dodson, Commanding Officer
1 Administration Circle, Stop 1003
China Lake, CA 93555-6100
E-mail preferred
jeffrey.dodson@navy.mil

Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake
Tim Fox
Community Plans & Liaison Officer
429 E Bowen Rd, Stop 4003
China Lake, CA 93555-6100
E-mail preferred
timothy.h.fox@navy.mil

**ENERGY COMMISSION
DECISION MAKERS**

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

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

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

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF

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

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

**ENERGY COMMISSION –
PUBLIC ADVISER**

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

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Neil Warner, declare that on September 16, 2011, I served and filed copies of the attached COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO'S COMMENT LETTER IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' BRIEF OPPOSING MOTION FOR ORDER AFFIRMING APPLICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL WAIVER FOR THE RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT (DOCKET NO. 09-AFC-9) dated September 16, 2011. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit or the Chief Counsel, as required by the applicable regulation, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [\[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html)

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. 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 "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- by sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid and e-mailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – CHIEF COUNSEL


Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel
1516 Ninth Street MS-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
mlevy@energy.state.ca.us

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission
Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel
1516 Ninth Street MS-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
mlevy@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized initials 'N.W.' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Neil Warner

*indicates change