

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	265815
Document Title:	Report of Conversation w Hannah Arkin- Request for information following determination of a complete application
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Lisa Worrall
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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**Siting, Transmission and
Environmental Protection
Division**

FILE: n/a

PROJECT TITLE: Soda Mountain Solar
Project

Docket: 23-OPT-03

TECHNICAL AREA(s): Cultural Resources, Project Description, Geological Resources

☐ Telephone

☒ Email

☐ Meeting Location:

NAME(s): Lisa Worrall, William Larson,
Kevin DeLeon

DATE: August 11, 13, 26,
2025

TIME:

WITH: Hannah Arkin, Resolution Environmental (applicant's representative)

SUBJECT: Request for information following determination of a complete application

COMMENTS:

CEC staff identified several data requests since the application was deemed complete on July 31, 2025. This Report of Conversation memorializes the requests and applicant's responses. Staff requests the responses to be filed to the project's docket.

1. On August 11, 2025, Cultural Resources staff requested the following:

The Cultural/Tribal Cultural staff need the new access road to be surveyed for archaeology with the 50-ft required buffer for linears. Please use the same survey methods you have used for other surveys with approximately 20 foot intervals.

The applicant acknowledged the request the same day and will provide as soon as possible.

2. On August 13, 2025, Geological Resources staff requested the following:

In Section 3.7 Geology and Soils - October 2024 - Revision 1 (TN 259702), the applicant doesn't cite a site-specific preliminary geotechnical investigation in text. However, in their references section, they do list the following 2010 report:

Diaz Yourman & Associates (DYA). 2010. Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation (Phase 1A) Caithness Soda Mountain Solar Facility Project, Baker, San Bernardino County, California. December 7, 2010.

Would you please ask the applicant to clarify if they completed a site-specific preliminary geotechnical investigation? If yes, would you please ask them to docket the file?

The applicant responded on August 14, 2025, with the following:

No, a site specific preliminary geotechnical investigation has not yet been prepared. However, we can get this report completed within approximately 30 days. We had intended to complete this



work with our final engineering documents, but can expedite its completion instead, if that would be helpful.

On August 26, 2025, the Project Manager confirmed with the applicant of staff's need for a site specific preliminary geotechnical investigation within 30 days.

3. On August 26, 2025, the Project Manager requested the following:

I see in the Traffic Control Plan that was submitted as part of the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Application and BLM Traffic Control Plan that a permanent fenceline will bound the gen-tie route. Is this still correct?

In the Project Description section from Updated Project Description and Responses to REV 1 DR BIO2 and REV 1 DR ES-1, it states the following:

Northwest of I-15, the project would use an existing travel route (CL 8847 and CL7682 from Zzyzx Road). CL 8847 and CL7682 are existing roadways that are publicly accessible. These roadways would not require any improvements during project construction or operation. As an alternative, the project may also construct and use a new temporary exit off southbound I-15 near the gen-tie corridor to access the gen-tie line corridor and switchyard.

Please make the following edits to Figure 2-7 and Figure 2-8:

Please show the proposed temporary access road from Zzyzx Road over CL 8847 and CL7682 to connect with the access road under the gen-tie route. Include this route in the project boundaries and add the temporary access road into the legend.

Please include a reference to where the other access via a new temporary on-off ramp from southbound I-15 would be located, with a reference in the legend.

Based on Figure 2-7, it appears that the existing Rasor Road alignment crosses through the proposed solar array 3. Would the alignment of Rasor Road need to be adjusted to avoid this solar array area? If so, please show that re-alignment and update the legend to note it. The existing centerline for Rasor Road is not shown through the project site on Figure 2-8, please show the existing centerline through the project and show any re-alignment proposed.

<p>cc:</p>	<p>Signed:</p> <p><u>Lisa Worrall</u></p> <p>Name: Lisa Worrall, Senior Environmental Planner Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division</p>
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