

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-03
Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	268872
Document Title:	William Helmer Comments - Comment on Soda Mountain Solar Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	William Helmer
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	2/27/2026 5:15:50 PM
Docketed Date:	3/2/2026

Comment Received From: William Helmer
Submitted On: 2/27/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-03

Comment on Soda Mountain Solar Project

I recommend No Project for the Soda Mountain Solar Project. This old project has should still be rejected, and it was a mistake to resurrect this project again. This is a waste of time and money. Also, the NEPA review by BLM with an updated Environmental Impact Statement should occur at the same time as the CEQA review by the California Energy Commission (CEC).

There was virtually no analysis of the Project's impacts to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) by the BLM. The Project lies within the ten mile wide OSNHT Corridor, and cultural landscape impacts must be analyzed within this corridor. Visual impacts are only a part of the analysis, and impacts to the Trail should not be reduced to the geographic centerline of the OSNHT Corridor. A full Section 106 analysis according to regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act must be conducted, with consultation interviews with individuals and organizations familiar with the history and cultural resources of this part of the Mojave Desert.

The Project is too close to Mojave National Preserve, and will impact this very scenic area of the Mojave Desert.

In conclusion, the recommendation by CEC for a Finding of Overriding Consideration should be rejected for a project with significant impacts that can't be mitigated.