DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-AFC-06C
Project Title:	Blythe Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	200052
Document Title:	Blythe Amendment CEC Tribal Consultation
Description:	Request and Response Letters and BLM Tribal Tribal Leader Contact List and NAHC - North American Riverside County Contacts List and BSPP Project Features Fig. 2 and BSPP Vicinity Map Fig. 1
Filer:	Susan Fleming
Organization:	CEC/T. Gates
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/29/2013 10:11:28 AM
Docketed Date:	7/29/2013

From: Gates, Thomas@Energy
To: "Dave Singleton";
cc: Dyas, Mary@Energy;
Subject: Blythe Solar Power Project Request
Date: Monday, June 17, 2013 4:44:00 PM
Attachments: BSPP_Vicinity_Map_Fig1.pdf
Blythe_Project_Features_Fig 2.pdf

Dear Dave:
As part of our independent review of an amendment to a previously certified solar project: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP), I am requesting a search of the Sacred Lands File and a list of tribal contacts for the project area as it is amended and depicted on the attached "Blythe Project Features Fig. 2" map. The project is in **Riverside** County.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-MW nominal capacity each for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point

of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the approved project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
- Solar Field and Power Block #2 (northwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #3 (southwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #4 (southeast);
- Access road to on-site office from and upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and laydown area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the Colorado River Substation (CRS);

- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with PV generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE's) CRS, which is currently under construction.

NextEra Blythe Solar proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate a total of approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location to be determined during final design.

NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or combination of the two systems would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is

requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment.

During operations, all four units would share an operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line.

The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within BLM ROW #CACA–048811. The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site.

The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

- The previously planned four power blocks (which each included a steam turbine, evaporation pond, auxiliary boiler, air-cooled condenser, and equipment) and structures have been eliminated.
- The Land Treatment Units for HTF have been eliminated.
- The HelioTrough energy collection systems and associated HTF piping systems have been

eliminated and replaced with PV panels configured for either horizontal tracking or fixed-tilt operations.

- The substation has been replaced by a switchyard which is located near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds have been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of mass grading has been greatly reduced.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy[1] projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF)

to 700 to 1,200 AF.

- Water use during operations has been reduced from approximately 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) to between 30 and 40 AFY.

The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be approximately 3,000 acres reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project vicinity and a project map are attached to this email.

To assist you in the Sacred Lands File search, legal location data is as follows:

McCoy Peak 7.5 Minute Quad

T 6S, R 21E

Sections 2, 3, 11, 14, 23, 26, 27

McCoy Wash 7.5 Minute Quad

T 6S, R 21 E

Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23

T 6S, R 22E

Sections 6, 7, 18

Roosevelt Mine 7.5 Minute Quad
T6S, R21E
Sections 26, 35

T 7S, R21E
Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to call me with any questions you might have.
Thank you,

Tom

Thomas Gates

California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection Division
1516 9th Street (MS-40)
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

(916) 654 5008
FAX: (916) 651-8868

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[1] EDF Renewable Energy is the U.S. subsidiary of EDF Energies Nouvelles. EDF Energies Nouvelles is the renewable energy arm of the EDF group, a world-wide electricity company.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3715
Fax (916) 373-5471
www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net

June 19, 2013

Dr. Thomas Gates,
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission, & Environmental Protection Division
1516 Ninth Street, MS-40
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent by FAX to: 916-651-8868
No. of Pages: 4

Re: Request for Sacred Lands File Search and Native American Contacts list for the **"Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (includes Natural Gas Lines, Batch Plant, Fuel Depot, gen-tie to Southern California Edison, Power Substation, Access Roads, Construction of Warehouse/Maintenance Facilities, Distribution and Construction Power Lines);"** located in the vicinity of the City of Blythe; eastern Riverside County, California.

Dear Dr. Gates:

A record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands File failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional cultural place(s) in the project site submitted, based on the USGS coordinates, the Area of Potential Effect (APE). However, there are numerous Native American cultural resources recorded from the Blythe area, including some section of the McCoy Wash and Roosevelt Mine USGS quadrangles. The reduction in the size of the APE may account for no sacred places/sites noted in this most recent request for SLF searches. Note also that the NAHC SLF Inventory is not exhaustive; therefore, the absence of archaeological or Native American sacred places does not preclude their existence. Other data sources for Native American sacred places/sites should also be contacted. A Native American tribe of individual may be the only sources of presence of traditional cultural places or sites.

In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3rd 604; *EPIC v. Johnson*), the Court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources impacted by proposed projects, including archaeological places of religious significance to Native Americans, and to Native American burial sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes, individuals/organization who may have knowledge of cultural resources in or near the project area. As part of the consultation process, the NAHC recommends that local governments and project developers contact the tribal governments and individuals to determine if any cultural places might be impacted by the proposed action. If a response is not received in two weeks of notification the NAHC requests that a follow telephone call be made to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 373-3715.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment

Native American Contacts
Riverside County
June 19, 2013

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
Darrell Mike, Chairperson
46-200 Harrison Place Chemehuevi
Coachella , CA 92236
tribal-epa@worldnet.att.net
(760) 775-5566
(760) 808-0409 - cell - EPA
(760) 775-4639 Fax

Joseph R. Benitez (Mike)
P.O. Box 1829 Chemehuevi
Indio , CA 92201
(760) 347-0488
(760) 408-4089 - cell

Chemehuevi Reservation
Edward Smith, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1976 Chemehuevi
Chemehuevi Valley CA 92363
chair1cit@yahoo.com
(760) 858-4301
(760) 858-5400 Fax

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Timothy Williams, Chairperson
500 Merriman Ave Mojave
Needles , CA 92363
(760) 629-4591
(760) 629-5767 Fax

Colorado River Indian Tribe
Wayne Patch, Sr. ,Chairman; Ginger Scott,
26600 Mojave Road Mojave
Parker , AZ 85344 Chemehuevi
crit.museum@yahoo.com
(928) 669-9211-Tribal Office
(928) 669-8970 ext 21
(928) 669-1925 Fax

Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Nation
Keeny Escalanti, Sr., President
PO Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma , AZ 85366
qitpres@quechantribe.com
(760) 572-0213
(760) 572-2102 FAX

AhaMaKav Cultural Society, Fort Mojave Indian
Linda Otero, Director
P.O. Box 5990 Mojave
Mohave Valley AZ 86440
(928) 768-4475
LindaOtero@fortmojave.com
(928) 768-7996 Fax

Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
John Marcus, Chairman
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
(951) 659-2700
(951) 659-2228 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP); located in eastern Riverside County, California for which sacred Lands File searches and Native American Contacts were requested.

Native American Contacts
Riverside County
June 19, 2013

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Daniel McCarthy, M.S.., Director-CRM Dept.
26569 Community Center. Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933, Ext 3248
dmccarthy@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
(909) 862-5152 Fax

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Diana L. Chihuahua, Vice Chairperson, Cultural
P.O. Boxt 1160 Cahuilla
Thermal , CA 92274
mkrystall@tmdci-nsn.gov
760) 397-0300, Ext. 1209
(760) 272-9039 - cell (Lisa)
(760) 397-8146 Fax

Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
Nora McDowell, Aha Makav Society
P.O. Box 5990 Mojave
Needles , CA 92363
(928) 768-4475
noramcdowall-antone@fortmojave.com
(760) 629-5767 Fax

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians THPO
Patricia Tuck, Tribal Historic Perservation Officer
5401 Dinah Shore Drive Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA 92264
ptuck@augacaliente-nsn.gov
(760) 699-6907

(760) 699-6924- Fax

Quechan Indian Nation
Arlene Kingery, THPO
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma , AZ 85366
(760) 572-2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com
(760) 572-0515 - FAX

Ah-Mut-Pipa Foundation
Preston J. Arrow-weed
P.O. Box 160 Quechan
Bard , CA 92222 Kumeyaay
ahmut@earthlink.net
(928) 388-9456

Cocopah Indian Reservation
Attn: H. Jill McCormick, Tribal Archaeologist
County !5th & Avenue G Cocopah
Sommerton , AZ 85350
culturalres@cocopah.com

(928) 530-2291

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP); located in eastern Riverside County, California for which sacred Lands File searches and Native American Contacts were requested.

Blythe Solar Power Project

Tribal Contact List – June 20, 2013

Tribal Leaders

Jeff Grubbe, Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Mary Ann Green, Chairwoman
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 846
Coachella, CA 92236

David Roosevelt, Chairman
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203-3449

Luther Salgado, Sr., Chairman
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 391760
Anza, CA 92539-1760

Edward Smith, Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman
Cocopah Indian Tribe
14515 S. Veterans Dr
Somerton, AZ 85350

Wayne Patch, Sr, Chairman
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

Timothy Williams, Chairman
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Keeny Escalanti, Sr., President
Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366-1899

Robert Martin, Chairman
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Rd.
Banning, CA 92220

Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 391372
Anza, CA 92539

Carla Rodriguez, Chairwoman
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Rosemary Morillo, Chairwoman
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Mary Resvaloso, Chairwoman
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

Darrell Mike, Chairman
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

Blythe Solar Power Project

Tribal Contact List – June 20, 2013

Tribal Staff

Tom Davis, Chief Planning and Development Officer
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Patti Garcia-Tuck, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

David Saldivar, Environmental Department
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
84-001 Avenue 54
Coachella, CA 92236

Judy Stapp, Cultural Affairs Director
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203-3449

Mike Jackson, Environmental Department
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203-3449

Luther Salgado, Jr., Environmental Director
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
P.O. Box 391741
Anza, CA 92539

Jay Cravath, Chemehuevi Cultural Center
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Jill McCormick, Cultural Resources Manager
Cocopah Indian Tribe
14515 S. Veterans Dr
Somerton, AZ 85350

Doug Bonamici, Department of Justice
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

Wilene Fisher-Holt, Colorado River Indian Museum
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

Linda Otero, AhaMakav Cultural Society
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Nora McDowell-Antone, AhaMakav Cultural Society
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Arlene Kingery, Historic Preservation Officer
Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
P.O. Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366-1899

William Madrigal, Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Rd.
Banning, CA 92220

John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
56310 Highway 371, Suite B
Anza, CA 92539

Daniel McCarthy, Cultural Resources Management Department
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Ann Brierty, Cultural Resources Coordinator
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resources Department
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
P.O. Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Mathew Krystall, Tribal Resources Manager
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

Anthony Madrigal, Jr., Cultural Director
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
47250 Dillon Road
Coachella, CA 92236

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Tom Davis, Chief Planning and Development Officer
Agua Caliente Band of Chauilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Tom Davis,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
- Solar Field and Power Block #2 (northwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #3 (southwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #4 (southeast);
- Upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road, and an access road to a proposed on-site office;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

- The previously planned four power blocks (which each included a steam turbine, evaporation pond, auxiliary boiler, air-cooled condenser, and equipment) and structures have been eliminated.
- The Land Treatment Units for HTF have been eliminated.
- The HelioTrough energy collection systems and associated HTF piping systems have been eliminated and replaced with PV panels configured for either horizontal tracking or fixed-tilt operations.
- The substation has been replaced by a switchyard which is located near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds has been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
- Water use during operations has been reduced from approximately 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) to between 30 and 40 AFY.

The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

To view a copy of the Revised Petition to Amend for this compliance proceeding (09-AFC-6C), and to find more information about the project and proceedings, please visit the project website. For access to all project information, including the current amendment and past project certification, go to: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe_solar_.

Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Patti Garcia-Tuck, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Agua Caliente Band of Chauilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Patti Garcia-Tuck,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

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In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

David Saldivar, Environmental Department
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
84-001 Avenue 54
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear David Saldivar,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Judy Stapp, Cultural Affairs Director
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Judy Stapp,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

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- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

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www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Mike Jackson, Environmental Department
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Mike Jackson,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

To view a copy of the Revised Petition to Amend for this compliance proceeding (09-AFC-6C), and to find more information about the project and proceedings, please visit the project website. For access to all project information, including the current amendment and past project certification, go to: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe_solar_.

Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Jay Cravath, Chemehuevi Cultural Center
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
PO Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Jay Cravath,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
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- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds has been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Jill McCormick, Cultural Resources Manager
Cocopah Indian Tribe
14515 S. Veterans Drive
Somerton, AZ 85350

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Jill McCormick,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Jill McCormick, Cocopah Indian Reservation Tribal Archaeologist
Cocopah Indian Tribe
County 15th & Avenue G
Somerton, AZ 85350

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Jill McCormick,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

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www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Doug Bonamici, Department of Justice
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Doug Bonamici,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
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The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Wilene Fisher-Holt, Colorado River Indian Musuem
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Wilene Fisher-Holt,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

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Sincerely,

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ROGER E. JOHNSON
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
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July 24, 2013

Linda Otero, Director, AhaMaKav Cultural Society
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Linda Otero,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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Facility Project Features Map

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www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Linda Otero, AhaMaKav Cultural Society Director
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
PO Box 5990
Mohave Valley, AZ 86440

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Linda Otero,

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/s/ Roger E. Johnson

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July 24, 2013

Nora McDowell-Antone, AhaMaKav Cultural Society
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Nora McDowell-Antone,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
- Solar Field and Power Block #2 (northwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #3 (southwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #4 (southeast);
- Upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road, and an access road to a proposed on-site office;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

- The previously planned four power blocks (which each included a steam turbine, evaporation pond, auxiliary boiler, air-cooled condenser, and equipment) and structures have been eliminated.
- The Land Treatment Units for HTF have been eliminated.
- The HelioTrough energy collection systems and associated HTF piping systems have been eliminated and replaced with PV panels configured for either horizontal tracking or fixed-tilt operations.
- The substation has been replaced by a switchyard which is located near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds has been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
- Water use during operations has been reduced from approximately 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) to between 30 and 40 AFY.

The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Arlene Kingery, Historic Preservation Officer
Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
PO Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Arlene Kingery,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

William Madrigal, Cultural Heritage Program Coordinator
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Rd.
Banning, CA 92220

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear William Madrigal,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

John Gomez, Jr., Cultural Resources
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
56310 Highway 371
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear John Gomez, Jr.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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- The substation has been replaced by a switchyard which is located near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds has been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

To view a copy of the Revised Petition to Amend for this compliance proceeding (09-AFC-6C), and to find more information about the project and proceedings, please visit the project website. For access to all project information, including the current amendment and past project certification, go to: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/blythe_solar_.

Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Daniel McCarthy, M.S., Director, Cultural Resources Management Department
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Daniel McCarthy, M.S.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road, and an access road to a proposed on-site office;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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July 24, 2013

Ann Brierty, Cultural Resources Coordinator
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Ann Brierty,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road, and an access road to a proposed on-site office;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

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www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resources Department
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
PO Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Joseph Ontiveros,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Mathew Krystall, Tribal Resources Manager
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
PO Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Mathew Krystall,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Anthony Madrigal, Jr., Cultural Director
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
47250 Dillon Road
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Anthony Madrigal, Jr.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Joseph R. Benitez
PO Box 1829
Indio, CA 92201

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Joseph R. Benitez,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

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/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
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Facility Project Features Map

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Preston J. Arrow-weed, Ah-Mut-Pipa Foundation
Quechan Kumeyaay
PO Box 160
Bard, CA 92222

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Preston J. Arrow-weed,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable John Marcus, Chairman
Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
PO Box 391820
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable John Marcus,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
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- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Jeff Grube, Chairman
Agua Caliente Band of Chauilla Indians
5401 Dinah Shore Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Jeff Grube,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Mary Ann Green, Chairwoman
Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
PO Box 846
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Mary Ann Green,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable David Roosevelt, Chairman
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway
Indio, CA 92203

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable David Roosevelt,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
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- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Luther Salgado, Sr., Chairman
Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians
PO Box 391760
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Luther Salgado, Sr.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Edward Smith, Chairman
Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
PO Box 1976
Havasu Lake, CA 92363

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Edward Smith,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman
Cocopah Indian Tribe
14515 S. Veterans Drive
Somerton, AZ 85350

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Sherry Cordova,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
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Facility Project Features Map

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Wayne Patch, Sr., Chairman
Colorado River Indian Tribes
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Wayne Patch, Sr.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
- Solar Field and Power Block #2 (northwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #3 (southwest);
- Solar Field and Power Block #4 (southeast);
- Upgrades to a portion of Black Rock Road, and an access road to a proposed on-site office;
- Warehouse/maintenance building, assembly hall, and construction lay down area;
- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

- The previously planned four power blocks (which each included a steam turbine, evaporation pond, auxiliary boiler, air-cooled condenser, and equipment) and structures have been eliminated.
- The Land Treatment Units for HTF have been eliminated.
- The HelioTrough energy collection systems and associated HTF piping systems have been eliminated and replaced with PV panels configured for either horizontal tracking or fixed-tilt operations.
- The substation has been replaced by a switchyard which is located near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
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- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Timothy Williams, Chairman
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe
500 Merriman Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Timothy Williams,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
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Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Keeny Escalanti, Sr., President
Fort Yuma Quechan Tribe
PO Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Keeny Escalanti, Sr.,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Robert Martin, Chairman
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
12700 Pumarra Rd.
Banning, CA 92220

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

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- The large assembly hall has been eliminated.
- The concrete batch plant has been eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system has been reduced in size to accommodate a reduction in water usage. Consequently, the associated waste quantities have been reduced and the number of evaporation ponds has been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
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The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
PO Box 391372
Anza, CA 92539

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Joseph Hamilton,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- Telecommunications lines;
- Natural gas pipeline;
- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Carla Rodriquez, Chairwoman
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
26569 Community Center Drive
Highland, CA 92346

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Carla Rodriquez,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

- Solar Field and Power Block #1 (northeast);
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- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Rosemary Marillo, Chairwoman
Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
PO Box 487
San Jacinto, CA 92581

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Rosemary Marillo,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

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Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Mary Ann Resvaloso, Chairwoman
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
PO Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Mary Ann Resvaloso,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

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- Concrete batch plant;
- Fuel depot;
- On-site transmission facilities, including central internal switchyard;
- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
- Distribution/construction power line.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

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- The large drainage structures surrounding the site have been eliminated, although smaller drainage features may be required.
- The amount of site grading has been greatly reduced from 8.3 million cubic yards to 0.5 million cubic yards.
- The footprint has been modified to allow transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EDF Renewable Energy projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- Water use during construction has been reduced from approximately 4,100 acre-feet (AF) to 700 to 1,200 AF.
- Water use during operations has been reduced from approximately 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) to between 30 and 40 AFY.

The list above largely encompasses the items that were eliminated or reduced by the proposed switch in technology from parabolic trough/concentrating solar thermal to PV technology. There would also be an approximately 3,000-acre reduction in the size of the BSPP footprint.

The Energy Commission staff will assess the proposed amendment and hold a workshop when the assessment is released. Scheduled public workshop notices can be received via email by signing up for the project list server on the Energy Commission's Blythe Solar Power Project webpage or if the Tribe prefers, can be sent by mail. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

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Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that staff can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Staff Assessment on the petition in late August 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain your tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Blythe Solar Power Project modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or to arrange a meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
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Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
Facility Project Features Map

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

July 24, 2013

Honorable Darrell Mike, Chairman
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
46-200 Harrison Place
Coachella, CA 92236

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Darrell Mike,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated June 19, 2013, or by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an email dated June 20, 2013 as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in a proposed change in the design of the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP or project).

The BSPP is proposed to be constructed on 4,070 acres of BLM-controlled land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10 near the Mesa Drive exit, and six miles west of the city of Blythe. This letter invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes, and provides general information concerning the past project approvals and proposed project changes. Exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location are enclosed for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT'S PREVIOUS REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

In October 2010, the project was approved through separate-but-concurrent actions by the Energy Commission (the state licensing authority) and the BLM (the federal approval authority). In September 2010 the Energy Commission adopted a final decision granting conditional certification for the BSPP in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In October 2010 the BLM adopted a Record of Decision (ROD) for this action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and approved a right of way grant to construct the project on federal land. The BLM also executed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) explaining the provisions for initial and continued compliance with the ROD, the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The PA also outlines performance standards for compliance with NHPA Section 106 and CEQA mitigation measures for the BSPP's potential impacts on sacred lands and cultural resources, including the requirement for initiating and maintaining consultation with Native American tribes having a connection to the project area.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT (09-AFC-06) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Energy Commission previously approved the BSPP on September 15, 2010. The Approved BSPP was to consist of four adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250-megawatt (MW) nominal electrical generating capacity each, for a total nominal capacity of 1,000 MW. The proposed total acreage for the site was approximately 7,025 acres of BLM land, including linear transmission facilities. The project was to utilize solar parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors would collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) would be brought to high temperature (750°F) as it circulated through the receiver tubes. The HTF would then be piped through a series of heat exchangers where it would release its stored heat to generate high-pressure steam. The steam would then be fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity would be produced. Dry cooling technology would be used. Individual components of the Approved Project included:

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- 230 kilovolt (kV), double-circuit gen-tie line interconnecting to the new Colorado River Substation (CRS) located approximately 6 miles to the south;
- Groundwater wells used for water supply; and
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SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT (09-AFC-6C) MODIFICATIONS

The Modified BSPP includes replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology and reducing the physical size of the project. Linear access to the site would be the same as the Approved BSPP, and the Modified BSPP would continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid via the same proposed gen-tie line to Southern California Edison's (SCE) CRS, which is currently under construction. The project owner, NextEra Blythe Solar, proposes to develop the BSPP in four operational phases designed to generate approximately 485 MW of electricity. The first three units (phases) would consist of approximately 125 MW alternating current (AC) each. The fourth unit would generate approximately 110 MW AC. The transmission corridor is located in the center of the site with the exact location

to be determined during final design. NextEra Blythe Solar has not selected the specific PV modules nor has it decided on whether a tracker system, fixed-tilt system, or a combination of both would be installed. NextEra Blythe Solar is requesting the Final Decision be amended in such a way as to allow the specific combination of technologies to be selected prior to construction without the need for filing another amendment. During operations, all four units would share a common operations and maintenance facility, one on-site switchyard, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel, or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a 230-kV gen-tie line. The Modified BSPP would be located entirely on public land within a BLM right-of-way grant (ROW #CACA–048811). The total proposed acreage for the solar plant site is approximately 4,070 acres, excluding linear facilities outside of the proposed solar plant site. The primary modifications to the Approved BSPP are as follows:

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Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
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July 24, 2013

Honorable Diana L. Chihuahua, Vice Chairperson, Cultural
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
PO Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

RE: Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) (09-AFC-6C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

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/s/ Roger E. Johnson

ROGER E. JOHNSON
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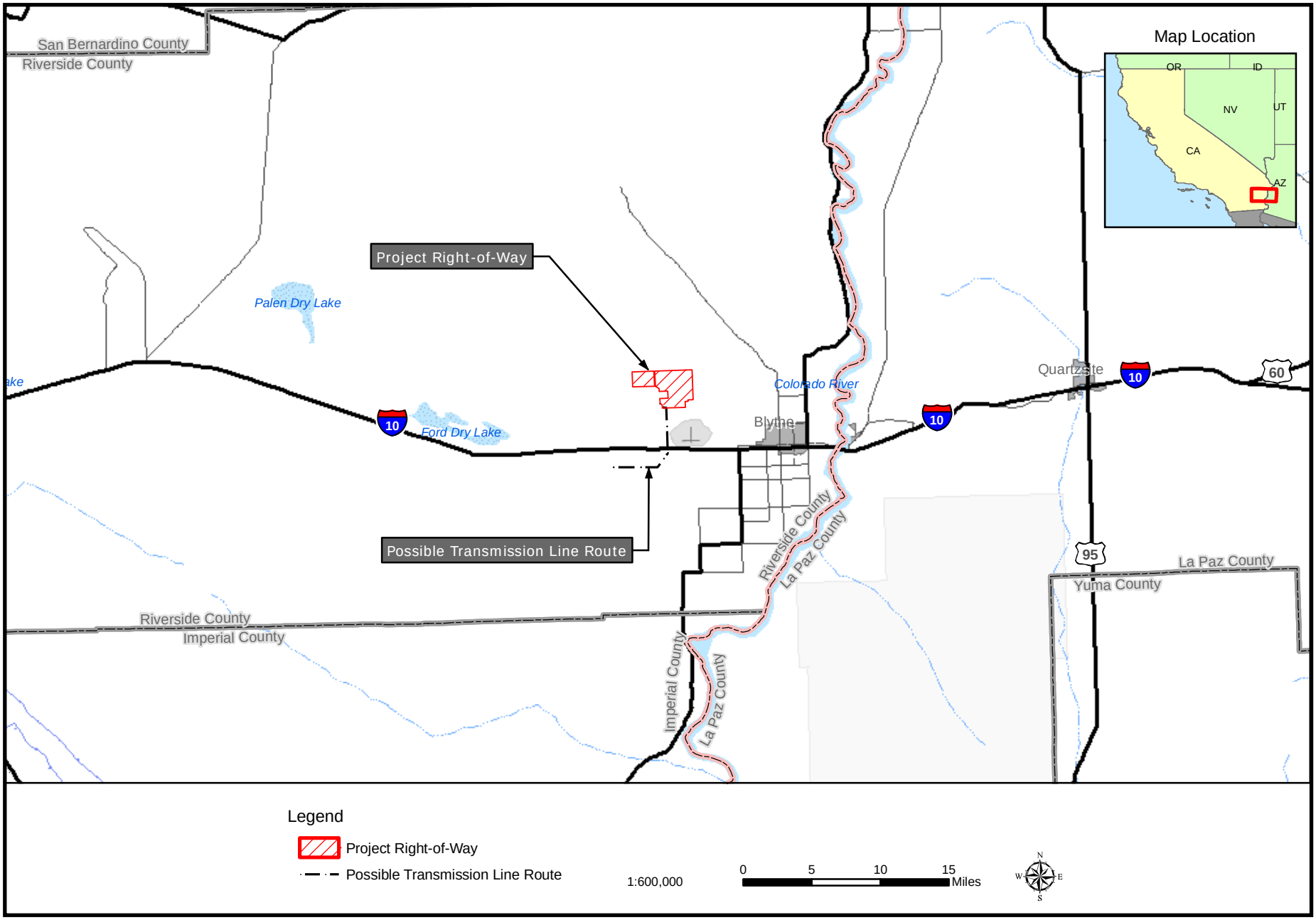
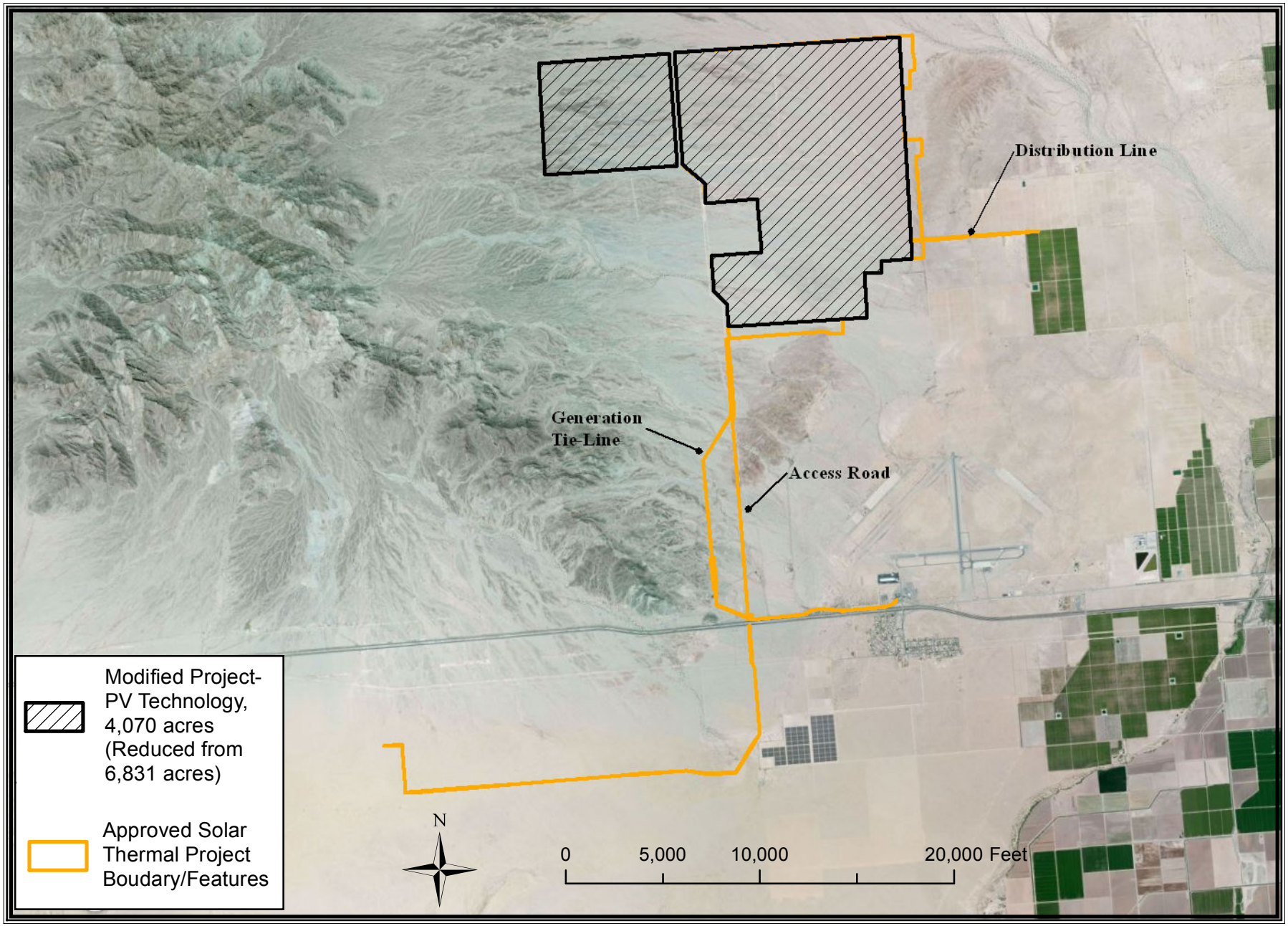
VICINITY MAP



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION - SITING, TRANSMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

SOURCE: AECOM, August, 2009

PROJECT FEATURES



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION, SITING, TRANSMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

SOURCE: TETRA TECH, Figure 2-2