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<td><strong>Document Title:</strong></td>
<td>Applicant Response to CEC Data Request 57- Part 5.1</td>
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<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Filer:</strong></td>
<td>Tiffani Winter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organization:</strong></td>
<td>Galati Blek, LLP</td>
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<td><strong>Submitter Role:</strong></td>
<td>Applicant's Representative</td>
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<td><strong>Submission Date:</strong></td>
<td>8/13/2013 11:07:01 AM</td>
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The Desert Center Red Brick School Building was previously recorded in 2012, and the resource was recommended not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR (Smallwood 2012).

The resource was revisited on July 11, 2013. It appears unchanged since its previous recording. It does not appear eligible for the NRHP and CRHR.

Camera facing south, 07/11/2013.

Reference:
Smallwood, Josh
2010 *Historical Built-Enviroment Study of the Town of Desert Center for the Desert Harvest Solar Farm Project, Riverside County, California*

Report Citation:
AECOM
2013 *Class II and III Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Palen Solar Electric Generating System Riverside County, California.*
P1. Other Identifier:

P2. Location: a. County Riverside
   b. USGS 7.5' Quad Desert Center, Calif.
      TSS; R15E; NW ¼ of NE ¼ of NE ¼ of Sec 27; S.B.B.M.
      Elevation: Approximately 905 feet above mean sea level
   c. Address None City Desert Center Zip 92239
   d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources)
      Zone 11; 648455 mE / 3731383 mN
      UTM Derivation: USGS Quad GPS; Google Earth NAD 1983
   e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, etc., as appropriate) This building is located north of the Interstate 10 freeway and 0.15 mile to the east of State Route 177 on Ragsdale Road. It is situated within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 808-105-002, which measures 6.16-acres (Figure 1).

P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) This one-story red brick school building is irregular in plan, consisting of at least three different wings for administration, classrooms, and auditorium (Figure 2). It was not accessed during the field reconnaissance and could only be inspected from the public right-of-way. It features a flat roof, a clerestory of windows across the main façade, a massive brick column in the front, and a covered breezeway between the administration wing and the two east wings.

Based on a photograph of the Desert Center School from around 2008, the glass curtain walls that were once a feature on the front of the classroom and auditorium wings have since been filled with brick (Figure 3). This resulted in a substantial alteration of the original construction design, as one of the primary character-defining features of this building type was omitted in the process.

P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP15. Educational building

P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other:

P5a. Photograph or Drawing (Photograph required for buildings, structures, and objects.) See attached Continuation sheets for photographs

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) Photographs taken on April 3, 2012.

P6. Date Constructed/Age of Sources: Prehistoric Historic Both Built around 1953 to replace previous schoolhouse.

P7. Owner and Address: c/o Suzanne Ragsdale, 1212 Hexem Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.


P9. Date Recorded: April 3, 2012

P10. Survey Type: Reconnaissance level

P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") Historical Built-Environment Study of the town of Desert Center for the Desert Harvest Solar Farm Project, Riverside County, California. Josh Smallwood, Applied EarthWorks, Inc. (2012), Hemet, CA.
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<tr>
<td>Page 2 of 8</td>
<td>Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder)</td>
<td>Desert Center Red Brick School Building</td>
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- None
- Location Map
- Site Map
- Continuation Sheet
- Building, Structure, and Object Record
- Archaeological Record
- District Record
- Linear Feature Record
- Milling Station Record
- Rock Art Record
- Artifact Record
- Photograph Record
- Other:
B1. Historic Name: Desert Center School
B2. Common Name: Desert Center School
B3. Original Use: School
B4. Present Use: Vacant

B5. Architectural Style: Mid-Century Modern Public School Building

B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations) This building was constructed around 1953 to replace the previous wood-frame school house that once stood at this location (McCarte 1982; Sidney Ragsdale, personal communication). Its Mid-Century Modern stylistic attributes and overall appearance are consistent with the post-WWII-era design and construction of school buildings across the U.S. during that time. The building style of public schools paralleled changes in educational philosophy and technology of that time, which differed substantially from previous eras when many grade schools were still operated in one- or two-room schoolhouses. The post-WWII designs included classroom wings that spread out from the administration building, large playgrounds, and several individual special-use facilities. School building designs from this era were “distinctly modern, emphasizing efficiency and displaying a functional, almost industrial image. Glass curtain walls, simple brick facades, and flat roofs were characterizing features that were used extensively” in the design and construction of public schools during the post-WWII era (University of Nebraska, Lincoln 2011).

B7. Moved? □ No □ Yes □ Unknown Date: □ Original Location:

B8. Related Features:


B10. Significance: Theme Town development; schools
Area Chuckwilla Valley
Property Type Educational building
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.) This one-story red brick school building was constructed around 1953 to replace the previous wood-frame schoolhouse that had existed at this site prior. Its Mid-Century Modern style was commonly employed for public school buildings constructed across the U.S. during the post-WWII era. The glass curtain walls that were once a feature on the primary façade of the classroom and auditorium wings have since been removed and in-filled with brick. This resulted in a substantial alteration of the original design, as one of the primary character-defining features of this building type was omitted in the process. This building dates to around 1953 and falls within the period of significance of the town of Desert Center. However, this building is not a primary element of the settlement and early development of the town, and therefore, its association is not directly linked with that important historical event (Criterion A/1). Similarly, while this building was constructed as a school on land donated by Stephen Ragsdale, its association with Ragsdale is not directly linked to the success of his highway service enterprise, or to any other personal achievements that elevated him to prominence (Criterion B/2).

In addition, being of standard design and construction for public school buildings of the post-WWII era, this building does not exhibit any architectural merits that would suggest it is eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, or the CRHR under Criterion 3. Under Criterion D of the NRHP, and Criterion 4 of the CRHR, this building is unlikely to provide any important information about post-WWII-era architecture, or the construction of public school buildings at that time that are not already known, or that cannot be obtained through other avenues of research.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)
B12. References:
Metsalfe, Heather

University of Nebraska, Lincoln

B13. Remarks:

B14. Evaluator: Josh Smallwood
Date of Evaluation: April 30, 2012

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

See attached sketch map (Figure 1) for location of building

(This space reserved for official comments.)
Figure 1. The location of the red brick school building within APN 808-105-002.
Figure 2. The red brick Desert Center School that was constructed around 1953 to replace the previous wood-frame schoolhouse. Photograph of the primary façade, taken from the edge of former U.S. Highway 60/Ragsdale Road (view to the southeast at the north and west-facing elevations; photograph taken April 3, 2012).
Figure 3. A photograph of the Desert Center School from around 2008. Note the glass curtain walls on the front of the classroom and auditorium wings have since been filled with brick.
P-33-5716 was recorded in 1982 by the Riverside County Historical Community. It consisted of buildings formerly associated with the Skylark Ranch and the Union Oil Company in Desert Center.

The site was revisited on July 10, 2013. No identifiable buildings remain on the parcel. This resource is no longer extant and retains no significance as a building complex.

Report Citation:
AECOM
2013  Class II and III Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Palen Solar Electric Generating System Riverside County, California.
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Rock house
2. Historic name: Skylark Ranch
3. Street or rural address: on I-10, 5 mi. west of Desert Center
   City Desert Center Zip 92239 County Riverside
4. Parcel number: 811-052-014-2
5. Present Owner: Lou Gladstein
   Address: 35070 Mission Hills Dr.
   City Rancho Mirage Zip 92270 Ownership is: Public Private X
   Gas station and bulk oil
6. Present Use: None Original use: processing plant

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Vernacular (stone)
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition: There are three buildings at Skylark Ranch being nominated: a rock house, a sheet metal building and a wood frame house.
   The rock house is rectangular in plan with no roof or windows and only about half of the walls remaining.
   The metal structure is also rectangular in plan, has two wind turbine vents, corrugated sheet metal gable roof and walls, boarded up windows, a vent under both gables, and a side sliding door of truck flat bed height.
   The wood frame house is also rectangular in plan, has a composition gable roof, open and boarded up windows, no door in a doorway, and a loose set of steps.
   Also on the property is another shed, a four-holer outhouse, and a partially finished brick building, barbed wire fence, and stone barbeque.

CONSTRUCTION
3. Construction date:
   Estimated 1935 Factual

ARCHITECT
9. Architect Unknown

BUILDER
10. Builder Unknown

PROPERTY SIZE
1. Approx. property size (in feet)
   Frontage Depth or approx. acreage 31.25 acres

PHOTOGRAPHS
2. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
   March 27, 1982
   18-110-06-06
   18-110-04-04
   18-110-05-05
Skylark Ranch was once owned by Mrs. Scrivenik. The Union Oil Company unsuccessfully tried to operate a bulk oil processing plant but demand did not allow its economic function. These buildings, then, represent an attempt at industry in a hostile desert environment.

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

Date form prepared: July 26, 1982
By (name): Heather Metcalfe
Address: 4600 Crestmore Rd.
City: Rubidoux Zip 92519
Phone: (714) 787-2551
P2. Location:  Unrestricted

b. USGS 7.5’ Quad  
- Palen Lake  
- Date 1952 (R 1986) T 4S R 16E; SE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 1; S.B.B.M.

c. Address:  18050 Rice Road City Desert Center Zip 92239

d. UTM:  (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 11; 662180mE/3747550mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)
   APN: 810-020-001-4

P3a. Description:  
This resource was first surveyed in 1982 by the Riverside County Historical Community. It was recorded as the Totem Pole Date Ranch, originally the Circle E Ranch, and included a residence, swimming pool, wood water tower, stucco shed, and date tree garden. The estimated construction date was circa 1935, and the ranch was associated with early agriculture in the region.

The property was revisited on July 10, 2013. The property has been abandoned for an unknown period. Three of the four previously recorded structures were identified on the property, with all remaining structures in a damaged condition. The ranch house located on the property features missing windows, a collapsed veranda, and a generally deteriorated exterior. The pool is drained and contains household debris and appliances. Also on the property, there are farm rows of date trees that are in a state of decay.

P3b. Resource Attributes:  
HP2. Single family property

P4. Resources Present:  

P5b. Description of Photo:  
Camera facing S, 7/10/2013. DSCN_0606

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  
ca. 1935/Inventory form (1982)

P7. Owner and Address:  
James Gonzalez  
22210 Village Way Drive  
Canyon Lake, CA 92587

P8. Recorded by:  
M.K. Meiser, C. Recksieck  
AECOM  
1420 Kettner Blvd., Suite 500  
San Diego, CA 92101

P9. Date Recorded:  7/10/2013

P10. Survey Type:  Intensive
B1. Historic Name: Circle E Ranch
B2. Common Name: Totem Pole Date Ranch
B3. Original Use: Residence  B4. Present Use: Vacant
*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular Wood Frame
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Built circa 1935, alterations unknown
*B7. Moved?  ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown  Date: Original Location:
*B8. Related Features: None

*B10. Significance: Theme Residential and Agricultural Development  Area Desert Center
  Period of Significance ca. 1935  Property Type Residence  Applicable Criteria N/A
(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property does not appear to meet the criteria for the NRHP or CRHR. According to its previous record, the resource dates to circa 1935. This property developed during a period when individuals were taking advantage of the Desert Land Act passed in 1877. Through the act, Congress encouraged and promoted the economic development of arid land such as that found in the Chuckwalla Valley. Many of these claims were made in the vicinity of Rice Road in Desert Center. Settlers often lived in converted trailers on their newly claimed land or built their own homes from rock, wood, or concrete (Anderson 1998). As it became evident that wells could be successfully drilled for irrigation, more families were drawn to the Desert Center area.

Although this property has played a general role in the growth of agriculture in the Desert Center region, it is not known to be directly associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the history of the area and therefore does not appear to meet NRHP Criterion A or CRHR Criterion 1. The property is not known to be associated with significant persons in area history; therefore, the property does not appear to meet NRHP Criterion B or CRHR Criterion 2. The buildings do not display distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and thus does not appear to meet NRHP Criterion C or CRHR Criterion 3. The property is not likely to yield information significant under NRHP Criterion D or CRHR Criterion 4. The physical condition of the property has also deteriorated drastically over time. In summary, the property does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)


B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator:  M.K. Meiser, AECOM

*Date of Evaluation:  August 9, 2013

(This space reserved for official comments.)
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION
1. Common name: Totem Pole Date Ranch

2. Historic name: Circle E Ranch

3. Street or rural address: 18050 Rice Rd.
   City Desert Center Zip 92239 County Riverside

4. Parcel number: 810-020-001-4

5. Present Owner: United Ranches, Inc.
   M/T Western Enterprizes Management Co.
   City Phoenix, Az Zip 85012 Address: 3660 N. Third St

6. Present Use: Storage Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION
7a. Architectural style: Vernacular Wood Frame
7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Rectangular in plan with a composition gable roof, the wood frame ranch house at 18050 Rice Road has clapboard siding, double-hung windows, a brick chimney, a band of square plate glass windows, and an encircling veranda with square porch posts, exposed rafters and flat roof.

A swimming pool now used as a fish pond sits next to the ranch house.
A wood slat cylindrical tank sits atop a tower, with cables around the slats.
Also on the property is a stucco shed with flat roof and a young date garden.

Construction date:
Estimated 1935 Factual

Architect Unknown

Builder Unknown

Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage Depth
or approx. acreage 40.00 acres

Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
March 24, 1982
18-79-01-01
18-79-02-02
This ranch represents an early attempt at agriculture in an isolated desert setting.
P1. Other Identifier: None

*P2. Location: [□] Not for Publication [☐] Unrestricted 
   *a. County Riverside 
   and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)
   *b. USGS 7.5' Quad Desert Center Date 1986 T 6S R 15E, 1/4 of 1/4 of Sec; S.B.B.M.
   c. Address Aztec Well City Desert Center Zip 92239
   d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 11; 650450mE/3722300mN 
   e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) 
   APN: 811-110-013-0

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This resource was previously recorded in 1982 by the Riverside Historical Community and identified as the Aztec Well complex, which included a cabin, shed, outhouse, garage, tank, well, and windmill.

The property was revisited on July 10, 2013. All previously identified structures were observed during the survey. All buildings appear deteriorated, featuring missing or punched out windows and doors, and dilapidated wood siding. The windmill and tank are rusted and appear to be in disrepair. The cabin on the property appears inhabited, and has a new roof constructed of corrugated metal.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2. Single family property

*P4. Resources Present: [☑] Building [☐] Structure [☐] Object [☐] Site [☐] District [☐] Element of District [☐] Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Camera facing NW, 7/10/2013, DSCN_0652

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: 
   [☐] Historic [□] Prehistoric [□] Both 
   ca. 1932/Inventory Form (1982)

*P7. Owner and Address: Unknown

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)
   M.K. Meiser, C. Recksieck 
   AECOM 
   1420 Kettner Blvd., Suite 500 
   San Diego, CA 92101

*P9. Date Recorded: 7/10/2013

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter “none.”) Class II and III Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Palen Solar Electric Generating System Riverside County, California AECOM 2013

*Required Information
B1. Historic Name: Aztec Well
B2. Common Name: Aztec Well
B3. Original Use: Residence  B4. Present Use: Residence

*B5. Architectural Style: Vernacular Wood Frame

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alteration, and date of alterations) Built in 1932, alterations include a new roof

*B7. Moved? ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown  Date: Original Location:

*B8. Related Features: Shed, outhouse, garage, tank, well, and windmill

*B10. Significance: Theme Residential Development  Area Desert Center

Period of Significance ca. 1932  Property Type Residence  Applicable Criteria N/A

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The property does not appear to meet the criteria for the NRHP or CRHR based on its lack of integrity. This property was constructed circa 1932, and the complex is associated with early prospecting and mining in the area. Little information is known about this property, however, it was developed during a period when individuals were taking advantage of the Desert Land Act passed in 1877. Through the act, Congress encouraged and promoted the economic development of arid land such as that found in the Chuckwalla Valley. Settlers often lived in converted trailers on their newly claimed land or built their own homes from rock, wood, or concrete (Anderson 1998). As it became evident that wells could be successfully drilled for irrigation, more families were drawn to the Chuckwalla Valley and the mountains.

Although this property, as a remote well, had a general role in the development of the area, it is not known to be directly associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the history of the area and therefore does not appear to meet NRHP Criterion A or CRHR Criterion 1. The property is not known to be associated with significant persons in area history; therefore, the property does not appear to meet NRHP Criterion A or CRHR Criterion 2. The buildings do not display distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and thus do not appear to meet NRHP Criterion C or CRHR Criterion 3. The physical condition of the property has been altered over time with additional materials and features, and the complex does not exhibit sufficient integrity to convey its historical significance. In summary, the property does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes)

*B12. References:

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator:
M.K. Meiser, AECOM

*Date of Evaluation:
August 9, 2013

(This space reserved for official comments.)