



National Parks Conservation Association®

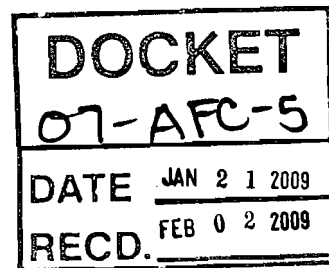
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®

January 21, 2009

Pacific Regional Office

150 Post Street
Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94108
415.989.9921 (phone)
415.989.9926 (fax)

Mr. Che McFarlin
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Mr. McFarlin:

California Desert Field Office

61325 29 Palms Highway
Suite B
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
760.366.7785 (phone)
760.366.3035 (fax)

This letter has been drafted to discuss and comment on the Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSA) issued on December 9, 2008 regarding the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (docket # 07-AFC-05), based on input from public comment and collaborating agencies as part of the NEPA/CEQA process.

Central Valley Field Office

1550 East Shaw Avenue
Suite 114
Fresno, CA 93710
559.229.9343 (phone)
559.229.9349 (fax)

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) appreciates the ability to comment on this process.

NPCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of National Parks for future generations. NPCA currently has a membership of more than 340,000 individuals including over 45,000 individuals in California.

NPCA continues to support renewable energy initiatives, including Solar Energy Generating Systems (SEGS) that are well planned to maximize energy efficiency, while minimizing impact to native plant and animal species, sensitive species, sensitive habitat including cultural and Native American sites, water resources, and impact to adjacent National Parklands. NPCA recognizes the benefit that SEGS offer in reducing carbon emissions in comparison to many presently utilized sources for energy generation. NPCA continues to support grassroots efforts as well as local, state, and federal legislative efforts to reduce carbon emissions to combat global warming.

- NPCA applauds the decision to utilize dry cool technology. Based on the fact that the Ivanpah Valley is currently over-allocated for water draw, the implementation of water efficient technology greatly reduces the impact of the Ivanpah Solar Energy Generation System (ISEGS) to the water table, and the humans, plants and animals it supports.
- NPCA applauds the decision to be responsive to public comments and to work with collaborating agencies to responsibly mitigate damages to natural resources. This partnership recognizes the public's right to help shape decisions relating to public lands, and ensures that the NEPA/CEQA process is followed, as required by law.

NPCA Headquarters
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- NPCA recommends that all recommendations brought forth by the Biological Opinion of the USFWS be utilized if tortoises are to be relocated to ensure compliance with section 9 of the Endangered Species Act.
- NPCA urges that equitable mitigation ratio (5:1) be required for mitigation of any destruction of desert tortoise habitat. According to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) a ratio of 5:1 is offered for quality tortoise habitat. NPCA recommends that analysis based on the parameters set forth by CDFG be made¹ and a just ratio be offered based on this assessment.
- NPCA urges the Joint-Lead Association (JLA) utilize the Mojave Desert Land Trust to ensure that available mitigation properties that exist as in-holdings within Mojave National Preserve be given first priority for acquisition. Mojave National Preserve is one of the few remaining refugia for healthy, high density population of the desert tortoise, based on its level of protection and high quality habitat. The purchase of in-holdings within Mojave National Preserve would bolster the acreage and protection of habitat available for this thriving population of desert tortoises.

Again, thank you for your careful consideration of these comments. Please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Sincerely,

David Lamfrom
California Desert Field Representative
dlamfrom@npca.org

CC: George Meckfessel, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management
Nancy Karl, Executive Director, Mojave Desert Land Trust
Dennis Schramm, Superintendent, Mojave National Preserve

¹ CDFG determines mitigation ratios for desert tortoise based on: (1) presence of the species; (2) habitat quality; (3) disturbance level of habitat; (4) adjacent land uses; (5) connectivity; and (6) projected growth



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM*

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 12/22/08)

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall 1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies OR 2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the web address below, AND 3) all parties shall also send a printed OR electronic copy of the documents that shall include a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-5
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
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APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Teraja` Golston, declare that on January 03, 2009, I deposited copies of the attached PSA Comments Letter from National Parks Conservation Association (07-AFC-5) Ivanpah in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

OR

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original Signature in Dockets
Teraja` Golston

Attachments