

DOCKET 07-AFC-5
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California Energy Commission Docket Unit
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 25, 2010

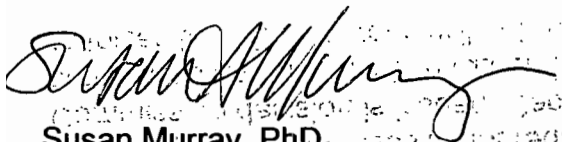
Re: Docket No. 07-AFC-5

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the California Energy Commission's Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) on the BrightSource Energy application for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS). As a second-generation California native, I feel a strong connection to the state's unique geography and open spaces. Though I no longer live in California due to family circumstances, I remain very interested in maintaining public lands; wilderness experiences were very influential in my childhood and young adulthood. The diversity of these areas in biology, geology, and geography are an important resource and a legacy for future generations.

The PMPD document identifies a number of "significant impacts" of the proposed project on plant and animal species, some of which are already listed as endangered or threatened. The proposed strategies for mitigation do not appear to be clear enough to warrant a decision by the CEC to move the project forward; for example, the plan for relocating desert tortoises is not required to be developed until after the Energy Commission decision is issued (Section IV A, p. 60, PMPD). While my professional credentials are in education rather than biology, common sense tells me that relocating tortoises to different areas will not replace the loss of 3,600 acres of habitat.

The Mojave Desert is unique in our national geography. Replacing wide-open desert vistas with an industrial installation is a decision with effects that will last for generations, yet the project has only a 50-year lifespan for power production (Section I, p. 8, PMPD). I am concerned that the benefits do not outweigh the risks and that the negative impacts of the proposed ISEGS have not been adequately addressed. I urge the CEC to postpone a final decision on allowing this project on public lands until the impacts identified in the PMPD have been fully reviewed and the mitigation plans have been made available for public comment.

Thank you for your consideration.



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