



desert conservation  
PROGRAM

**DOCKET**

**07-AFC-5**

DATE 02/10/10

RECD. 07/28/10

February 10, 2010

Tom Hurshman  
Right-of-Way Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
2465 South Townsend Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81401-5436

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the BrightSource Ivanpah Solar Electric Generation System Project (California Energy Commission Docket # 07-AFC-05)

Dear Mr. Hurshman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the BrightSource Ivanpah Solar Electric Generation System Project. The Desert Conservation Program administers the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Section 10(a)(1)(B) Incidental Take Permit on behalf of the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, and North Las Vegas, and Clark County (the Permittees).

In statements made to the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission on 12/14/2009 and 1/11/2010, the subject project applicants have described the proposed Southern California Edison Eldorado – Ivanpah Transmission Line project (transmission line: California Public Utility Commission Application # A.09-05-027) to be “necessary” and “critical” to the subject project. Our program is submitting comments regarding the impacts that the transmission line project would have on mitigation areas and species of concern to the Permittees.

As the manager for the Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE), any proposed project work on the BCCE is of importance to the County. It is the County’s position that no new Rights of Way, or expansion of existing Rights of Way, may be granted by BLM or the City of Boulder City for the transmission line project without amendment of the BCCE agreement between the County and the City. The transmission line project as currently proposed includes new and or expansion of Rights of Way and disturbance to areas that we contend are included in and protected by the BCCE agreement.

As Plan Administrator for the MSHCP, we are also concerned about impacts to the BLM’s Piute Eldorado Area of Critical Environmental Concern, which is located south of the BCCE. The Piute

respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

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Eldorado Area of Critical Environmental Concern, while managed by the BLM, is part of our mitigation reserve portfolio for the MSHCP. The transmission line project as currently proposed may have an impact on the MSHCP via the impacts to our mitigation areas.

In our comment letters (June 6, July 24, and August 28, 2009) on the transmission line project, we also notified the project applicants that Boulder City Ordinances, Nevada State Cactus and Yucca laws and other local and Nevada regulations must be reviewed to determine if the transmission line project as proposed is in compliance with those regulations.

In addition, we have evaluated environmental and land use concerns within the transmission line project area which included analyzing existing information for environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife, and plant species of concern. A list of species that could be found in or near the BCCE is provided below.

**Reptiles:**

*Gopherus agassizii*  
*Heloderma suspectum*  
*Sauromalus obesus*  
*Gambelia wislizenii*  
*Crotaphytus insularis*  
*Coleonyx variegatus*  
*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*  
*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*  
*Crotalus mitchelli*  
*Crotalus cerastes*  
*Crotalus scutulatus*  
*Rhinocheilus lecontei*  
*Arizona elegans*  
*Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*  
*Trimorphodon biscutatus*

**Bees:**

*Perdita cracens*  
*Perdita fallugiaie*

**Birds:**

Phainopepla  
LeConte's Thrasher  
Crissal Thrasher  
Gray Vireo  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Western Burrowing Owl  
Cactus Wren  
Scott's Oriole

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**Plants:**

*Penstemon bicolor* ssp. *bicolor*  
*Penstemon bicolor* ssp. *roseus*  
*Acacia greggii*  
*Prosopis glandulosa*  
*Lotus argyraeus* var. *multicaulis* (scrub lotus)

**Mammals:**

Kit Fox  
Several species of Bats  
Desert Kangaroo Rat  
Desert Pocket Mouse

If the subject project is indeed dependent upon the transmission line project as currently proposed, we wanted to be certain that our above comments were provided to assist in any updates to the subject project description or effects analysis.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the subject project. We hope the information provided assists you in planning your activities.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 702.455.3859.

Sincerely,



Sue Wainscott  
Adaptive Management Coordinator  
DCP

cc: Brok Armantrout, City of Boulder City  
Janet Bair, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS  
Marci Henson, DCP Program Manager