

**From:** Eileen Allen  
**To:** Mineka Foggie  
**Date:** 12/7/2009 3:15 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Solar Millennium-Ridgecrest: Scoping Comments

**DOCKET****09-AFC-9**DATE DEC 07 2009RECD. DEC 07 2009

>>> Eric Solorio 12/7/2009 9:25 AM >>>

Brenda,

Thanks for your comments. As of December 3, 2009, I am no longer the project manager for the Energy Commission therefore by copy of this email, I'm asking Eileen Allen and Jared Babula (Energy Commission staff) to follow up to address your comments on the proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project. Thanks.

Respectfully,  
Eric K. Solorio, Project Manager

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>>> Brendan Hughes <[jesusthedude@hotmail.com](mailto:jesusthedude@hotmail.com)> 12/6/2009 2:42 PM >>>

To whom it may concern:

My name is Brendan Hughes and I would like to provide scoping comments on the proposed Solar Millennium facility near Ridgecrest. I have several concerns about this proposed facility that I would like you to address in the Draft EIS.

First, I am concerned about the cumulative impacts of all of the proposed solar and wind facilities on the desert. The EIS should consider the possibility that of these projects will be built, and what effect this will have on the integrity of the ecology of the desert, as well as impacts to visual resources and water use. Is the loss of tens of thousands of acres of public land in the public interest?

Second, this project will have negative effects on threatened and sensitive species, such as the desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel. Not only will this project adversely affect these animals, but also it will hinder the future recovery of these populations by destroying currently intact habitat.

In addition, this project will impact the outstanding visual resources of the Indian Wells Valley. One of the California Desert's major assets is its stunning open spaces, which bring tourism and revenue to local communities. The Solar Millennium proposal will severely harm this treasured landscape.

Finally, this project will require the destruction of thousands of acres of intact public lands, which are owned by the American people. Nothing will survive on the footprint of this power plant, as is the case with the graded, naked, dead landscape underneath the solar collectors at Kramer Junction. I believe that it is unacceptable to sacrifice ecologically intact public lands while there are tens of thousands of acres of disturbed, private lands, such as former agricultural lands, in the desert. The Draft EIS should seriously consider a private land alternative like the current Beacon Solar Energy project. This type of project could be repeated many times over in the desert, with minimal impacts to wild lands and wildlife. And the Beacon Solar Energy project proves that this type of project is viable. Additionally, the cost of

lawsuits that Solar Millennium will have to defend against should be considered in the overall project costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

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