

From: Eric Solorio
To: Docket Optical System
Date: 3/16/2010 12:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Docket Number 09-AFC-9, "Solar Millennium, Ridgecrest Solar Power with reference to bicycles

Hard copy to follow

Respectfully,
Eric K. Solorio, Project Manager

California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 651-0966

DOCKET	
09-AFC-9	
DATE	<u>FEB 28 2010</u>
RECD.	<u>MAR 16 2010</u>

>>> "Larry Gleason" <gleasonL@umich.edu> 2/28/2010 8:06 AM >>>
"The Ridgecrest Solar Millennium Power Plant plant will be sited on Brown Road/Old 395 approximately 2-3 miles North and West of the China Lake Blvd/395 intersection. The plans are for the thermal solar plant to span both sides of the road. During the construction phase, access to Brown Road/Old 395 for cyclists will be impacted. Heavy construction vehicles will make passage dangerous and most like this equipment will tear up the road. The company says in their application that in essence that bicycles are not an issue because there are no bike lanes on this road."

The Indian Wells Valley has a fairly large population of bicyclists; many of them use Old Brown Road as part of a loop around the valley, approximately 26 miles. To imply that bicycles will not be impacted because there are no bike lanes on the road is INCORRECT. The road is a "bike lane" and the impact will be substantial. The reason that Old Brown Road is used by the cyclists is that there is a minimal amount of vehicle traffic on that road. The only other way to complete the loop is by riding on the shoulder of 395 from China Lake Blvd/395 to 178/395. This route exposes the cyclist to approximately 8.5 miles of travel with much more traffic. The shoulder is often littered with pieces of tire and other debris which make the travel more dangerous.

I would urge you to maintain safe bicycle travel on Old Brown Road during and after the construction, if it proceeds.

Larry Gleason
2109 Del Rosa

Ridgecrest, CA