

**From:** Eric Solorio  
**To:** Docket Optical System  
**Date:** 1/14/2010 1:30 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: SM siting

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-9</b>	
DATE	JAN 14 2010
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>>> Julie Robinson <[jrdune@yahoo.com](mailto:jrdune@yahoo.com)> 1/14/2010 4:17 PM >>>  
 May I add my name to the letter that Janet Westbrook wrote regarding the concerns about the SM siting. My primary concern is the use of our water. No matter where you go, water will be an issue. All of our valleys are "mining" water. When it's gone, it's gone. We are using our good water now, which if the use is not curbed, it is my understanding that our water will become contaminated by salt and other possible pollutants. The price of water will skyrocket and our housing prices will fall and both people and businesses will suffer.

However, I am VERY much in favor of your project. We need solar energy. We need wind energy.

I am also very concerned your proposed location. You have chosen one of the most pristine pieces of desert in our area.

As Janet Westbrook has outlined: "It has some "roads" across it, but by-in-large it's pretty darn undisturbed. Because the land is covered with well-developed desert pavement, it is subject to sheet flooding on occasion, but it also is a great place for flower seeds to be - when we get rains, the whole place turns yellow with Alkali Goldfields. In the hills on all sides there are many bulbs of Blue Dicks and the rather rare Desert Mariposa lily, Calochortus kennedyii. Tortoises and Mojave Ground Squirrels LOVE the yellow flowers, the green grasses, and the shrubs that grow in the El Paso Wash and the little washes from the hills. That's why the populations are so high there - it's a great place to live and burrow. The little indentations along the road west of the wash get a lot of water from winter rains and migratory ducks come and sit on those ponds. They become vernal pools.

It's nice to have such a quiet pretty place so close to town, and sort of out of sight of town. That's what makes it such a good place to stargaze. And yes, it's a "pinch point". When you project is in place there will be very little flatish room on either side of it to pass by, IF the critters (and plant seeds) even wanted to. You are literally between rocks and a hard place (Hwy 395). This site just is not "mitigateable". It's not fair to just pay \$\$ and go ahead and kill every plant and animal on 2+ square miles. Loss of habitat IS the issue here!

I know you didn't know about the high biology value of this land when you chose it, but it IS of high value. You should move your project somewhere else, ANYWHERE else! ASAP. There is so much disturbed land that could be used. You could cut your losses in time invested at this site worrying about mitigation if you quickly choose another site and do the DEIS for a better place to be. The design wouldn't have to change much. There are lots of fallow alfalfa fields in the Fremont Valley, Koehn Dry Lake, Cantil area. Beacon has the best area, but there is so much else that is disturbed. Those folks aren't actively farming. You could approach the Meadowbrook Dairy people about buying the alfalfa farms north of Inyokern. I sent Nicole data on those fields today.

Just anywhere but on south Brown Road!!!

When you move, you won't have to worry about:mitigation for tortoise or MGS (be careful to choose a site

so you don't!)redesign an intersectionalfalfa fields are already flat - you wouldn't have to move as much dirt.there is most likely a well there/nearby. You could use that and not build a long water pipe.you wouldn't have to move 2 miles of kV lines. yikes! choose a site that doesn't have Cultural Values - either mines or Indian activity. Plenty of those away from hills.

The

Navy may be concerned about having a 120 ft. tall tower under their R2505 restricted airspace. Nothing in town can be taller than 85 ft.Better check with them! You are on a direct flight approach to the NAF airfield.

Please,

please - MOVE your plant somewhere else. Then you'll get a whole lot of citizen support! Solar is a good thing.... in the right spot."

Thank you,

Julia Robinson  
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