

May 11, 2010

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Eric Solorio, Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504
esolorio@energy.state.ca.lls

Subject: Comments on Docket Number 09-AFC-9, "Solar Millennium, Ridgecrest Solar Power Project"

Dear Sir,

I have very grave concerns about the groundwater to be supplied from the Indian Wells Valley Water District. First, there is no scientific knowledge of the amount of groundwater available for future nor the future quality of the water as it is overdrafted year after year. Second, with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) bringing 1,000 billets (jobs) to China Lake in the near term, we are expecting more than 5,000 and possibly up to 10,000 new residents of Ridgecrest due to the inclusion of families and support personnel for the 1,000 billets. This is a significant number of new residents and is going to impact the water resources even more than they already are.

On the whole, this seems to be a good project but I feel it should be sited elsewhere where it will not impact your groundwater. A good possible site would be the area close to Highway 14 and the CDWP aqueduct, where the water from the aqueduct could be used. Asking the citizens of the Indian Wells Valley to conserve to provide the water for this project is unacceptable. Any conservation of water should go to offset the current overdraft condition.

Thank you for letting me comment

Respectfully,
Valerie K. Rogers
Ridgecrest, California