

DOCKET

09-AFC-9

DATE MAY 12 2010

RECD. MAY 12 2010

May 12, 2010

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP), Docket No. 09-AFC-9, Memorandum Regarding Potential Mining Claims at Ridgecrest

Dear Mr. Solorio:

As requested, attached please find a memorandum to Glenn Farris regarding potential mining claims at the RSPP site. The search was conducted in response to Data Request #89. The memorandum summarizes the search for Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, and Jumbo mining claims. The research concluded that there is a lack of evidence that the mines or their claims were located within the RSPP site, with available evidence suggesting that they were in fact located well outside the site.

This has been docketed in accordance with CEC requirements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 510-809-4662 (office) or 949-433-4049 (cell).

Sincerely,



Billy Owens
Director, Project Development



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the *RIDGECREST SOLAR*
POWER PROJECT

Docket No. 09-AFC-9

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 5/12/2010)

APPLICANT

Billy Owens
Director, Project Development
Solar Millennium
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161
owens@solarmillennium.com

Alice Harron
Senior Director, Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161
harron@solarmillennium.com

Elizabeth Copley
AECOM Project Manager
2101 Webster Street, Suite 1900
Oakland, CA 94612
elizabeth.copley@aecom.com

Scott Galati
Galati/Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com

Peter Weiner
Matthew Sanders
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker
LLP
55 2nd Street, Suite 2400-3441
San Francisco, CA 94105
peterweiner@paulhastings.com
matthewsanders@paulhastings.com

INTERVENORS

California Unions for Reliable Energy
(CURE)
Tanya A. Gulesserian
Elizabeth Klebaner
Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph &
Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com
eklebaner@adamsbroadwell.com

Desert Tortoise Council
Sidney Silliman
1225 Adriana Way
Upland, CA 91784
gssilliman@csupomona.edu

Basin and Range Watch
Laura Cunningham & Kevin Emmerich
P.O. Box 70
Beatty, NV 89003
bluerockiguana@hughes.net

Western Watersheds Project
Michael J. Connor, Ph.D.
California Director
P.O. Box 2364
Reseda, CA 91337-2364
mjconnor@westernwatersheds.org

*Kerncrest Audubon Society
Terri Middlemiss & Dan Burnett
P.O. Box 984
Ridgecrest, CA 93556
catbird4@earthlink.net
imdandburnett@verizon.net

*Center for Biological Diversity
Ileene Anderson
Public Lands Desert Director
PMB 447, 8033 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90046
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

*Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa T. Belenky, Senior Attorney
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
E-mail Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Janet Eubanks, Project Manager,
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553
Janet_Eubanks@ca.blm.gov

ENERGY COMMISSION

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
jboyd@energy.state.ca.us

ANTHONY EGGERT
Commissioner and Associate Member
aeggert@energy.state.ca.us

Kourtney Vaccaro
Hearing Officer
kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us

Eric Solorio
Project Manager
esolorio@energy.state.ca.us

Tim Olson
Advisor to Commissioner Boyd
tolson@energy.state.ca.us

Jared Babula
Staff Counsel
jbabula@energy.state.ca.us

Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, _____, declare that on, _____, I served and filed copies of the attached _____, dated _____. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest].

The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- _____ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- _____ by personal delivery;
- _____ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

- _____ sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

- _____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Elizabeth Copley, declare that on May 12, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (Docket No. 09-AFC-9) Memorandum Regarding Potential Mining Claims at RSPP. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest).

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

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AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

- sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed Respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Memorandum

To	Glenn Farris, Ph.D.	Page	1
CC			
Subject	Possible Mining Claims at Ridgecrest		
From	Trina Meiser, M.A. and Stacey C. Jordan, Ph.D.		
Date	May 6, 2010		

This Memorandum outlines research conducted to identify information concerning potential mining claims located in or near the Solar Millennium Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP). In further response to CEC Data Request 89, the results of this research are discussed below.

On November 13, 2009, mining claims purportedly located within the boundaries of the RSPP were brought to the attention of AECOM cultural resources specialists and the California Energy Commission (CEC) by Glenn Farris, Ph.D., of Farris, West & Schulz, acting as CEC support staff. Dr. Farris located a 1904 volume published by the State Mining Bureau, *Map and Register of Mines and Minerals of Kern County, California* (Aubury 1904), in which three mines were mapped in Section 35 of Township 27 South, Range 39 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBBM). These were identified as No. 123 "Gold Hill #1", No. 124 "Gold Hill #2", and No. 171 "Jumbo". Gold Hill #1 was listed as being "in litigation," and Gold Hill #2 and Jumbo were listed as owned by F.A. Huntington. The locational information placed these mines directly in the South Field of the project footprint where solar panels are proposed.

Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, and Jumbo were documented again in *Mines and Mineral Resources of Kern County, California*, published by the California Division of Mines and Geology in 1962 (Troxel and Morton 1962). This publication placed Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, and Jumbo in Section 35 of Township 27 South, Range 40 East SBBM, one full range to the east of the 1904 mapped locations. Calling them "claims" rather than mines, the publication stated that these claims were "probably" associated with the Bellflower mine, also called the "Huntington" mine. The Bellflower mine was described as being located in Section 29 of Township 27 South, Range 40 East SBBM and identified as having three unpatented claims.

This information has raised questions as to the actual location of these mining claims, their potential association with the Bellflower mine and F.A. Huntington, and their association with surface sites recorded in the project area. On March 26, 2010, AECOM historian Trina Meiser conducted research at the Geology, Mining and Petroleum Collection of the Kern County Library in Bakersfield, California, to investigate the location and origin of these mining claims or any claims within Section 35 of Township 27 South, Range 39 East. The library collection contained several volumes on mining in California, with some specific information on Kern County mining, as well as historic maps.

The location of the mining claims place them within the Rademacher Mining District. Information on the Rademacher Mining District was limited. In the *California Journal of Mines and Geology*, the State Minerologist's Report XXIX (Bradley 1933) listed the Rademacher Mining District as a very low range of hills north of the Randsburg or Rand Mining District, the most important in Kern County. The 1933 report identifies the Huntington (Bellflower) Mine as owned by Harry F. Willey, of Inyokern, California.

No historic USGS topographic quadrangles in the library collection showed mining prospects in Section 35 of Township 27 South, Range 39 East SBBM. The library's local history vertical file collection did not contain any information pertaining to particular mines by name in the Rademacher Mining District. There were several articles about the current conditions of several abandoned mine shafts, however none of which were identifiable by name or geographically.

On April 30, 2010, documents at the Kern County Hall of Records in Bakersfield, California, were reviewed to attempt to locate the Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, and Jumbo mining claims identified first in 1904 and again in 1962. The Hall of Records has a web-based database, several series of document books, and both a Mining Index and Granor/Grantee Index on microfilm.

The Hall of Records database identified one document pertaining to Gold Hill #1, two documents for Gold Hill #2, and 10 documents for Jumbo, all generally dating back to the 1890s. Each entry corresponded to an official record concerning the mine, either a Notice of Mining Location, Proof of Labor, or other mining document. None of these records listed by the database located the claims within the Rademacher Mining District, which was formally organized "probably in the 1890s" (Troxel and Morton 1962) or in Section 35 of Township 27 South, Range 40 East SBBM, though multiple mines with these names were documented in other locales. The search for these documents revealed two things: 1) there were several different claims in different mining districts in Kern County with the same name, and 2) the Hall of Records database is inaccurate and incomplete.

A search was conducted of the microfilm Mining Index by mine name. Several more entries for "Gold Hill No. 1," "Gold Hill No. 2," and "Jumbo" were found. These records were associated with mines that were located in other mining districts or had obscure locational data. One of the records, a Notice of Mining Location, Document 96740408, showed a claim entered by James Willson in December 1896 for "Jumbo":

Fifteen Hundred feet in length, of this ledge, and 600 feet in width, being 300 feet on each side of the ledge and commencing at this notice and monument of rocks, and running Fifteen Hundred feet along the ledge, to wit: 730 feet in an Easterly direction and 750 feet in a Westerly direction and all dips, spurs, and angles thereof, and quartz and mineral therein, and 300 feet in width on each side of the center line of said ledge for said distance of 1500 feet. This ledge and mine is in Kern County, California, and about 5 miles southerly from the Asa Anderson Well on Mojave Desert and is situated in <Old> New Era Mining District, County of Kern, State of California.

This claim shall be known as the "Jumbo" mine located this 8th day of August, 1896.

The location of the Asa Anderson well is unknown and would require further research to determine. The New Era Mining District may predate the Rademacher Mining District, but this too, is inconclusive and no other reference to the New Era Mining District has been found.

Records in the Mining Index for Gold Hill No. 1 and Gold Hill No. 2 were equally obscure or located in distant mining districts.

The database showed nine entries for F.A. Huntington, all in 1897. These were incorrectly labeled, and the documents that were available to view were actually dated 1878 and 1879. At this point, Hall of Records clerk James Davis informed me that there were several errors in the database. The documents found through the database did not provide sufficient locational data to locate the claims, nor did any refer specifically to Gold Hill No. 1, Gold Hill No. 2, or Jumbo.

The Mining Grantor/Grantee Index was then used to search for entries under F.A. Huntington. While Huntington was connected with other mining grants in other parts of the state, none of the entries associated with him were connected to the Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, or Jumbo mining claims.

A review of *Desert Fever: An Overview of Mining in the California Desert Conservation Area*, based on extensive research of BLM records and the collections of the Huntington Library, the California Division of Mines and Geology Library, and the Kern County Historical Society, yielded no mention of any of the three claims, Huntington, Asa Anderson, or the New Era Mining District (Shumway *et al.* 1980).

In summary, research at the Kern County Library and the Kern County Hall of Records did not provide any evidence that the Gold Hill #1, Gold Hill #2, or Jumbo mining claims were located within Section 35 or Township 27 South, Range 39 East SBBM. Records appear insufficient to determine an exact location of or personal association with these mines. The lack of historical evidence of these mines or their claims being located within Section 35 or Township 27 South, Range 39 East SBBM suggests that the 1962 Kern County Mining survey (Troxel and Morton 1962) was correct in adjusting the locational data to Range 40 East, which would put these mines to the east of the Goldbug Mine, in an area of low hills (as the Rademacher District was described in the 1933 State Minerologist's Report XXIX in the *California Journal of Mines and Geology*), and outside of the RSPP project area.

References

Aubury, Lewis E.

1904 *Map and Register of Mines and Minerals of Kern County, California*, State Mining Bureau

Shumway, Gary L., Larry Vredenburg and Russell Hartill

1980 *Desert Fever: An Overview of Mining in the California Desert Conservation Area*. Prepared For: Desert Planning Staff Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior. Available at: <http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/cdd/aml.Par.54155.File.dat/Desert%20Fever%20-%20History%20of%20Mining%20in%20the%20CDCA.pdf>.

Troxel, Bennie W. and Paul K. Morton

1962 *Mines and Mineral Resources of Kern County, California*, published by the California Division of Mines and Geology

Websites

Kern County Library:

<http://www.kerncountylibrary.org/HTML/about/bea/spcol/gmp.html>

Stone Quarries and Beyond:

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ca/quarry_photo/ca-kern_indust.html#limestone_c1906

CA HomeTownLocator list of mines in Kern County:

<http://california.hometownlocator.com/features/cultural,class,mine,scfips,06029.cfm>

Trails.com list of mines in Kern County:

<http://www.trails.com/topo-maps-mines-kern-county-california-ca.html>

Online Archive of California:

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org>