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From: GUNS4US Inc. <guns4us@earthlink.net>
To: <ESolorio@energy.state.ca.us>
Date: 5/18/2010 11:14 AM
Subject: Comments on Solar Project in the Indian Wells Valley

Sir,

I want to take this opportunity to express my full support of locating the Solar Millennium Solar Project here in the Indian Wells Valley by Ridgecrest, CA.

I understand that there is some concerns as to the impact to the Tortoise and Ground Squirrel. It is noted there appears to be a large population on this site. I want it clear that I support the protecting of these species. But there appears to be something unusual about the surveys. Other surveys have been done in the area in the last few years, and the density of this report seem unbelievable. As far as I understand, usually that many tortoise don't like being that close to so many others. I truly believe the study is flawed. Based on the other studies done in the area in recent years, that density appears too dense. I personally had a study done on 175 acre's of land adjacent to this area. In that study, NO live tortoise was found. NONE! And in the surrounding survey, only one tortoise was discovered.

Further, it has been reported by many environmental groups that the biggest threat to the tortoise and ground squirrel are ravens and coyotes. Not projects like this.

But, if we were to accept the study as done today, I believe that adequate mediation measures can be provided. Solar Millennium seems prepared and ready to provide those measures.

Also, the country is now where we MUST find alternative energy sources. Everyone says that, but then they say "Not Here" or "Not in my backyard". Well we have to do it somewhere. And we have to do it where it is appropriate and feasible. The Indian Wells Valley is one of the BEST locations in the country for this project. Other locations were researched and it was determined that this the most feasible and provides the least impact to the surrounding areas.

The project location also fits the goals of the valley economically and educationally. The technical workforce here supports this type project. And the local college also specializes in alternative energy education, including solar energy. The fit here is perfect.

It is my belief that the environmental concerns are able to be dealt with. The benefits to the community is large.

And it comes down to the country has to really make alternative energy a reality. Not a talking point for political reasons, but for actually building these projects. Enough rhetoric.

The time is now. Lets build it now!

Let's make the US free from the hands of other country's resources. We need to be independent.

And we can do it now.

Support this project now.

If you have any questions of me, I'd be happy to discuss further.

Thomas R. Wiknich

Vice Mayor, City of Ridgecrest

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