

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

**DOCKET****11-AFC-2**DATE AUG 22 2011RECD. AUG 25 2011

July 22, 2011

Dear _____

The staff of the California Energy Commission and BrightSource Energy would like to invite you to participate in an on-site visit to the project area for the proposed Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System, a solar power plant under consideration for the Calvada Springs area. The proposed project is expected to be submitted for review by the Energy Commission on August 3, 2011 or later. The site visit is scheduled for August 2, 2011 and will begin with a meeting at 11:00 a.m. in Pahrump, Nevada. Food and beverages will be provided, and provisions have been made for partial defrayment of your gasoline costs to and from the visit. Please take a look at the preliminary agenda for the day that is attached to this letter. If you have other discussion items that you would like to see added to the agenda, please either let me know by return email or just let me know in person the morning of the August 2 meeting.

Energy Commission staff would like to understand how the proposed project may disturb the way that the Native American community experiences the landscape in the broad area around Calvada Springs and any concerns specific to the proposed project site. The way that the Energy Commission looks at the potential for this kind of disturbance is to discuss what the proposed project would look like from a number of Key Observation Points (KOPs). The Energy Commission staff will use the KOPs in before and simulated after-views provided by the applicant of the project are, and then refer to these images in a written discussion of how the proposed project would disturb views of the landscape around the project area. We appreciate your help to make sure that some of our KOPs capture landscape views that are important from a Native American perspective, views that Energy Commission staff simply may not be aware of or may not be able to see. Energy Commission staff want to understand and consider any concerns that the Native American community may have about this proposed project and how it may disturb the visual experience of the landscape that would surround the project.

The site visit that we are planning will be in addition to the usual cultural resources consultations that will take place with Energy Commission cultural resources staff, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and with Nevada BLM cultural resources staff under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The August 2 site visit is to help Energy Commission staff gather information for a visual resources analysis under CEQA. It is our hope that you will see this as an opportunity to help us understand other Native American concerns that may not fit easily into our normal cultural resources

analysis. We look forward to talking with you about this aspect of the project and hope that you are able to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Melissa Mourkas at (916) 654-3877 or e-mail at: mmourkas@energy.state.ca.gov.

Please let us know by July 29 if you will be attending.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mourkas, ASLA
Planner II, Visual Resources
Environmental Protection Office
California Energy Commission
(916) 654-3877
mmourkas@energy.state.ca.us

CC: Eric Knight, Office Manager
Jennifer Jennings, Public Advisor
David Flores, Planner III, Supervisor
Kathleen Forrest, Planner II, Cultural Resources
Susan Strachan, Strachan Consulting

August 2, 2011 Visual Resources Meeting, Pahrump, NV

Distribution List

Invitation letter sent on July 22, 2011 to Native American contacts in the areas near Pahrump, NV and the Hidden Hills project site.

Bill Helmer, Big Pine Band THPO

Matthew Nelson, Bishop-Paiute THPO

Barbara Durham, Timbisha Shoshone
THPO

Kathy Bancroft, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone

Carl Dahlberg, Fort Independence Paiute

Virgil Moose, Big Pine Band

William Vega, Bishop Paiute

Melvin Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone

George Gholson, Timbisha Shoshone
Deanna Domingo, Moapa Paiute

Kenny Anderson, Las Vegas Paiute

Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute

Eddie Jim, Chair of Pahrump Band of Paiute

California Energy Commission
BrightSource Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System
Cultural Resources/Visual Key Observation Point (KOP)
Site Visit
August 2, 2011

- 11:00 Meet at Artesia Community Center, 6601 S Fox Ave, Pahrump, NV 89061 for a pre-KOP site visit meeting
- Purpose of Meeting (CEC)
 - Goals of CEC process and Visual Resources analysis (CEC)
 - Project Overview (BSE)
 - Selection of KOPs and visual simulation (CH2MHill)
- Sandwiches will be provided during meeting
- 12:00 – 12:45 Depart Artesia Community Center and travel to KOP 6 on Homestead Road, south of Pahrump. Review KOP 6
- 12:45 – 1:15 Drive to St Therese Mission site
- 1:15 – 1:45 Park cars, observe views from KOP 3, and take advantage of the restroom facilities (porta potties) at the mission construction site
- 1:45 – 3:00 Visit KOP 2 then KOP 1 (Stump Springs)
- 3:00 – 3:30 Travel back to St. Therese construction site to use the facilities
- 3:30 – 5:15 Travel to Pahrump Valley Wilderness Area to verify location of new KOP, then review KOPs 4 and 5
- 5:15 – 6:30 Return to Community Center for summary meeting