

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

REPORT OF CONVERSATION

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DOCKET

11-AFC-2

DATE DEC 03 2011

RECD. DEC 14 2011



**Siting, Transportation, and
Environmental Protection Division**

FILE: 11-AFC-2

PROJECT TITLE: Hidden Hills SEGS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
NAME: Mike Conway, Carol Watson	DATE: 11/3/11	TIME: 10:56am
WITH: Chris Otahal, Noel Ludwig, Peter Godfrey: Bureau of Land Management, CA		
SUBJECT: Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System, 11-AFC-2 – Amargosa River		

Carol and Mike-

Thank you for the short notice meeting regarding the Hidden Hills Solar Project bordering Nevada. I hope that we have provided a good introduction to our concerns and interests surrounding the water issues at that location.

As I mentioned, there is a meeting December 13th, at the USGS in Henderson, NV regarding the Amargosa River. Of principal concern are the groundwater flow systems and pathways in that region. Water dependent biological resources are also a piece of the picture. It isn't my meeting, but I think that I can safely invite you both to attend. The addition of the California Energy Commission would be of real value to this group. In addition to several Federal Agencies (BLM, USGS, DOD, DOE), there will also be representatives from The Nature Conservancy, the Amargosa Conservancy, and Nye County, NV.

I hope to see you there.

Russ- Perhaps we could add a brief discussion of the Hidden Hills Project to the agenda? Maybe Boris could give us a synopsis?

Peter Godfrey
BLM California Desert District
Phone: (951) 697-5385

From: water-request@dmg.gov [mailto:water-request@dmg.gov] **On Behalf Of** dmglists@dmg.gov

Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 12:30 PM

To: water@dmg.gov; Farkas, Susan I; Andy Zdon; Otahal, Christopher D; Bill Christian; Bob Harrington; Brian Brown; Donna Lamm; Gerald Hillier; Greg James; Josh Hart (jhart@inyocounty.us); Larry W Koch; lkryder@co.nye.nv.us; Maurice Hall; Molly Hansen; sanders@nv.doe.gov; Stephen Bartell; Tammy Branston; Wilborn, Bill R. (NV)

Subject: Agenda Amargosa Basin Coordination meeting 12/13/11

Importance: High

Hi

Attached is a draft agenda for our Amargosa Basin Coordination meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13 at USGS in Henderson**. Please let me know if you have changes or suggestions. The meeting is adjourning later than I expected so as an alternative to lunch, we could do a group order to Jason's and work though if folks are interested. Please note that I included web meeting information in the agenda for those of you with travel restrictions. Several of you have recently asked for a copy of the MOU that established our group so I am attaching a copy.

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Russell Scofield, Department of Interior Coordinator
California Desert Managers Group
phone 760-365-0955 / cell 760-900-5643
fax 760-365-4934
<http://www.dmg.gov>

From: water-request@dmg.gov [mailto:water-request@dmg.gov] **On Behalf Of** dmglists@dmg.gov

Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2011 8:54 AM

To: water@dmg.gov; Farkas, Susan I; Andy Zdon; Otahal, Christopher D; Bill Christian; Bob Harrington; Brian Brown; Donna Lamm; Gerald Hillier; Greg James; Josh Hart (jhart@inyocounty.us); Larry W Koch; lkryder@co.nye.nv.us; Maurice Hall; Molly Hansen; sanders@nv.doe.gov; Stephen Bartell; Tammy Branston;

Subject: Amargosa Basin Coordination meeting reschedule 12/13/11

Importance: High

Hi

We will reschedule our Amargosa Basin Coordination meeting for **Tuesday, December 13**. I tentatively have the meeting starting at 9 and adjourning around 3:00. I will get an agenda out later today. We will be meeting at the USGS in Henderson.

Russell Scofield, Department of Interior Coordinator
California Desert Managers Group
phone 760-365-0955
cell 760-900-5643
fax 760-365-4934
<http://www.dmg.gov>

Agenda -- Amargosa Basin Coordination Meeting -- December 13, 2011

USGS: 160 North Stephanie Street, Henderson, NV

Audio call in: 888-790-2388 Pass code: 2972879 Participant / Webex login <http://www.mymeetings.com>

9:00 AM	Introductions, purpose of meeting, summary of last meeting (Scofield)
9:05 AM	NV BLM Update RMP Revision (Farkas) Energy (BLM)
9:35AM	Nevada National Security Site EIS (DOE)
10:00 AM	Southern Amargosa Embedded Model (Belcher)
10:20 AM	BLM Management Plan for Amargosa WSR and related Data Needs (Otahal)
10:40 AM	USGS Southern Amargosa Proposal (Bright)
11:40 PM	Lunch
12:40 PM	Source Group Results and Proposal to Integrate Work with USGS (Zdon)
1:40 PM	Plan for FY 2012 and Out-year Coordinated Work in Lower Amargosa
2:40 PM	Future Funding
2:55 PM	Roundtable Discussion and Updates
3:40 PM	Conclusion (Scofield)
	Action Items/Next Steps
	Next Meeting
	3:45 PM Adjourn



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FOR MANAGING NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE AMARGOSA RIVER
BASIN AND ADJACENT AREAS, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA**

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is among the following United States Department of the Interior bureaus: Bureau of Land Management (hereinafter referred to as BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter referred to as FWS), National Park Service (hereinafter referred to as NPS), and United States Geological Survey (hereinafter referred to as USGS).

BLM, FWS, and NPS have responsibilities for managing land and natural resources in the Amargosa River Basin and adjacent areas within the Death Valley Regional Ground Water Flow System (hereafter referred to as the Area of Concern) of California and Nevada. BLM administers large tracts of public land within this area. FWS manages the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and protects a number of plant and animal species endemic to the area. NPS provides stewardship over Death Valley National Park, including the Devils Hole detached unit. USGS conducts research and collects data to provide scientific information used by the other bureaus to make informed resource-management decisions.

Ground-water discharge at a number of localized areas within the Area of Concern sustains unique phreatophytic, riparian, and aquatic ecosystems. Although relatively small in areal extent, these ecosystems are the only habitats within the surrounding arid desert region for endemic plants and animals, many of which have been listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive species. These ecosystems also provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to the region. Several reaches of the Amargosa River are eligible for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic River System. Nine BLM and NPS wilderness units are within the Area of Concern. The newly designated Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail also traverses the region. BLM, FWS, and NPS are concerned about the impacts regional population growth, land and ground-water development, and recreational use will have on these ecosystems. A coordinated, comprehensive science program is needed to determine the effects these impacts will have on the natural resources managed by the bureaus within the Area of Concern.

The purpose of this MOU is to improve coordination, cooperation, and communication between bureaus on efforts to conserve and manage water resources and water-dependent resources within the Area of Concern. Interagency cooperation will enhance natural resource management and planning efforts by addressing issues on a consistent regional scale and increasing the efficiency in which Bureaus utilize manpower and resources.



<p>CC: Dick Ratliff, Staff Counsel</p> <p>Mike Monasmith, Staff Biologist</p> <p>Rick York, Senior Biologist</p> <p>Paul Marshall, Senior Hydrologist</p> <p>Eric Knight, Environmental Office Manager</p> <p>Matt Layton, Engineering Office Manager</p> <p>Chris Davis, Siting Office Manager</p> <p>Lynn Sadler, Assoc. Public Adviser</p>	<p>Prepared by: Carol Watson, Staff Biologist</p>
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