

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION



**Siting, Transmission and
 Environmental Protection
 Division**

FILE: 11-AFC-2

PROJECT TITLE: Hidden Hills SEGS

Telephone		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email	
NAME:	Mike Monasmith CEC Project Manager	DATE:	12-29-11
		TIME:	1:00 p.m.
WITH:	Susan Strachan, Hidden Hills Project Manager		
SUBJECT:	Native American tribal outreach/consultation letter		

Hi Susan,

Please see the attached letter & figures in regard to Native American tribal outreach/consultation for HHSEGS, 11-AFC-2. This package was mailed on Friday, December 23, 2011 by Energy Commission Visual Resources Analyst, Melissa Mourkas. The distribution list follows:

- Bill Helmer, Big Pine Band
- Matthew Nelson, Bishop-Paiute
- Barbara Durham, Timbisha Shoshone
- Kathy Bancroft, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone
- Carl Dahlberg, Fort Independence Community of Paiute
- Virgil Moose, Big Pine Band
- William Vega, Bishop Paiute
- Melvin Joseph, Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone
- George Gohlson, Timbisha Shoshone (via e-mail)
- Deanna Domingo, Moapa Paiute
- Ramona Salazar and Kenny Anderson, Las Vegas Paiute (via e-mail)
- Richard Arnold, Pahrump Paiute
- Eddie Jim, Pahrump Paiute
- George Ross, Tecopa Paiute

Thanks,

Mike Monasmith
 Senior Project Manager
 California Energy Commission
 1516 9th Street, MS 15
 Sacramento, CA 95814

DOCKET	
11-AFC-2	
DATE	Dec. 29 2011
RECD.	Dec. 29 2011

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cc: Melissa Mourkas, Planner II Dick Ratliff, Staff Counsel Chris Davis, Siting Office Manager	Prepared by: Mike Monasmith
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



December 22, 2011

Re: Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS)
Key Observation Point

Dear Ms. Durham:

As a follow-up to our August 2, 2011 and December 2, 2011, cultural and visual resources outreach meetings and field visits for the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS), California Energy Commission Environmental Protection Office staff would like to inquire as to the need for a new Key Observation Point (KOP). As you may recall from our previous correspondence and meetings, your community's perspective on the way this project would affect the visual significance of valley landscapes will be an important part of the visual and cultural resource analysis in our Staff Assessment.

It was brought to our attention at the August 2, 2011 meeting that there may be a viewpoint looking toward the project site located in the vicinity of the foothills of Nopah Wilderness Area that could be of importance to your community. In speaking with several participants at the December 2, 2011 meeting, I received varied messages about the importance of this Nopah viewpoint and whether it should be made into a Key Observation Point for the purposes of our cultural and visual analysis of the impacts of the HHSEGS project.

Key Observation Points are representative of the visually sensitive areas that would be impacted by the project. An existing view photograph is taken and used as a basis for a simulation of the project for assessing the visual change to the view caused by the project.

If you are not certain about what a Key Observation Point is, you may want to see the Application for Certification (AFC) for HHSEGS, Visual Resources Section 5.13. You may read it and see the examples here:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/applicant/afc/Volume-1/>

Included with this letter are 1). A photograph (VP-6) taken from the foothills of the Nopah Range from a location approximately 1 mile north-west of the Old Spanish Trail

Highway, and 2). A map showing the location where the photograph was taken (VP-6 on the map). Does this generally represent an area of interest to your community that staff should include in our assessment? Is there another location which would better represent any concerns you might have on the project's visual impacts from this area?

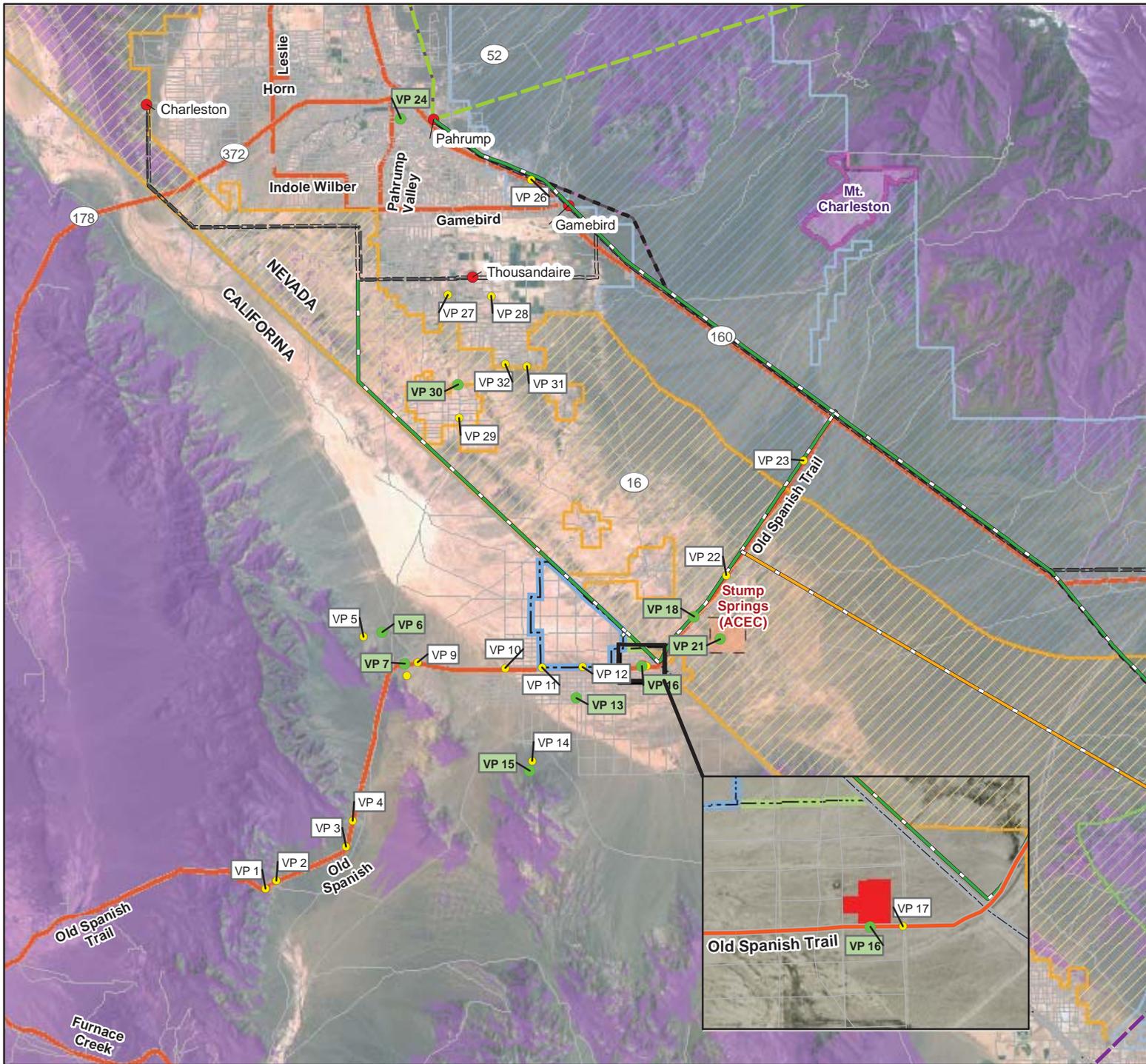
I would appreciate your reply by January 20, 2012, and I would be happy to discuss this request with you to understand if you feel a new KOP that represents a view of importance to your community should be included in our analysis. In the event that I am unavailable, please contact Kathleen Forrest at the number below.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mourkas, ASLA
Planner II, Visual Resources
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
1516 Ninth Street, MS 40
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
(916) 654-3877
mmourkas@energy.state.ca.us

cc: Eric Knight, Office Manager
Jennifer Jennings, Public Adviser
Mike Monasmith, Project Manager
Dick Ratliff, Staff Counsel
David Flores, Planner III, Supervisor, Visual Resources
Shaelyn Strattan, Planner III, Supervisor, Cultural Resources
Kathleen Forrest, Planner II, Cultural Resources (916) 654-5020,
kforrest@energy.state.ca.us.
Michael McGuirt, Planner II, Cultural Resources



- LEGEND**
- Solar Project Boundary
 - Construction Logistics Area (CLA)
 - Substation
 - KOP**
 - Recommended Viewpoint
 - Other Photo Viewpoint
 - St. Therese Mission Project Boundary
 - BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Wilderness Areas
 - Wilderness Study Areas
 - BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes**
 - I
 - II
 - III
 - IV
 - Viewshed Analysis**
 - Not Visible -
 - Line of Sight Blocked by Terrain
 - Existing Transmission Lines**
 - Below 230kV
 - 230kV - 344kV
 - 500kV - 734kV
 - 735kV - 999kV
 - DC
 - Proposed Transmission Lines**
 - Proposed Transmission Line Route (230kv)
 - Proposed Transmission Line Route Alternative (500kv)
 - State Boundary
 - Major Road
 - Local Road

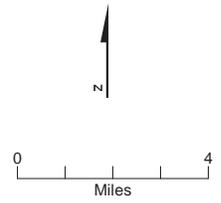


Figure 1
Solar Project Viewshed and Proposed KOPs
 Hidden Hills Ranch



VP-6: Nopah Wilderness Area

View east toward the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System
Proposed Project Site