

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**11-AFC-2**

DATE JUN 15 2012

RECD. JUN 21 2012

June 15, 2012

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor



Dear Librarian:

**DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE
HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM,
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-2)
and POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

The enclosed Supplemental Staff Assessment (SSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary Cultural Resources evaluation of the proposed Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System, 11-AFC-2. Please make this SSA available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the SSA or any of its contents to be removed from the library. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under such subjects as "Energy Commission," "electricity energy/generation," "power plant siting," or any other relevant subject such as "renewable energy" projects. Please retain the enclosed letter to the public behind the front cover of the PSA.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, state and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Commission distributes copies of staff documents such as the SSA to public libraries in communities near the proposed project, and in major cities throughout the state. As such, please retain a copy of the enclosed Notice of Availability / Notice of Public Workshop behind the front cover of the PSA and also post a copy of the Public Notice in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Monasmith, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at: mike.monasmith@energy.ca.gov

Sincerely,

CHRIS DAVIS
Siting Office Manager

Enclosure

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 6/18/12) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 6/21/12

DLS

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET – MS-15
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



June 15, 2012

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR
THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM, APPLICATION
FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-2)**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

9am – 7pm *(or earlier if discussions conclude)*

Home Street Middle School Library

730 Home Street

Bishop, CA 93514

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**

(Access code: **922 518 173**)

(Meeting Password: **Meeting@9**)

&

Monday, July 2, 2012

9am – 5pm *(or earlier if discussions conclude)*

California Energy Commission

2nd Floor “Fishbowl”

Sacramento, CA 95814

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**

(Access code: **923 462 099**)

(Meeting Password: **Meeting@9**)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you that the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) has prepared a Supplemental Staff Assessment (SSA) for the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS) Application for Certification (AFC). Additionally, this notice is to inform you of the availability of the SSA, which was published by the Energy Commission on June 15, 2012. The SSA contains the Energy Commission’s preliminary Cultural Resources evaluation of the proposed HHSEGS project.

The Energy Commission staff will hold public workshops to discuss the SSA and the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA), released on May 24, 2012, in order to further public participation in the HHSEGS proceeding. Based on the workshop dialogue, written

comments received regarding the PSA and SSA, and additional information that will be gathered, the Energy Commission staff will issue a Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

PSA Workshop Agenda for June 27, 2012 in Bishop:

- Air Quality / Public Health
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics

PSA Workshop Agenda for July 2, 2012 in Sacramento:

- Alternatives
- TSE
- Misc. Issues (carry-over discussions from June 27th PSA Workshop)

*Note: Agendas are subject to change, as are the order of topics

The Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the HHSEGS Application for Certification (11-AFC-2). The public comment period for this SSA is from June 15, 2012 to July 16, 2012. All public comments will be considered by Energy Commission staff for incorporation into the FSA. Written comments on the SSA should be provided to Mike Monasmith, Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 16, 2012, at the address on this letterhead or by email to mike.monasmith@energy.ca.gov. Technical or project schedule questions should also be directed to Mr. Monasmith at (916) 654-4894, or by email, or the address above.

Description of the Proposed Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

The Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS) is proposed for development by a wholly owned subsidiary of BrightSource Energy, Inc. (Applicant). As proposed, HHSEGS would be located on approximately 3,277 acres of privately owned land leased in Inyo County, California, adjacent to the Nevada border. The project site is approximately 8 miles south of Pahrump, Nevada, and approximately 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada.

As proposed, HHSEGS would comprise two solar fields and associated facilities: the northern solar plant (Solar Plant 1) and the southern solar plant (Solar Plant 2). Each solar plant would generate 270 megawatts (MW) gross (250 MW net), for a total net output of 500 MW. Solar Plant 1 will occupy approximately 1,483 acres (or 2.3 square miles), and Solar Plant 2 will occupy approximately 1,510 acres (or 2.4 square miles). A 103-acre common area would be established on the southeastern corner of the site to accommodate an administration, warehouse, and maintenance complex, an onsite 138 kV switchyard and a natural gas metering station. A temporary construction laydown and parking area on the west side of the proposed project site would temporarily occupy approximately 180 acres.

Groundwater would be drawn daily from six onsite groundwater supply wells that would be drilled and developed to provide raw water for the HHSEGS project; two new wells per power block (primary and backup) and two wells at the administration complex. The wells would supply both solar plants and would be used for the power cycle make-up water, mirror wash water, and other domestic uses. The entire 500-MW net project would require up to 140 acre feet of groundwater per year (an acre foot of water equals 325,851 gallons).

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Findings

Staff preliminarily concluded the following in regard to the HHSEGS project:

Cultural Resources: The project would have significant and unavoidable direct and cumulative impacts to one archaeological landscape, three ethnographic landscapes, and one historic/built environment historical resource. Although full implementation of all proposed Cultural Resources Conditions of Certification would reduce the project-related impacts to cultural resources to some extent, it would not reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Jennifer Jennings, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 653-5898 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at: publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.ca.gov or by telephone (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Mike Monasmith.

Note: Please retain a copy of this Notice behind the front cover of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and post a copy in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library. Thank You.

PSA/SSA WORKSHOP
Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

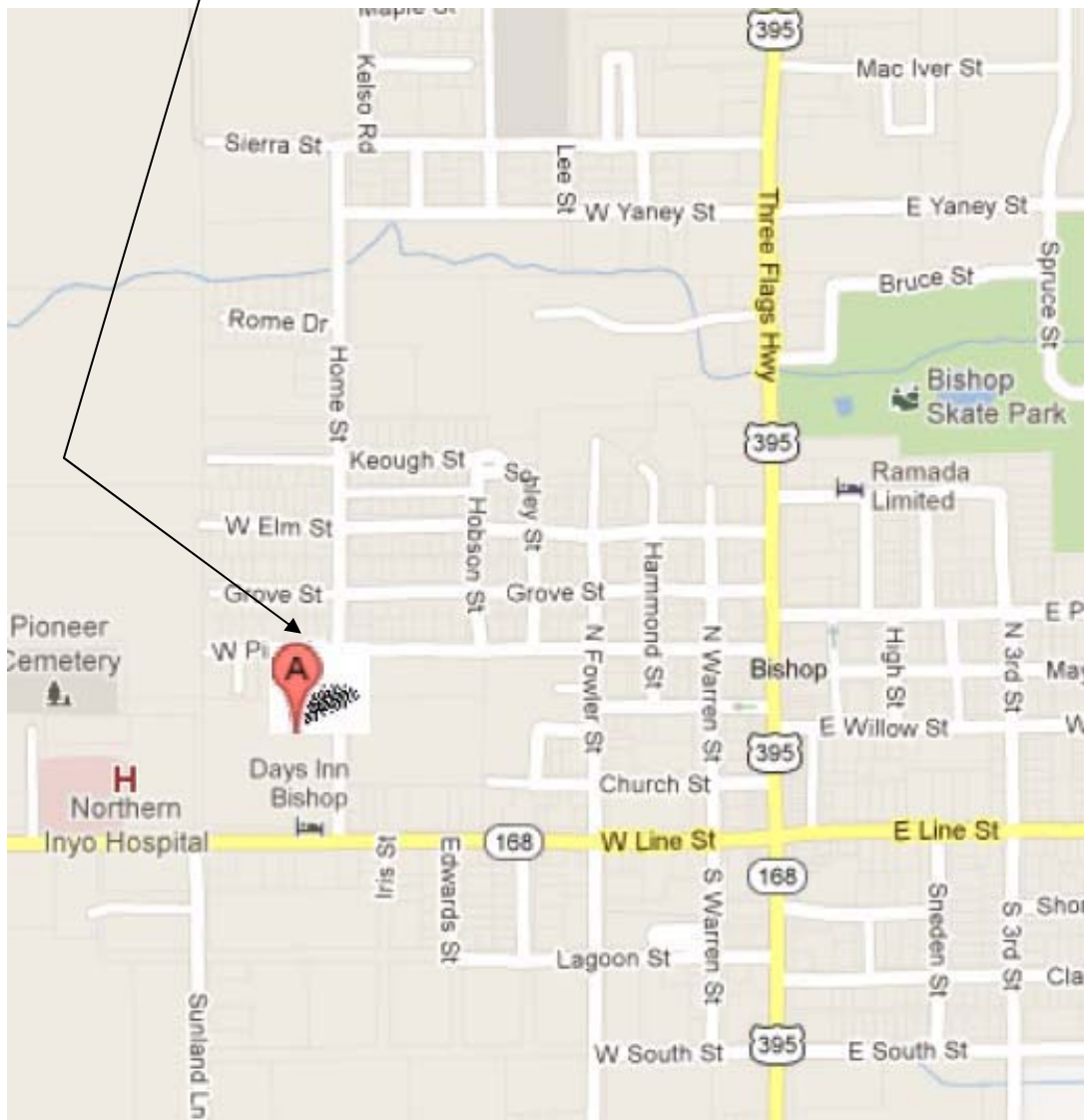
9am – 8pm *(or end of discussions)*

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**

(Access code: **922 518 173**)

(Meeting Password: **Meeting@9**)

Home Street Middle School Library
730 Home Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-1036



PSA/SSA WORKSHOP
Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

Monday, July 2, 2012

9am – 4pm (or earlier if discussions conclude)

California Energy Commission

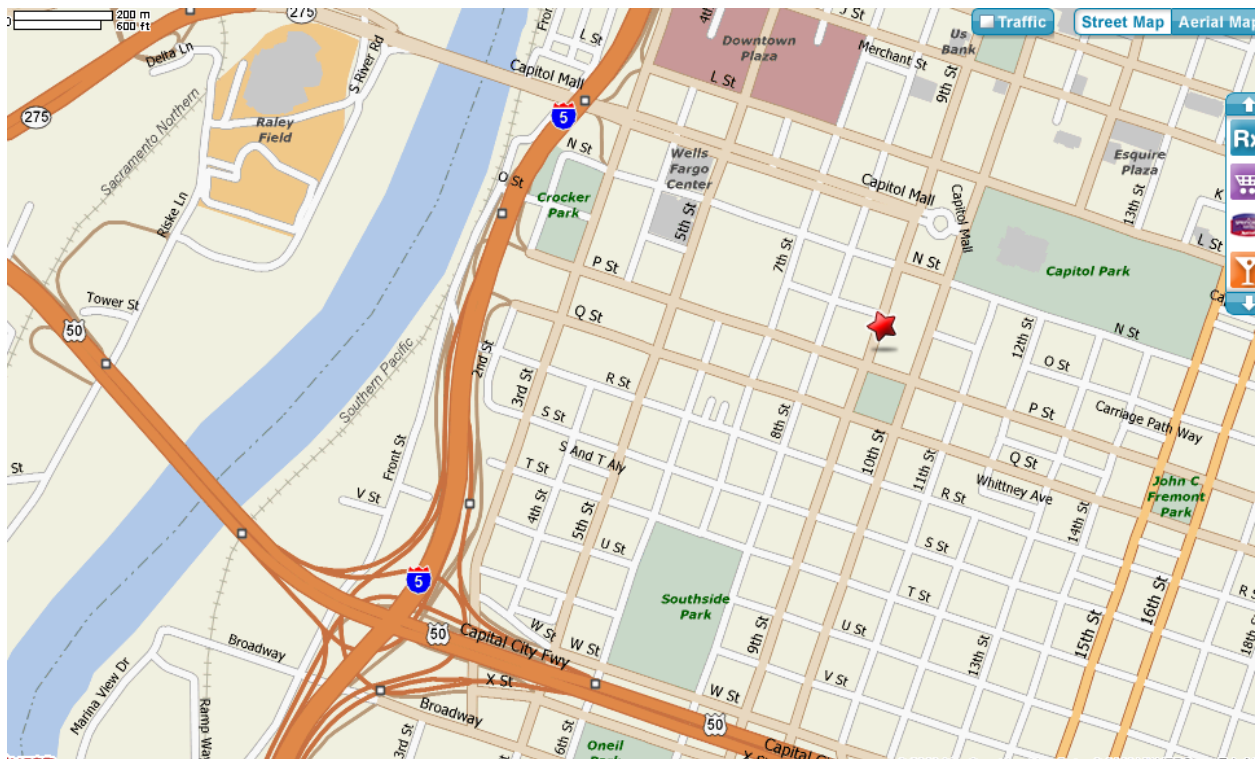
2nd Floor “Fishbowl”

Sacramento, CA 95814

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**

(Access code: **923 462 099**)

(Meeting Password: **Meeting@9**)



REMOTE ATTENDANCE IN THE
Hidden Hills Workshop on June 27, 2012

You may participate in this Workshop through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

1. COMPUTER LOG-ON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter: **922 518 173**
- When prompted, enter your information and **Meeting@9**

After you login, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide **your** phone number.

In the **Number box**, type your area code and phone number and click OK.

You will receive a call back on your phone for the audio portion of the meeting.

2. COMPUTER LOG-ON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER, ETC:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter: **922 518 173** and **Meeting@9**
- After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. Click "**CANCEL.**"
- Instead call **1-866-469-3239**. When prompted, enter: **922 518 173** and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your computer screen after you login.

3. TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):

- Call **1-866-469-3239** and when prompted enter: **922 518 173**

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239. To see if your computer is compatible, visit [<http://support.webex.com/support/systemrequirements.html>]. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE IN THE
Hidden Hills Workshop on July 2, 2012

You may participate in this Workshop through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

1. COMPUTER LOG-ON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter: **923 462 099**
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**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 *HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM***

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-02
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 6/18/2012)

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Public Adviser's Office
e-mail service preferred
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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Diane Scott, declare that on June 21, 2012, I served and filed copies of the attached DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-2) and POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICE, dated June 15, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html.

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

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- X Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- X Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. 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 "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- X by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail address below (preferred method); OR
- _____ by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT
Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-02
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.ca.gov

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- _____ Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission
Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel
1516 Ninth Street MS-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
michael.levy@energy.ca.gov

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California 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.

Originally Signed

Diane Scott
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division