

3/18/2013

State of California
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California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS 12
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

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TN # 69960

MAR. 19 2013

Dear Commission:

This letter is for the record of public comment on certification of The Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating Station. This development is located directly in the sacred path of the Salt Song Trail and is also very close to Mt. Charleston which is considered the source of power and the center of the Paiute nations.

I believe no decision should be made without direct consultation with all tribes not only Paiutes, but all tribes that adhere to the religious practice involving the Salt Song. The federal government's policy of establishing the southwest for potential solar energy development have failed to consider the impact solar development will have on the Salt Song Trail, and do not realize how many tribes are affected.

On February 26 & 27th, 2012 in Las Vegas I attended a B.L.M. sponsored meeting for Solar Energy Zone Development in the Southwest. At this meeting they discussed how private companies/investors will best access public lands for solar projects. I approached two BLM representatives about the potential effect of development on or near the Salt Song Trail. They wanted to more information, however I was not knowledgeable enough on the Salt Song and Salt Song Trail at that time.

The Salt Song and Salt Song Trail involves as many as 15 tribes, each with their own interpretation of the Salt Song & Salt Song Trail and the potential violation they feel will be taking place. These tribes are located in four separate states, which is Utah, California, Nevada and Arizona. It is my opinion that the BLM should be required to contact BIA and the Senate Sub-committee on Indian Affairs as this Hidden Hills Solar Facility may have a serious impact to religious and ceremonial practices.

Sincerely,



Vernon Lee
Tribal Member/Environmental Committee
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