

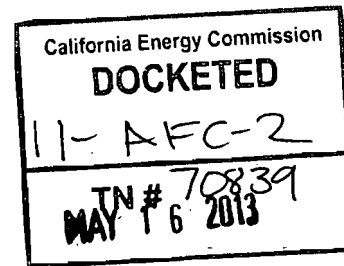
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



May 16, 2013

Kurt W. Russo, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Native American Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 1829
Indio, California 92202



Dear Dr. Russo,

Commissioner Douglas has asked me, as the Energy Commission's Tribal Liaison and Deputy Director of the Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection (STEP) Division, to respond to your letter of March 29, 2013 offering assistance to staff. As you may be aware, the staff successfully consulted with affiliated tribes throughout the course of the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS) proceeding. Specific Energy Commission-Tribal discussions were conducted by staff ethnographer, Dr. Thomas Gates.

With the HHSEGS proceeding currently in suspension, staff will not know the intentions of the project applicant (BrightSource Energy) to resume permitting activities until after they file their first status report with the HHSEGS Committee on October 1, 2013. In the meantime, it would be useful for our staff to gain a better understanding of the protective management efforts and tribal programs your organization has facilitated with tribal governments and intertribal organizations here in California. This understanding could not only benefit future mitigation efforts related to HHSEGS, but other large solar proceedings currently under review by the California Energy Commission.

Please contact Dr. Gates at (916) 654-5008 or e-mail him at Thomas.Gates@energy.ca.gov to help coordinate a meeting with your organization, myself and other STEP Division management during your next visit to Sacramento.

Sincerely,

Roger E. Johnson
Deputy Director/Tribal Liaison
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
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