

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING

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*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

January 5, 2012

Mr. Pierre Martinez, AICP
Compliance Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection (STEP) Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (Rio Mesa SEGF), Docket 11-AFC-4
08-RIV 78, PM 0. - 9.951

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reviewed the Rio Mesa SEGF Application for Certification. The proposed Rio Mesa SEGF will consist of three solar fields generating 250 megawatts each on approximately 5, 750 acres. It will be located 13 miles southwest of the City of Blythe on the Palo Verde Mesa. Access will be from Interstate 10 (I-10) interchange at State Route 78/Neighbors Boulevard (SR-78), south to 34th Avenue then west to the site. The I-10/Lovekin Boulevard interchange may also be used.

The State is the owner and operator of the State Highway System and our concern is with the impacts that the trucks and workers may have to the facility during the different construction phases of the solar facility. The following comments are offered for your consideration to address our concerns for highway impact and mitigation.

Traffic:

There must be minimal interruption to traffic on SR-78; therefore we recommend that signage and flaggers be utilized to minimize delays.

Permits**Transportation Permit:**

Caltrans has the discretionary authority to issue special permits for the movement of vehicles/loads exceeding statutory limitations on the size, weight, and loading of vehicles contained in Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code. Requests for such special permits require the completion of an application for a Transportation Permit.

DOCKET	
11-AFC-4	
DATE	JAN 05 2012
RECD.	JAN 10 2012

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Information regarding Transportation Permit application for travel within the State is now available at:

Transportation Permits Office
1823 14th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-7119
Main number: (916) 322-1297

Or you may visit our web page at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/permits/contact.htm>

Encroachment Permit:

If lane closures are required on the State Highway System during construction, we recommend that the Section 517 of the Encroachment Permits Manual be referenced for the proper procedures to manage traffic during construction.

Issuance of a Caltrans Encroachment Permit will be required prior to any construction within the Right of Way and shall be in compliance to all current design standards, applicable policies, and construction practices. Please reference the Encroachment Permits Manual at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Restoration of State Roads:

We request the project owner restore all public roads, easements, and rights-of-way that have been damaged due to project-related construction activities to original or near-original condition in a timely manner.

These comments are based upon a review of the materials provided for our evaluation. Other comments detailing possible impacts to State facilities may follow as the project progresses. If you have any question regarding developmental review procedures or other issues, please contact me at (909) 383-4557 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Daniel Kopulsky

DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Community Planning/Local Development Review