

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

January 13, 2012

**DOCKET****11-AFC-4**DATE JAN 13 2012RECD. JAN 19 2012

Fire Captain Jason Neumann  
Riverside County Fire Department  
Strategic Planning Division  
210 West San Jacinto Avenue  
Perris, CA 92570

RE: Potential Fire District Emergency Medical Response Needs for the Proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (RMSEGF) Project (11-AFC-4)

Dear Captain Neumann:

Rio Mesa Solar I, LLC, Rio Mesa Solar II, LLC, and Rio Mesa Solar III, LLC (the applicant), are seeking a license from the California Energy Commission to construct and operate a solar generation facility. The Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (RMSEGF or proposed project) would be located approximately 13 miles southwest of the city of Blythe in Riverside County, partially on private land and partially on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Each solar plant would require about 1,850 acres for a total project area of approximately 5,750 for all three sites (8.98 square miles). RMSEGF proposes three 250 megawatt (MW) (nominal) solar fields and associated facilities for a total net output of 750 MW.

We have reviewed your letter of December 18, 2011 and acknowledge your concerns about the RMSEGF having adverse cumulative impacts on the Riverside County Fire Department's service, and the need for an improved second point of ingress for the facility. These concerns will be addressed in the appropriate technical sections in staff's Preliminary Staff Assessment.

To assess impacts of the proposed project on emergency medical services, Energy Commission staff requests information on existing emergency medical resources and services in the project area and the estimated need for additional services if the project is approved. A form is provided as an attachment to this letter with data needs and questions highlighted. Key characteristics of the applicant's proposed project that are considered applicable to emergency medical response needs assessment are briefly summarized on the form. A map of the project site is also attached.

We have a few questions in addition to the enclosed needs assessment form:

1. What fire station would be the first responder to a medical emergency at the project site?
2. Does the Riverside County Fire Department have any mutual aid agreements with agencies in Arizona for emergency medical assistance? If so, please list the agencies with which Riverside County Fire Department has emergency medical response included as part of the agreement.

3. What is the estimated emergency response time between the project site and John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital? Is this hospital the closest facility to the project site with an emergency room?
4. According to the Application for Certification (AFC) the closest hospital with a trauma center is the Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, 130 miles west of the project site with a helicopter transport time (round trip) of 1 hour, 20 minutes. Given the severity of trauma injuries, would this response time be considered reasonable?

The project applicant's entire AFC is available on the Energy Commission's website at:

<<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html>>. Section 5.10 Socioeconomics would be the most pertinent section to review, as well as Section 5.16 Worker Health and Safety and Section 5.12 Traffic and Transportation.

We would appreciate your responses to the above questions and the needs assessment form and any comments you may have regarding emergency medical response for the proposed project by March 15, 2012. Please send your responses to my attention. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

James Adams, Planner II  
California Energy Commission  
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division  
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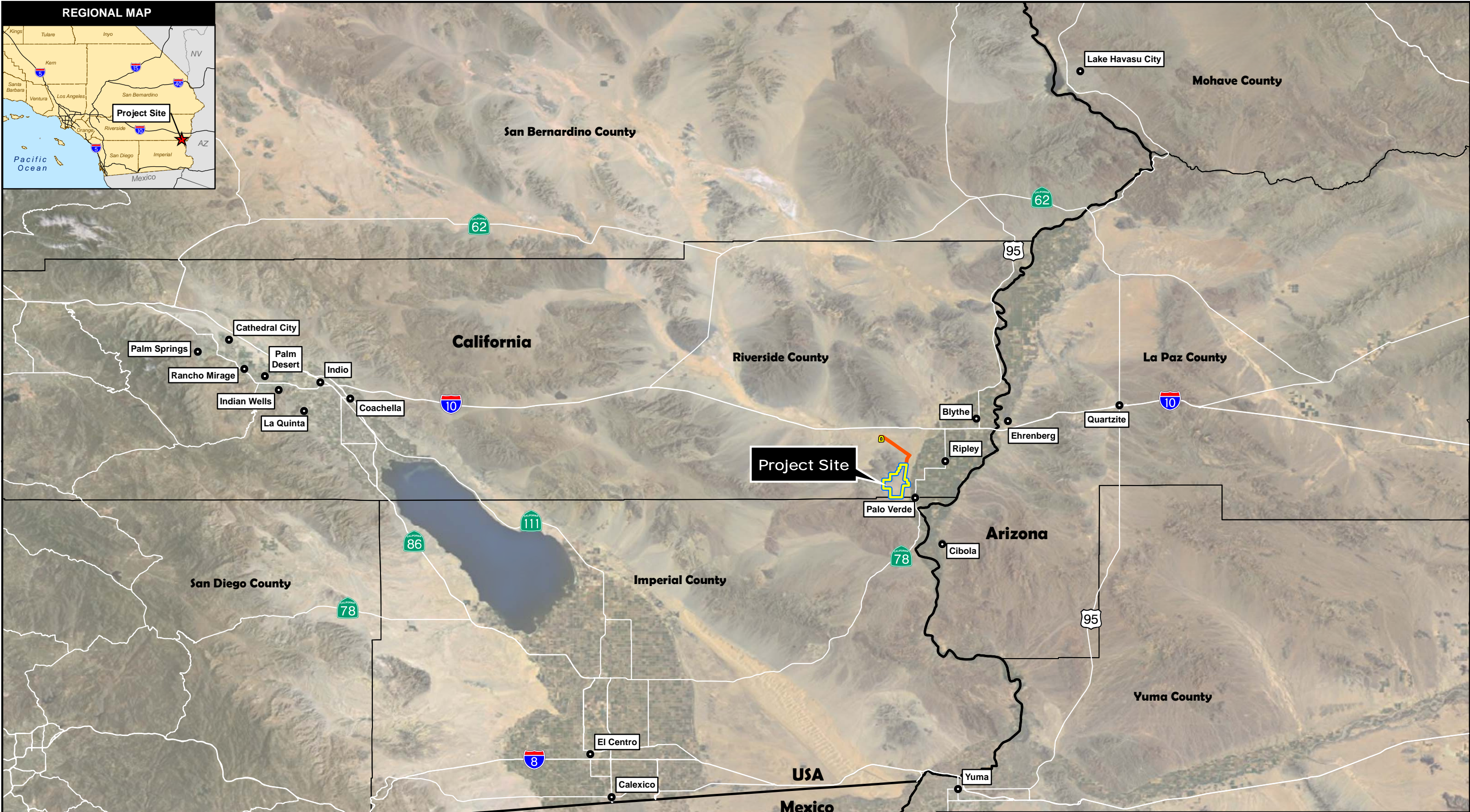
Enclosures: Emergency Medical Response Needs Assessment Form  
Map showing the approximate location of the project site (from the AFC)

cc. Pierre Martinez, California Energy Commission Project Manager  
Amanda Stennick, Planner III, Supervisor

<b>Emergency Medical Response Needs Assessment Form</b>	
<b>Project Characteristics, as Proposed by the Project Applicant</b>	
Type, Location, Size, and Site Access:	Power generating facility (three fields) proposed on 5,750 acres in Riverside County, California, adjacent to Imperial County. Primary access to the three plants would be via 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bradshaw Trail off State Route 78 to the east. Each plant would also have perimeter access/maintenance roads.
Estimated Schedule:	Construction of the power generating facility, from site preparation and grading to commercial operation, would take approximately 36 months. If approved, construction would begin the fourth quarter of 2013 and conclude the first quarter of 2016. Construction of the shared facilities would occur during construction of the first plant. The three solar plants would be constructed with a planned three-month delay between their construction start dates. Table 2.2-2 (Project Description Section of the AFC) lists the project's major schedule milestones.
Construction (Traffic and Work Force):	Construction operations are expected to occur between 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. Estimated construction start times are between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and departure times are between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. During certain phases of the project, some activities could continue 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The construction schedule is estimated based on a single shift, 10-hour day, and 40-hour week. Longer work days or work weeks would be necessary to make up schedule deficiencies or to complete critical construction activities, such as large concrete pours. Truck deliveries would normally be on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. During the peak construction month (month 21), approximately 1,378 daily trips would occur (assumed two passenger occupancy). Daily truck traffic trips would add 159 trips, based on an adjusted one heavy vehicle is equal to a three-passenger car equivalent. Although trucks would likely arrive and depart throughout the day, the traffic analysis assumed about 55 percent would travel during the a.m. and p.m. peak hour. The number of workers on site range from a low of 5 in month 0 to a high of 2,493 in month 21. An average of 1,040 workers per month would be employed during the 36-month construction period. Between month 11 and month 28 there would be over 1,000 workers on-site and between month 19 and month 25, on-site workers increase to over 2,000.
Operation (Staff and Traffic):	The project would employ approximately 150 full-time workers; adding a minimal amount of traffic trips. The generating facility would be operated 7 days a week, typically up to 16 hours per day.
Project Medical Emergency Response Features:	A registered nurse trained in first aid would be provided on-site during construction. A construction health and safety program and plant operational safety program would be implemented. As the project site consists of previously disturbed land and the military used much of the desert for training exercises during World War II, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions and explosives of concern are potentially present on-site. The applicant would prepare a UXO Identification, Training and Reporting Plan to train all site workers in the recognition, avoidance, and reporting of military waste debris and ordnance. A site-specific Emergency Action Program/Plan would be developed for project construction and operation. The plan is designed to address potential emergencies, including hazardous materials releases, fires, earthquakes, bomb threats, pressure vessel ruptures, and other catastrophic events. The plan would describe evacuation routes, warning devices, points of contact, assembly areas, responsibilities, and other actions to be taken in the event of an emergency. The plan would have a layout map and fire extinguisher list and would describe arrangements with local emergency response agencies for responding to emergencies.
<b>Existing Emergency Medical Response Resources and Services in the Project Area</b> (attach additional paper if more room is needed to answer questions)	
Names and addresses of the facilities (e.g., fire stations, ambulance dispatch facility) serving the project area, and distance of closest dispatch facility to the project site:	
Adopted or desired emergency medical response service standard (e.g., 5 minute minimum emergency response time, 1 emergency response unit per 1,000 employees):	
Existing staffing levels able to respond to emergency medical incidents for facilities	

<b>Emergency Medical Response Needs Assessment Form</b>	
serving the project area (including permanent and volunteer staff , totals and per shift):	
Estimated emergency medical response times to the project site:	
Current projected needs (e.g., facilities and staff) to maintain or meet existing emergency medical response service levels:	
Exchange of general emergency medical response responsibilities (e.g., formal and/or informal agreements with local municipalities or private companies for provision of services) in the project area:	
Current inventory of specialized equipment or services (e.g., life flight services):	
<b>Estimated Need for Emergency Medical Response Services, Equipment, and Facilities</b> (attach additional paper if more room is needed to answer questions)	
Is there a process or formula used by your department to determine the need for additional medical response services to serve a new large-scale power plant? Please explain.	
<p>Could the project trigger a need for additional emergency medical response services? Please explain.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">During project construction:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">During project operation:</p>	
<p>Could increased project-related traffic affect circulation and access on roads near the project site to the extent that an impact to emergency response times might occur? Please explain.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">During project construction:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">During project operation:</p>	
Do emergency medical response personnel review development site plans for projects to assess potential medical emergency issues (e.g., safety plans, emergency response plans)? Please explain.	
Please explain any other emergency medical response concerns that have not been addressed by this needs assessment form.	
<b>Person Completing This Needs Assessment Form</b>	
Name:	
Title/Position:	
Telephone No:	
E-mail Address:	





Path: G:\gis\projects\157727651002\map\_docs\mxd\AFC\_Socioeconomic\Study\_Area\_Cities.mxd, paul\_morano, 9/21/2011

**LEGEND**

- Project Site
- Transmission Line Corridor
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

**URS**

**SOURCES:**  
 Project Site (BSE, 2010).  
 T-Line Corridor (VTN, 3-15-11).  
 Renewable Energy Applications (BLM 8-1-11).  
 Boundaries, Roads, Cities, States, Counties (ESRI, 2010). Imagery (NAIP, 2009).

**Scale:**  
 8 0 8 16 Miles  
 SCALE: 1" = 16 miles (1:1,013,760)  
 SCALE CORRECT WHEN PRINTED AT 11X17

**SOCIOECONOMIC STUDY AREA**  
**RIO MESA SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY**  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

CREATED BY: RC	DATE: 9/21/2011	FIG. NO: 5.10-1
PM:AL	PROJ. NO: 27651006. 50518	