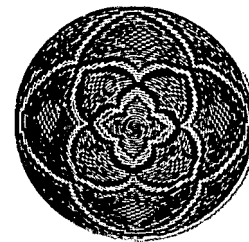


AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION



May 7, 2012

Eric Knight, Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

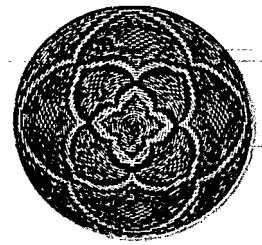
DOCKET 11-AFC-4
DATE MAY 07 2012
RECD. MAY 16 2012

Re: Proposed New Solar Power Plant, Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility, Riverside County, CA

Dear Mr. Knight:

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians appreciates your efforts to include the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) in the Proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility. The proposed project is not within the Reservation boundaries; however, it is within the Tribes Traditional Use Area. We have limited resources outside the Coachella Valley and thus are requesting additional information to better make an informed decision. We have concerns regarding impacts to cultural resources within the APE and combined effects to surrounding resources. We are against destruction of any cultural resources regardless of pre-historic or historic. Because of this, the Agua Caliente THPO requests:

1. A 100% cultural resources inventory of the project area by a qualified archaeologist prior to any development activities in this area. A records check of the Agua Caliente Register indicates recorded cultural sites are present in the vicinity. **Please forward copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with these efforts to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for review and comment.**
2. The presence of an approved Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.
3. Please forward copies of any cultural resource documentation (report and site records) generated in connection with these efforts to the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for review and comment.
4. Should human remains be discovered during construction of the proposed project, the project contractor would be subject to the State law regarding the discovery and disturbance of human remains. In that circumstance destructive activity in the immediate vicinity shall halt and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5. If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted. The NAHC will make a determination of



the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The City and Developer will work with the designated MLD to determine the final disposition of the remains.

Please send us a copy of the survey report and site records to help evaluate the project. Again, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians appreciates your interest in our cultural heritage. If you have questions or require additional information on Tribal Monitors, please call me at (760) 699-6912. You may also email me at smilanovich@aguacaliente-nsn.gov.

Cordially,

Sean Milanovich, Cultural Specialist
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

**AGUA CALIENTE BAND
OF CAHUILLA INDIANS**

☐ Agua Caliente Cultural Register

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