

Silver Valley Realty

44244 NATIONAL TRAILS HIGHWAY
NEWBERRY SPRINGS, CA 92365

Fred Stearn, Broker
License #00703404

(760) 257-3560

June 1, 2009

DOCKET NO. 08-AFC-13

DOCKET

08-AFC-13

DATE JUN 01 2009

RECD. JUN 05 2009

Mr. Christopher Meyer, Project Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/STAFF
ASSESSMENT AND LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR THE SES SOLAR ONE PROJECT,
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Meyer:

My comments on the SES Solar One Project, San Bernardino County application
are as follows:

- 1--In the past year or so, and likely at the request of SES, the BNSF Railroad has blocked off with a locked gate the Hector Road railroad crossing, possibly for the first time since the 1880's, thus greatly reducing the level of access to private land north of the railroad tracks, in the vicinity of the lands being proposed for solar development. Something needs to be done to restore the previous access rights to private property owners north of the railroad tracks. If SES has intentions of being a good neighbor, this is not how to demonstrate those intentions.
- 2--The viewscape of the Cady Mountains from Interstate 40 and National Trails Highway, will likely be a major issue of concern with this project, as the Cady Mountains area is designated a Wilderness Study Area by an act of Congress in 1994, as I recall.

Perhaps an earth-tone wall along the south project boundary and earth-toned suncatchers would mitigate this environmental impact.
- 3--In that this project, unlike other solar technologies, does not use water in the energy production process, that perhaps would earn them slack on the viewscape/aesthetics negative impacts, which can't be mitigated.
- 4--The project site is just outside the Newberry Community Services District, in the County Fire Department area of jurisdiction, I think. Would the magnitude of this project proposal justify asking the applicant to partially or fully fund a County Fire Department station at or near the Hector Road Interstate 40 interchange?
- 5--How will the project's labor force impact existing school and recreational facilities in Newberry Springs and the Silver Valley Unified School District? A LAFCO report recently made note of the lack of recreational acreage in Newberry Springs, by a accepted formula for making that determination.

Mr. Christopher Meyer, Project Manager

Page 2

June 1, 2009

- 6--Due to the increased vehicle traffic at the Hector Road interchange on Interstate 40, should applicant be required to provide overhead street lighting at that location?
- 7--Inre project hiring practices, it is my impression that on some large local construction projects in the past, that union hiring halls in the San Bernardino area, or even further away, were utilized, even though the work sites were in the Barstow area. Can anything be done to encourage local hiring for a local project, in Barstow or perhaps with a hiring office in Newberry Springs?
- 8--If the proposed life of this project is 20-years, what steps will be taken to ensure that at the end of the project-life, the public won't be stuck with a clean-up bill?
- 9--If the applicant intends to bring hi-speed internet availability to the project site, via a hard line, can the local Newberry Community Services District be given a voice in the routing of that access line?
- 10--There has been some discussion that Senator Dianne Feinstein would seek to stop this project with legislation to expand the southern boundary of the Cady Mountains Wilderness Study Area, by bringing that boundary south to the BNSF railroad tracks. This would be a boundary that was never proposed in the 1994 Desert Protection Act deliberations. That fact is evidenced on Map Sheet 14 of the California Desert Protection Act, which identifies what boundary was proposed and what boundary was adopted.
- 11--If applicant has or will prepare a hydrology study for the proposed site, how may I obtain a paper copy of that study?

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred Stearn

CC: MR. JIM STOBAUGH, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT