

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Flex your power!  
 Be energy efficient!*

April 22, 2009

Eric K. Solorio, Siting Project Manager  
 Beacon Solar Energy Project  
 California Energy Commission  
 1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Sacramento, California 95814-5512

File: 09-KER  
 RFC  
 SCH #: none

**DOCKET**  
**08-AFC-2**

DATE 04/22/09

RECD. 04/29/09

Dear Mr. Solorio:

**Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)**

Thank you for giving the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 the opportunity to review the PSA for the Solar Energy Project located in Kern County northeast of State Route 14 (SR-14). We appreciate previous interaction with you and project proponents.

We have the following comments:

- Figure 1- Regional Vicinity Map: see enclosure for depiction of State Highways.
- Reference to SR-58 should be to SR-14 on page 4.4-13.
- Regarding Hydrology, the document addresses concerns previously discussed with Andrew Brandt of Caltrans. Although affect upon the State Highway System should be little to none, please continue to provide us any follow-up reports pertaining to drainage.
- In the Critical Highway and Roads section (page 4.10-3), SR-14 is a north-south route comprised of both freeway and expressway segments. Also change "SR-85" to "SR-58."
- In the Traffic & Transportation Table 3, Project Compliance with Adopted Traffic and Transportation LORS, Local: (page 4.10-14): for clarification, replace "below the LOS D threshold" with "better than the LOS D threshold."
- For Proposed Condition of Certification, TRANS-1 (page 4.10-15) please add verbiage – . . . into the project site "by obtaining an encroachment permit from Caltrans, District 9 in Bishop."
- If any work regarding the project security fence is to be within State right-of-way, a Caltrans permit would be required. If the security fence is to also function as the right-of-way fence, it shall meet Caltrans standards. To address this, another Condition of Certification may be needed or perhaps include it with item HAZ-5 (page 4.4-15).

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- A Caltrans permit is also required for placing the transmission line across SR-14. Please include this as another Condition of Certification for TRANS or elsewhere.

We value a cooperative working relationship with the California Energy Commission regarding transportation issues. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at (760) 872-0785.

Sincerely,



GAYLE J. ROSANDER  
IGR/CEQA Coordinator

Enclosure

c: Steve Wisniewski, Caltrans

**State Highways -  
Vicinity Beacon Solar Energy Project  
Kern County, California**

