

DOCKET

08-AFC-2

DATE : JAN 22 2010

RECD. MAR 16 2010

File: **08-AFC-2**

Project Title: Beacon Solar Energy Project

TELEPHONE MEETING LOCATION:

NAME: Eric Solorio

TIME: 10:00-11:00

DATE: January 22, 2010

WITH: Renewable Energy Policy Group

PHONE (916) 651-0966

SUBJECT: The Renewable Energy Policy Group – comprised of senior representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the California Governor's Office, and the California Natural Resources Agency – will discuss issues affecting the timely permitting of large-scale solar thermal power plants and their qualifying for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

COMMENTS: Scott Galati, Scott Busa and Kenneth Stein presented for NextEra. They discussed the status of the Beacon project in the Commission's licensing process then discussed their view on certain environmental issues affecting their progress.

Current Status of the Beacon Solar Energy Project:

- Applicant expects the Commission to hold Evidentiary Hearings in March 2010.

Applicant's issues with the process:

- Applicant compared its proposed use of fresh groundwater to being less than that of a water intensive agricultural operation (alfalfa). Applicant feels they have been engaged in the process for nearly two years for an "almost perfect project". "There doesn't seem to be any accelerated scheduling benefit from choosing a degraded site".
- Agency requests are a moving target; efforts to develop programmatic approaches to siting renewable energy facilities are interfering with projects that need to confront the same issues now. Examples: Regional Raven Monitoring and Management Plans (USFWS) are constantly evolving; requirements for Desert Tortoise Translocation Plan (USFWS/CDFG) are constantly evolving. Applicant is spending time and money to continue to revise their respective plans based upon the constantly changing needs of the wildlife agencies.
- Applicant objects to some of staff's proposed mitigation measures:
 - Mitigation measures to offset rerouting more than two linear miles of Pine Tree Creek.
 - Mitigation measures to offset impacts to Native American cultural resources
 - Mitigation measures to address homeland security (security fence/CCTV)
 - Mitigation measures requiring listing and tracking all hazardous materials (including janitorial supplies)
 - Others
- Applicant disagrees with staff's conclusions regarding visual impacts to the view shed of valley floor that would result from covering several square miles with solar troughs.
- Applicant prefers staff not analyze rerouting Pine Tree Creek and leave that to FEMA oversight.

NAME: Eric Solorio

SIGNATURE:

