

DOCKET**08-AFC-5**DATE MAY 26 2010RECD. MAY 28 2010

From: Christopher Meyer
To: Docket Optical System
CC: Maria Santourdjian
Date: 5/26/2010 10:10 AM
Subject: Imperial Valley Solar: Public comments on SA/DEIS from Patrick Donnelly

>>> Patrick Donnelly <donnelypa@gmail.com> 5/26/2010 7:19 AM >>>
Hello,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the implementation of the Imperial Valley Solar project.

I feel that it will have grave ecological consequences for the area, and that SES has not been forthcoming about those consequences. They claim that habitat "between the solar panels" will be fine, but that is simply not true- fragmented habitat is lower quality habitat, and this habitat will be severely fragmented. This is currently fantastic habitat; while not pristine, it has huge expanses of desert pavement, big open washes, unique assemblages of the Sonoran Desert vegetative community, and is a fully functioning, biologically intact area. I personally have seen many different types of lizards, birds (including phainopepla), kit foxes, and jackrabbits all on the site. Additionally, on January 10 of this year, I saw bighorn sheep sign, on the western edge of the site- I saw cloven hoof foot prints in the sand that could have been nothing else.

I feel this will also impact BLM lands adversely- that BLM has a multiple use mandate, and this will take over all other uses at this site. These solar panels will permanently alter the ecosystem in this area (read the Draft EIS- impacts will last thousands of years), and this will become the dominant use of the land- all other uses (including those of wildlife and recreation) will be subsumed.

This project is inappropriate for this area. There are many disturbed abandoned farmlands that this project could go up on. The company chose to site it on relatively untouched BLM land because its' cheaper- because BLM does not charge enough for leasing, and is giving away our Public Land on the cheap. Alternative sitings that would not have ecological impacts to the desert should be explored.

Thank you for your consideration,
-Patrick Donnelly

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