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>>> Cody Hanford <codyhanford@gmail.com> 5/13/2010 9:31 PM >>>  
In regards to the Imperial Valley Solar Project:

I am a resident of the California Desert and I am concerned about the Imperial Valley Solar project. While I applaud our country's interest in renewable energy, I strongly oppose developing these projects in undisturbed, pristine public lands. I have traveled extensively in the California Desert and there are many thousands of acres more suitable for large solar projects than the area selected for Imperial Valley Solar. Have you been to this area? It's a beautiful, rich ecosystem that remains intact. Just because it is not covered by forests and streams does not make it acceptable to clear it, grade it, and cover it with mirrors. I suggest you visit this area and see for your self. Then travel to the heart of Imperial County; to El Centro, Niland, Brawley, and Calexico and further investigate the large, disturbed tracts of land that would be great for solar in my opinion. It makes no sense to destroy more untouched land when there are already areas cleared of vegetation and ready for development. I feel that these solar companies are choosing the easy/profitable way out when they select public BLM lands instead of choosing more ideal private lands. Our nation is choosing to develop our solar energy potential because we have made bad judgements in the past and we are now paying for it. Please do not reward energy companies who continue to make bad decisions motivated by the bottom line instead of reasonable and logical decisions motivated by ethics and the common public interest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cody Hanford