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October 31, 2011

H. Hartmann, EVS, Building 240
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Ave
Argonne, IL 60439

RE CALICO PROJECT
CEC DOCKET # 08-AFC-13C
11-CAI-01

District Manager, BLM
California District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Ms. Kourtney Vaccaro, Esquire
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET
08-AFC-13C
DATE <u>OCT 31 2011</u>
RECD. <u>NOV 08 2011</u>

SUBJECT: COMMENTS INTO THE SUPPLEMENT TO DRAFT PROGRAMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, RE CALICO SOLAR PROJECT AT HECTOR, CA

Dear H. Hartmann, BLM District Manager and Ms. Vaccaro:

Inre the recently published draft programatic environmental impact statement for solar energy development, my below comments derive from my wholly unsuccessful attempt to point to unaddressed negative project impacts for the Calico Solar Project, to be sited on about 4,600 acres of federal land at Hector, California. Said project was approved by the BLM and California Energy Commission in late 2010.

My project concerns were made at local meetings and extensively, in writing, to the BLM and CEC, inre significant negative project impacts on private land adjacent to and near to the project site, north of the BNSF Railway tracks at Hector, California. My concerns were the unaddressed negative impacts on the 80 or so private land owners, re reduced motorized vehicle access, noise, dust, drainage and other health issues. All comments on these issues were completely ignored by the BLM and the CEC, without explanation. It was like a very bad dream.

Also ignored were the project impacts on the Newberry Springs Fire Department. Instead of fair play, the CEC directed that the applicant pay fire department impact fees to the County, which had the benefit of an attorney oversighting the process.

Everyone who had an attorney, it seems, got something out of the approval process, in the conditions of approval. ⁸⁰ Those parties without legal representation, the owners of the approximately private land parcels and the Newberry Springs Fire Department got "stiffed". The BLM and CEC failed them terribly.

It would seem that raw politics took precedence over the law. At a CEC hearing on November 10, 2009, Mr. Michael Picker, from the governor's office lectured the commissioners and the staff. He told them that he didn't want the process to be the source of failure. No rebuttals from anyone. And it was all downhill from there.

If a bridge is built at the Hector Road railroad crossing to access the project

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H. Hartmann, EVS

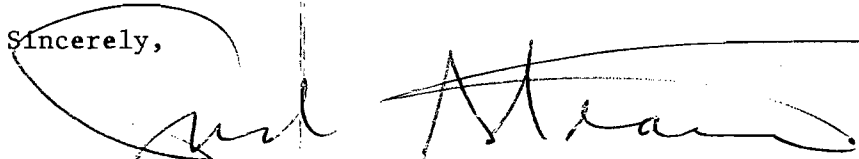
District Manager, BLM

Ms. Kourtney Vaccaro, Esquire

as presently proposed, that bridge, whether assisted with federal financing or not, needs to be open to the public. What rationale would dictate otherwise?

In the past thirty years I have read and made comments into many draft environmental impact statements and reports. I have never seen a more flagrant abuse of the environmental review process by a lead agency than in this instance.

Sincerely,



Fred Stearn

CC: NEWBERRY SPRINGS COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

CC: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SENTINEL