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Mr. Robert Therkelsen  
Deputy Executive director  
Siting and Environmental Protection  
California Energy Commission  
1516 9th Street  
Sacramento, Ca

HARPER LAKE COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY WATER TO HARPER LAKE MARSH

Dear Mr. Therkelsen

Back when Harper Lake Company (HLC) decided they wanted to build their solar power plant at Harper Lake, the California Energy Commission had more applications for power plant permits than it had permits. In order to get high on the list, so they could get a permit, the HLC promised to do some environmental improvements (one of which was to provide water to the harper lake marsh) along with the project. Based on this promise the Energy Commission gave a permit to HLC.

Now I hear that HLC is trying to back out on their promise to provide water to the Marsh and the Energy Commission may let them. This bothers me because a lot of people helped me construct a wildlife viewing pad at Harper Lake Marsh as my Boy Scout Eagle Project and without the water there may not be any wildlife to watch. Some other Scouts in my Troop are also planning to do their Eagle Projects at the Marsh.

The Harper Lake Marsh is a Federal Watchable Wildlife Area and provides habitat for about 200 bird species and other animals. The area is special because it is in the middle of the desert so the wildlife don't have many places like this to live. I have been at the marsh when as many as 50 people have been there to watch the wildlife. The marsh is a favorite stop for local people from the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society.

Another Scout and I met with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the BLM and told them about our projects and what the BLM had planned for the Marsh. With help from the Advisory Committee, BLM staff were able to convince Congressman Jerry Lewis to get \$100,000 to build a visitor area at the marsh. Without the water that HLC promised, the Marsh may dry up and the wildlife habitat may be destroyed. Water for the Marsh used to come from agricultural drains in the area, but most of the farming in the area has stopped.