

May 14, 2010

Alan Solomon
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

DOCKET	
09-AFC-7	
DATE	MAY 14 2010
RECD.	MAY 19 2010

RE: Palen Solar Power Project, Docket No. 09-AFC-7
Responses to Questions from the April 28, 29 and May 7, 2010 CEC Workshops
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Mitigation
Technical Areas: Biological Resources

Dear Mr. Solomon:

Attached please find the following response to questions generated at the April 28, 29, and May 7, 2010 CEC Workshops for the Blythe Solar Power Project. Additional responses to follow.

If you have any questions on this submittal, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Alice Harron
Senior Director, Development



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May 14, 2010

Ms. Alan Solomon
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard Mitigation Lands in the Chuckwalla Valley

Dear Mr. Solomon:

The Staff Assessment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Palen Solar Power Plant (PSPP) concludes that the implementation of the PSPP would result in significant cumulative direct and indirect effects to the Mojave fringe-toed lizard (MFTL). At the workshop held at the California Energy Commission on April 16th, staff explained that a partial rationale for this conclusion was the belief that the quantity of private lands featuring stabilized and partially stabilized sand dunes in the project vicinity was insufficient.

A preliminary examination of potential private mitigation parcels in the vicinity of the PSPP suggests that this conclusion by staff is not accurate. AECOM staff overlaid Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mapping on USGS maps, allowing identification of private parcels. USGS mapping includes symbols indicating the presence of dunes. The latter occurrence was cross-checked using aerial photography. Riverside County parcel layers were then imported. This exercise resulted in the identification of 61 private parcels in the Chuckwalla Valley that are host to stabilized and partially stabilized sand dunes. Together these parcels comprise 12,877 acres. This quantity of land would appear to provide adequate opportunities for MFTL mitigation land acquisition.

Sincerely,

Mr. William Graham
Principal
AECOM

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
for the *PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT*

Docket No. 09-AFC-7
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 5/14/2010)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Carl Lindner, declare that on, May 14, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached **Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard Mitigation Memo** dated May 14, 2010. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen).

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

by personal delivery or by overnight delivery service or depositing in the United States mail at Camarillo, California with postage or fees thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

For filing with the Energy Commission:

sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

OR

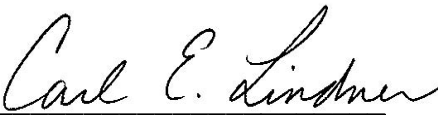
depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, along with 13 CDs, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-7
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Carl E. Lindner