

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 8

PLANNING

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*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

February 4, 2010

Mr. Mike Monasmith
California Energy Commission
Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-8
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET**09-AFC-8**

DATE 02/04/10

RECD. 02/08/10

Dear Mr. Monasmith:

Genesis Solar Energy Project, AKA Next Era Ford Dry Lake Solar Project
Docket 09-AFC-8
08-RIV 10, 155.051

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) received the Application for Certification CD's Volume I and II for the above referenced project, which will be located approximately five miles northwest of Interstate 10 (I-10) near the city of Blythe. The proposed project will consist of two independent concentrated solar electric generating facilities located on 4,640 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management. A proposed new transmission line, a new access road extending north from the interchange at Wiley's Well Road Rest Stop, and a new natural gas pipeline will be co-located in one linear corridor to serve the main project facility. The generation tie-line would cross I-10, and tie into the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line, which is currently under construction.

Although this project is in the preliminary stage and site plans as to the road extension and where the tie-line would cross I-10 have not been developed yet, the following comments for your review are not to be considered complete, final or inclusive.

Access Road

- Right-of-way (RW) for I-10 extends beyond the Wiley's Well Road Rest Stop. If it is determined that the access road will be within our RW, plans for work within Caltrans RW must be prepared according to most recent Caltrans design standards and construction practices.
- The applicant shall maintain the access road.

I-10 Tie-line

- If lane closures are required on the State Highway System during construction, we recommend that the Section 517 of the Encroachment Permits Manual be referenced for the proper procedures to manage traffic during construction. The manual can be accessed online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Project Development Procedures Manual

Chapter 17-Transverse Utility Encroachment

New utility installations, and adjustment or relocation of existing utilities, may be permitted to cross a freeway or expressway. To the extent feasible and practicable, they should cross on a line generally normal to, but not less than 60° from the freeway longitudinal alignment, and preferably under the freeway.

The utility should be located in such a manner that it can be serviced, maintained, and operated from outside the right of way, except for special cases covered under "New Utility Longitudinal Encroachments".

Caltrans has the discretionary authority to issue special permits for the movement of vehicles/loads exceeding statutory limitations on the size, weight, and loading of vehicles contained in Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code. Requests for such special permits requires the completion of and application for a Transportation Permit.

Information regarding Transportation Permit application for travel entering the State or beginning SOUTH of the San Luis Obispo/Kern County lines (includes Inyo and Mono Counties) contact:

SOUTH Region Transportation Permits Office
464 West 4th Street, 6th Floor, MS 618
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
(909) 383-4637

Or you may visit our web page at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/permits/contact.htm>

Issuance of a Caltrans Encroachment Permit will be required prior to any construction within the RW and shall be in compliance to all current design standards, applicable policies, and construction practices. Please reference the Encroachment Permits Manual at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/> Chapter 600 Utility Permits for applicable requirements. In addition we recommend referencing the Right of Way Manual Chapter 13: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/row/rowman/manual/index.htm> and the Project Development Procedure Manual Chapter 17: <http://dot.ca.gov/hq/oppd/pdpm/pdpnn.htm>

We also recommend the analysis or any construction related traffic impacts to State facilities. Please refer to the *Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies* at the following website for applicable policy and procedures:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/operationalsystems/reports/tisguide.pdf>

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These comments are based upon a review of the materials provided for our evaluation. Other comments detailing possible impacts to State facilities may follow as the project progresses. We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (909) 383-4557 for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Kopulsky", written in a cursive style.

DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Community Planning/IGR-CEQA

c: Candace M. Hill, California Energy Commission
Richard Goh, Encroachments Permits-Riverside