

DOCKET**09-AFC-8**DATE SEP 24 2010RECD. SEP 24 2010

From: Mike Monasmith
To: Docket Optical System
Date: 9/24/2010 2:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Genesis FEIS

Hi,

Please docket the attached comment re: Genesis Solar Energy Project, 09-AFC-8.

Thanks!

Mike

Mike Monasmith
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California Energy Commission
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>>> Brendan Hughes <jesusthedude@hotmail.com> 9/24/2010 1:38 PM >>>

To whom it may concern:

I would like to urge BLM and CEC to reject the Genesis Solar Power Project proposal for several reasons. First, dedicating such a large amount of public land to a single use is contrary to BLM's multiple-use mandate. A smaller proposal would be more in line with this mandate. Also, cultural resources and sacred sites for native people will be permanently altered or destroyed by this project. Finally, impacts to habitat for the federally-threatened desert tortoise will be severe and unmitigable. Also, this project will impact the Mojave fringe-toed lizard. A project such as this one could hasten the decline of this sensitive species.

Additionally, this project is sited directly adjacent to the Palen-McCoy wilderness area. This siting will place an industrial zone next to an area set aside for wildlife and solitude, thus degrading the wilderness qualities of one of the gems of the California Desert. As a user of BLM's wilderness areas, I do not want this project placed next to this treasured landscape. BLM and CEC should not be held hostage to the deadlines for ARRA funding, especially if it requires ignoring science and responsible land management for political expediency. ARRA funding should go to deserving projects that have minimal impacts on landscapes and wildlife, such as the Beacon Solar Energy Project or large-scale distributed solar projects in urban areas. BLM and CEC should reject this destructive proposal, and shift the focus of the applicant to previously-disturbed sites, such as using fallow agricultural land around Blythe and Palo Verde. Such a project would disturb very little intact habitat, and would produce the same amount of power as the Preferred Alternative. BLM and CEC should be responsible stewards of our natural heritage and say NO to bad projects. Thank you for your consideration. Brendan Hughes 61093 Prescott Trail Joshua Tree, CA 922