



July 1, 2013

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 08-AFC-13C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
08-AFC-13C

TN 71489

JUL 01 2013

Re: Calico Solar Project (08-AFC-13C)

Dear Commissioners:

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) hereby submits comments on the request from K Road Calico to the CEC to withdraw its proposed amendment to the project and surrender its license for the project. K Road Power notified the CEC of its intentions in a letter dated June 20, 2013.

NRDC participated in all aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process for the project conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”). Documents filed by Defenders with the BLM on this project repeatedly expressed our concern over the significant adverse impacts the project would have on various special status species and their habitats. Those species included the threatened desert tortoise, the sensitive Mojave fringe-toed lizard, Golden eagle, Desert bighorn sheep, and rare plants. Throughout the proceedings we advocated for alternative locations for the project that would have fewer impacts to these species and their habitats, and specifically recommended alternatives involving degraded and fragmented lands located to the west of project in the Mojave Valley, also known as the Daggett Triangle.

The environmental significance and sensitivity of the lands associated with the Calico Solar Project far outweigh the renewable energy that would be generated by the project. The U.S. Department of the Interior, in its final decision on the Solar Energy Development Program for Six Southwestern States, designated public lands affected by the project as exclusion areas for future solar energy project development as a means to avoid significant impacts to biological resources from future solar energy projects in this area.

NRDC strongly urges the CEC to accept the withdrawal of the proposed project amendment and the CEC-issued license for the Calico Solar Project. Such acceptance would allow the public lands affected by the project to remain in their current condition and contribute to the long-term needs of the threatened Desert tortoise and other species that currently occupy and utilize the natural community where the project was to be built.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the request from K Road Power and to consider our opinions for the CEC hearing to be held on August 14, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen O'Shea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Helen" and the last name "O'Shea" clearly distinguishable.

Helen O'Shea
Director, Western Renewable Energy Project
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