

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Palen Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	200086
Document Title:	Record of Converation Regarding Construction Workforce and Lodging Preferences
Description:	Lisa Worrall and San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Building & Constructruction Trade Council
Filer:	Diane Scott
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION



Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

FILE: 09-AFC-7C

PROJECT TITLE: Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS)

<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone 951-684-1040	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:			
NAME:	Lisa Worrall	DATE:	July 29, 2013	TIME:	9:00 am
WITH:	San Bernardino and Riverside counties Building and Construction Trades Council Bill Perez, Executive Secretary				
SUBJECT:	Solar power plant construction workforce, lodging preferences and experience in securing lodging, and PSEGS construction workforce				

I called Mr. Bill Perez, Executive Secretary with the San Bernardino and Riverside counties Building and Construction Trades Council to discuss the construction workforce employed at solar power plant projects currently in construction in Riverside County and specifically to discuss the Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS) and the required construction workforce.

I asked Bill if he knew where construction workers for energy projects in Riverside County are staying. He explained that they are staying in Indio, Blythe, and Ehrenberg. He thought that the construction workers for PSEGS that would seek lodging closer to the project would stay in Indio, Blythe and Ehrenberg, but wouldn't go as far east as Quartzite. I asked Bill if he knew of any troubles the construction workers are having with finding lodging. He said that there haven't been any problems in finding lodging. I asked Bill about the high seasonal use of lodging, especially in Blythe, and wondered if the seasonal nature of lodging poses a problem for construction workers seeking lodging for the solar power plant projects. Bill explained that there are only two times when seasonal visitors are around, one is in January when Quartzite holds a rock and gem show, and the other is during dove season in September. If you are looking for lodging during these times, it is a little more difficult, but lodging can still be found. The workers who have already secured lodging are not subject to the higher seasonal room rates. Construction workers often share rooms to reduce costs and as they rent rooms for long periods, they can often negotiate room rates.

Bill told me that a good number of Craft Workers are local residents in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties that will commute daily, generally 3-4 in a carpool, to the projects. Regarding the construction workers who seek lodging closer to the project site, Bill explained that these construction workers seek lodging that is close to the freeway with easy access. They look for towns that have convenience stores as they pack their lunch they get ice for their lunchboxes. They don't look for many amenities such as movie theaters, but they do look for dining options and gas stations where they stay. Construction workers that seek local lodging to work on a power plant project tend to return to their residences on the weekend. Bill agreed that construction workers employed on the PSEGS would not seek lodging in Palm Springs, Palm Desert, La Quinta or Indian Wells due to the high cost of lodging. He explained that construction workers for the PSEGS would not seek lodging around Thermal, Mecca or other communities near the Salton Sea as the workers want easy access to the Interstate 10 freeway. Thermal, Meca, and the other communities along the north end of Salton Sea would access State Route 86 or 111 to connect to Interstate 10. I asked about Desert Center as an option for construction workers and Bill didn't think the construction workers would stay there, especially as there is no longer a gas station in the community. He did mention that there is a private recreational vehicle park off Rice Road that could be a lodging option for some construction workers.

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I also asked Bill about the workforce and length of construction period for photovoltaic (PV) projects compared with solar thermal projects like the PSEGS. He confirmed my conclusions that the length of construction would be longer for a PV alternative than the PSEGS. He explained that PV projects are constructed in phases and as there is very little linkage needed for PV technology, each phase can be brought online without needing the entire project completed and operational. The length of construction for PV projects also relates to the availability of the panels, as the large number of panels required cannot be delivered in one shipment.

cc: Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manger
Amanda Stennick, Supervisor

Signed: *Lisa Worrall*

Name: Lisa Worrall