

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Kim Delfino, California Program Director, Defenders of Wildlife
Submitted On: 7/29/2014
Docket Number: 09-AFC-07C

Comments on Petition to Amend Palen SEGS

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



California Office

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July 29, 2014

California Energy Commission

Docket Unit

Docket number: 09-AFC-07C

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95614

Via email: docket@energy.ca.gov

Re: Docket No. 09-AFC-07C: Palen Solar Electric Generating System

Dear Commissioners;

Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) urge the California Energy Commission to deny the Petition to Amend the Palen Solar Electricity Generating System (“PSEGS”). We previously supported the Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD) to deny the petition and now recommend the full commission formally deny the petition after the close of the evidentiary hearings.

The direct and indirect adverse impacts of PSEGS, as detailed in the Final Staff Assessment and subsequent documents and information entered into the case record, clearly establish that these adverse impacts will not only be very significant for biological, cultural and scenic landscape values, but they will last significantly longer than the life of the project and cannot be mitigated.

We support the generation of electricity from solar energy provided it is done in an environmentally acceptable and sustainable manner. Furthermore, we support solar energy projects within the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone that are appropriately located, designed to minimize adverse impacts to the environment and that do not unduly degrade the environmental qualities in the region. The PSEGS does not meet these standards. The long-term adverse environmental costs of PSEGS clearly outweigh its benefits in providing electrical energy through solar power tower technology. There are alternatives to PSEGS that would provide fossil-fuel free energy generation using proven technology at a reasonable cost, and with far less adverse impacts to sensitive public resources.

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If PSEGS is ultimately permitted and becomes operational, there will be permanent and substantial degradation of the environment in the greater Chuckwalla Valley, an outcome we do not think is necessary, reasonable or in the public interest. We urge the Commission to deny the Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Delfino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Delfino
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