

DOCKETED

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Karen Douglas, Commissioner
California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 09-AFC-7C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 August 25, 2015

RE: Docket 09-AFC-07C Project Title: Palen Power Project- Compliance California Desert Organizations Oppose Extending the Deadline for Construction for the Palen Solar Power Project

Dear Karen Douglas and Fellow California Energy Commissioners:

As a resident of California living in the desert region where the Palen Solar Power Project is being considered, I am asking for a final halt to all planning and implementation of this short sighted and poorly sited project. The Palen Solar Power Project was ill-conceived from its inception and will continue to disappoint all who support or oppose it. This is simply a bad concept in mechanical design where down side considerations outweigh gains by incredible margins of unacceptable negative impacts to the environment and cultural habitation and visitation to the desert lands it will affect.

I took time to look around our desert region to find places that offer un-objectionable siting opportunities that can help California and the United States meet Planet wise energy goals for industrial scale alternative energy projects. In traveling along State Route 395 in the areas near China Lake, CA, long runs of existing transmission lines and low quality view sheds created by the existing power towers and lines should be considered as corridors for added potential. Push back for building low height PV and trough system concentration systems seems ideal for these lands where very low populations of people exist. Not to mention that tortoise mitigation has already been addressed there and infrastructural considerations are already in place. Is it simply a matter of who gets to make the money that keeps these lands off the drawing board? That desert has all of the sunlight that is needed for successful project development.

As destroying pristine lands for new projects only adds to the waste of what is hoped for in creating restored lands, we must realize the cost savings in not destroying pristine lands, to begin with. New roads, bring new traffic to areas never traveled on before, with new light pollution being installed in previously dark sky territories that have not been assaulted by this environmentally destructive element as is known to be very destructive to wildlife. The value of dark places is far under estimated in all regards when pristine lands are taken and industrialized and the impacts of all projects that bring new access to traffic brings added stress to the environment that is impossible to mitigate. For these reasons alone, re-evaluating the assessments of pristine habitats and view sheds is critical to protecting the "whole environment" !

Please reject the Palen extension proposal and return the land to the people for what it is needed to be, a desert habitat and view shed that speaks to our consideration for conservation and the well being of our environment.
Sincerely, Tom O'Key