

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	09-AFC-07C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Palen Solar Power Project - Compliance
<b>TN #:</b>	206011
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<b>Filer:</b>	Tiffany North
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September 4, 2015

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-14 (Dockets Unit)  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

(Submitted Electronically Only)

Re: Docket No. 09-AFC-7C (Palen Solar Power Project) – County of Riverside Comments on Petition for Extension of Deadline for Commencement of Construction and Notice of Upstream Ownership Change

Dear Commissioners:

The County of Riverside (“County”) is grateful to the California Energy Commission (“Commission”) for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced petition regarding the Palen Solar Power Project (“Project”). Although the Project is located on federal land and under the Commission’s certification authority, the Project will have impacts on the County, County services and County residents.

The County supports the development of renewable energy. However, the County is concerned about the request for an extension of the deadline for commencement of construction for the Project. Good cause to grant the extension is not present in this case. The current owner of the Project has not been diligent in pursuing construction of the Project or in securing the required land use and environmental document approvals from the Bureau of Land Management. Nor have any of the former owners been diligent. Additionally, there are no factors outside the Project owner’s control that have prevented the start of construction. The Project owner has controlled the construction schedule throughout the compliance proceeding.

During the earlier amendment proceedings, the Project owners (then a partnership between Abengoa and BrightSource Energy, Inc.) stated that they did not intend to build a solar trough project as originally permitted by the Commission in December 2010. Now, the current owner has advised the Commission that it intends to submit a future amendment by December 22, 2015, to update the approved solar trough technology and augment the approved solar trough design with storage. The County is concerned that since we do not know the exact details of the future amendment, it may not be possible for the Commission to thoroughly evaluate and decide upon the future amendment in an open public process by the end of December 2016 which would lead to another petition for an extension of time or, worse, a rushed review of a project that will have a lasting impact on the residents of Riverside County.

Moreover, the County is concerned about the confusion created by the numerous, lengthy staff assessments/analyses that were prepared for the Project as originally approved in 2010 and prepared for the earlier proposed amendment in 2013. Those staff documents, taken with the December 2013 Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision and the September 2014 Revised Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision, create a piecemeal analysis of the Project that is confusing and difficult for the public to navigate through. As stated by Commission

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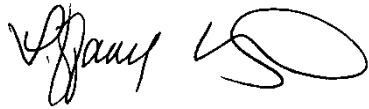
staff, the process of evaluating the proposed changes on the same site would be simpler and easier for all participants, and concerned parties, to understand and monitor with the filing of a new application for certification and a new administrative record unencumbered by the past actions and documents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

GREGORY P. PRIAMOS

County Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Priamos", followed by a large, stylized circular flourish.

TIFFANY N. NORTH

Deputy County Counsel IV-S

TNN: nlr