

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-AFC-06C
Project Title:	Blythe Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	210934
Document Title:	Blythe Solar Power Project - Formal Acquisition Proposal for Compensation Lands 20160330
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Mary Dyas
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	4/4/2016 8:09:56 AM
Docketed Date:	4/4/2016



March 30, 2016

Mr. Kenneth Stein
NextEra Blythe Solar Energy Center, LLC
700 Universe Blvd
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Re: Blythe Solar Power Project, Riverside County, CA – Formal Acquisition Proposal for Compensation Lands

Dear Mr. Stein:

The Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) is required by the project's California Energy Commission (CEC) Commission Decision and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Final Environmental Impact Statement to provide compensatory mitigation to offset the project's impacts to listed and sensitive species and their habitats. In response, NextEra Blythe Solar Energy Center, LLC (NextEra Blythe Solar) prepared a Formal Acquisition Proposal for Compensation Lands (FAPCL) via WildDesert EM Holdings, LLC (Wildlands) for the BSPP. This FAPCL was submitted to the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) agencies (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM) for collective review and approval.

The BSPP is a 485 megawatt (MW) photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility owned by NextEra Blythe Solar and located in the Colorado Desert approximately 8 miles west of the City of Blythe, just north of Interstate 10 in Riverside County. On November 23, 2011, the REAT agencies approved Wildlands Revised Compensatory Mitigation Land Acquisition Proposal for Phase 1A (TN63112) for a portion of the BSPP when it was owned by Solar Millennium and slated to be a 1,000 MW thermal solar project. In order to comply with the outstanding mitigation obligations associated with Phase 1 (solar field Unit 1 plus linear facilities) and Phase 2 (solar field Unit 2) of NextEra Blythe Solar's "modified" 485 MW PV Project, Wildlands developed this FAPCL of suitable habitats on private property within the Colorado Desert.

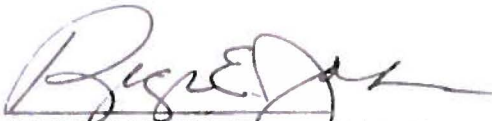
On March 21, 2016, a FAPCL for the 1,279.32-acre Riverside Desert Preserve was submitted to the REAT agencies by Wildlands on behalf of NextEra Blythe Solar. Based on the CEC's January 2014 Commission Decision (Docket Number: 09-AFC-06C, Publication #CEC-800-2013-002 CMF; TN201580) and the BLM's May 2014 Final EIS (Publication Index #BLM/CA/PL-2014/015+1793), NextEra Blythe Solar will satisfy all acquisition requirements

for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the BSPP upon approval of this portfolio. The compensatory mitigation requirements satisfied by the Riverside Desert Preserve are as follows:

1. 1,247 acres of desert tortoise habitat (BIO-12)
2. 1 acre of Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat (BIO-20)
3. 39 acres of western burrowing owl habitat (BIO-18)

The REAT agencies are approving the use of the FAPCL lands as suitable desert tortoise, western burrowing owl, and Mojave fringe-toed lizard mitigation based on the information and analysis provided in the FAPCL. The REAT agencies are also approving the form of conservation easement and the funding level estimates for the endowment fund and interim habitat improvement (IHIF) funds. The remaining tasks are to fund the endowment and IHIF, record the conservation easement, and commence habitat management activities. Please provide the REAT agencies with a copy of the recorded conservation easement and evidence of full funding of the endowment and IHIF in order to release the Project letter(s) of credit.

Respectfully,



ROGER JOHNSON, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division, California Energy Commission



for MICHAEL FRIS, Assistant Regional Director
Ecological Services, United States Fish and Wildlife Service



for KEVIN HUNTING, Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



TOM POGACNIK, Deputy State Director
Division of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management

Cc: Brian Monaghan, Ryan Lopez, Natasha Henderson, WildDesert EM Holdings, LLC
Michael Sintetos, BLM
Andrea Martine, CEC