



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California Desert District
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GENERAL NOTICE REGARDING PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE/RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS LOCATED ON PUBLIC LANDS IN THE CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

As a result of the passage of the President's National Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the State of California's commitment to expanding renewable energy technology and development, there has been a dramatic increase in interest and filing of right-of-way applications for the development of solar, wind, and other renewable energy projects on public lands managed by the California Desert District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Currently, the BLM has received more than 40 solar energy development proposals and approximately 30 wind energy applications, mostly for testing. Applications related to wind energy are primarily for a three-year testing right-of-way, where only meteorological (anemometer) towers would be authorized. Based on the results of testing, it is possible that many of these wind energy applications could lead to proposals for full development of energy projects. Some companies have filed multiple applications, and in some areas, proposals involve overlapping applications from different companies. As applications have been received, the total acreage involved has fluctuated, but generally has totaled 400,000 acres or more of public lands in the California Desert. At this point, many of these applications can best be described as "expressions of interest," as most of these applications do not provide specific development details at this point. Actual development proposals are anticipated to be refined and become more focused, eventually involving less acreage, and it is possible that some applicants may withdraw their applications. For successful proposals that would be granted approval and a right-of-way, BLM will issue rights-of-way for the smallest economically feasible acreage to minimize visual and environmental impacts.

It is BLM's goal to be proactive in responding to demands for alternative energy projects while protecting the environment. Our efforts will be achieved through a coordinated, consistent approach to processing applications across all BLM field offices in southern California. In September of 2002, the Governor of California signed legislation creating California's renewable portfolio standard (RPS), requiring electricity sellers to increase their procurement of eligible renewable energy resources by at least one percent annually, so that 20 percent comes from these resources by 2017. In the Energy Action Plan adopted in May of 2003, the target date was accelerated to 2010. Eligible renewable energy sources include solar, wind, and geothermal. The development of energy projects on public lands in the California desert is considered instrumental in achieving the RPS goal. The BLM in California is helping to meet renewable energy needs through geothermal, wind, solar and biomass public land resources and will continue to play a critical role in transmission of that energy through power lines and pipelines that crisscross the state. Both the ability to transmit adequate electrical power to all of southern California's communities, including periods of peak demand, and the reliability of power supply are key concerns that BLM-administered lands must help meet.

As BLM receives and begins processing energy applications, the agency has recognized the need to refine its application processing strategy to accommodate the dramatic influx of applications. Towards that goal, BLM will be taking the following actions:

- BLM's Solar Energy Development Policy, originally developed in 2004 and updated in April 2007, establishes a framework for land managers to process right-of-way applications for solar energy development projects on public lands. The policy directs BLM to be proactive in responding to demands for solar energy projects while protecting the environment. Authorizing solar energy projects on public lands is part of agency efforts to meet the Federal Energy Policy Act's national goal of 10,000 megawatts of renewable energy produced on federal lands by 2015.
- Renewable energy development proposals will be evaluated within BLM's land use planning process. The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan was approved in 1980. It has been amended many times. The most recent amendments are considered bioregional plans because, collectively, they encompass the entire CDCA. Outside of designated wilderness and wilderness study areas the land use plans do not specifically identify areas where rights-of-way for renewable energy development are not suitable. However, there are areas where such intensive development may not be appropriate, e.g., threatened and endangered species critical habitat (Desert Wildlife Management Areas in the CDCA) and historic properties which may be included or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. These and other factors will be considered by BLM early in the process of evaluating an application.
- In evaluating applications, BLM will comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, along with other laws and regulations, including consultation with Native American tribes. BLM will cooperate with state regulators in evaluating these applications.

BLM recognizes that the number of applications and the initial scale of these proposed alternative energy projects has the potential to dramatically affect the landscape of the California Desert. During the review and analysis of all project proposals BLM intends to actively seek the involvement of Native American tribes as early as possible through the public involvement processes of the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). BLM will also actively engage the Native American tribes pursuant to our responsibilities to consult on a government-to-government basis in accordance with the *Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994*. BLM would value the participation of the Tribal governments and individuals in identifying any issues or concerns that the tribe may have regarding energy projects in general as well as specific proposals. Above and beyond general issues related to energy development in the California Desert, BLM will conduct tribal consultation on each application. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for interested or potentially affected tribes to become involved in project review as early as possible and to provide your views and comments to ensure that the position and interests of the tribes are fully considered in the decision process.

For most of the energy applications on public lands, BLM will: 1) be the lead federal agency for preparation of Environmental Impact Statements/Environmental Impact Reports for NEPA and CEQA; 2) will be responsible for consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties for Section 106 of the NHPA, and; 3) will be the lead for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Depending on the type of energy or transmission proposal, BLM will work closely with the appropriate State or County agency to meet the requirements of the CEQA.

BLM has established a public web site, located at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/alternative_energy.html

This web site provides links to all current BLM policies and actions concerning alternative energy as well as information about general and specific proposals that BLM has received. Also, attached for your reference is a map of the California Desert District showing the general location of both solar and wind energy applications received over the past few months along with a list of applications and their general status. Please keep in mind that this information is for general information purposes and may not accurately reflect the status of project applications as we move forward. The project application and review process has been very dynamic and fluid to date, and at any time an individual project may be withdrawn, refined, or re-designed.

If you would like more specific information about proposed energy related applications in the California Desert, please do not hesitate to contact either your local BLM Field Office or the Desert District Office. A Field Office contact list is provided for your convenience.

If you have written information or comments you would like to share, please let us know.

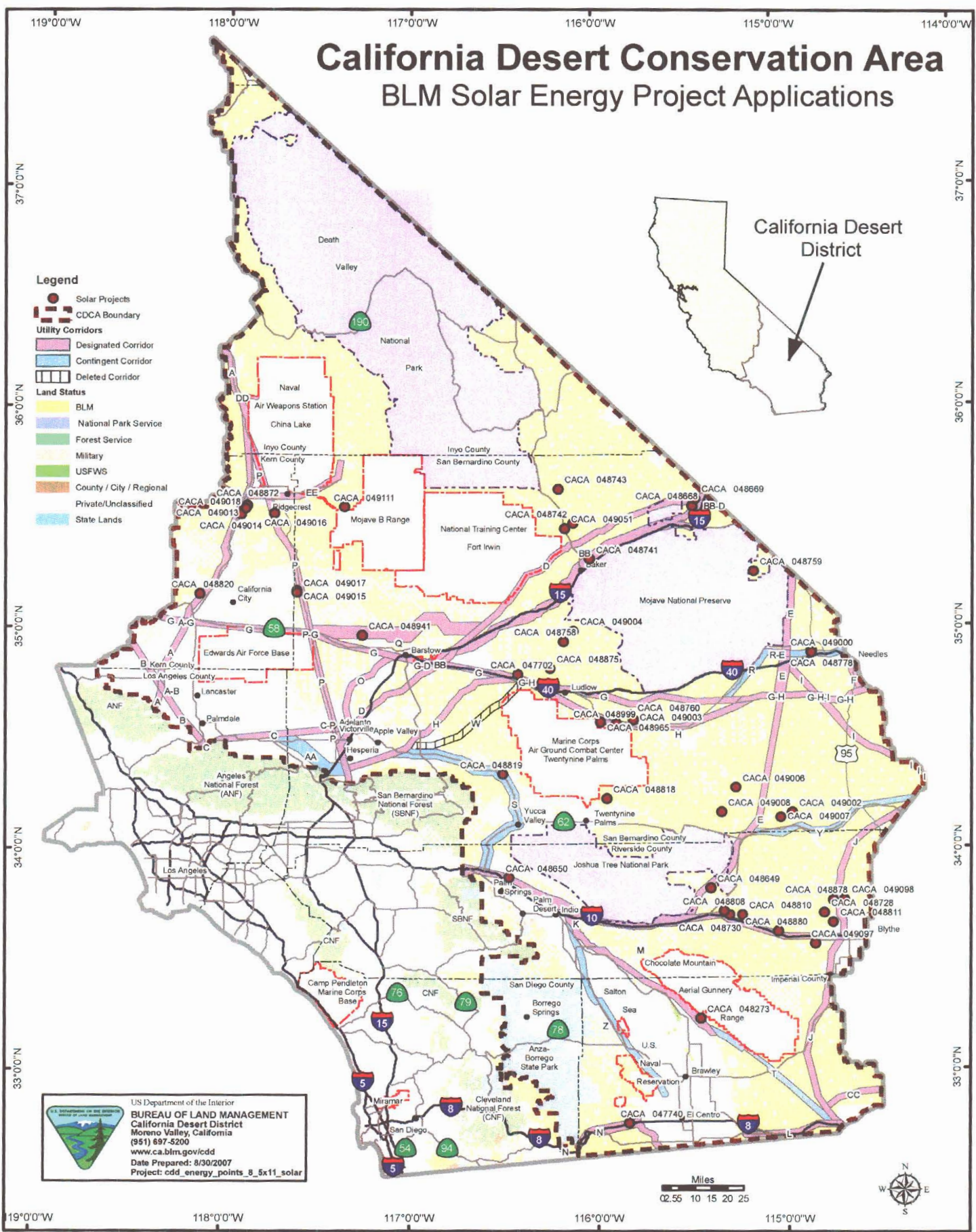


for Steven J. Borchard
District Manager

Attachments

Maps
List of Current Applications
Field Office Contacts

California Desert Conservation Area BLM Solar Energy Project Applications



California Desert District

Legend

- Solar Projects
- CDCA Boundary
- Utility Corridors**
- Designated Corridor
- Contingent Corridor
- Deleted Corridor
- Land Status**
- BLM
- National Park Service
- Forest Service
- Military
- USFWS
- County / City / Regional
- Private/Unclassified
- State Lands

US Department of the Interior
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 Moreno Valley, California
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**California Desert District
Solar Energy Applications
August 2007**

Field Office	Serial Number	Applicant	Acreage	Megawatts (Mw)	Planned Technology	Geographic Area
Barstow	CACA 47702	SES Stirling Energy Systems, Inc. Solar One LLC	6,462.	850 Mw	Stirling engines 34,000 full phase	Near Pisgah North of I-40
	CACA 48563	SES pilot site	15	1 Mw	Stirling engine 40 dishes	near Pisgah
	CACA 48741	Solar Investments LLC (G-S)	6,400	800 Mw	Solar Trough	near Baker
	CACA 48742		9,600	1,000 Mw	Solar Trough	Silurian Valley
	CACA 48743		10,000	1,200 Mw	Solar Trough	near Salt Hills
	CACA 48875	DPT Broadwell Lake LLC	5,128	500 Mw	Power tower 400-600 ft. high	Broadwell Dry Lake
	CACA 48819	Optisolar Inc.	13,440	1,000 Mw	Photovoltaic	Desert Ruby
	CACA 48818		14,440	1205 Mw	Photovoltaic	Desert Opal
	CACA 48941		4,500	585 Mw	Photovoltaic	Desert Onyx
	CACA 49051	FPL Energy, Inc.	7,680	750 Mw	Solar trough	Salt Creek; south of Silurian Dry lake, east of Fort Irwin
	CACA 49179	FPL Energy, Inc.	6,400	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Black Butte: N. of Pisgah & I-40

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Field Office	Serial Number	Applicant	Acreage	Megawatts (Mw)	Planned Technology	Geographic Area
El Centro	CACA 47740	Stirling Energy Systems, Inc. (SES) Solar Two LLC	6000 -7000	Proposed 900 Mw generation (in 3 phases) . .	Stirling Engine	Imperial County
	CACA 48273	BIO Renewable Projects, LLC	640	20 Mw.	Photovoltaic (PV)	Imperial County
	CACA 49150	BCL & Associates	16,000 to use 7,500 for use 500 acres for solar collectors & 5,740 for greenbelt	500 Mw	Photovoltaic (PV) system	Imperial County
Needles	CACA 48668	DPT Ivanpah LLC	480 2,400 6,270	300 - 400 Mw (To be built in 100 - 200 Mw phases)	Power Tower	Ivanpah, south of the California/Nevada line
	CACA 48669	GEN 3 Solar, Inc.	4,160	300 Mw	Photovoltaic	Ivanpah, south of Calif./Nevada line
	CACA 48758	Solar Investments VIII LLC	5,520	1,000 Mw	Solar Trough	Mesquite Hills
	CACA 48759	Solar Investments XIII LLC	8,960	1,000 Mw	Solar Trough	New York Mountains

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Needles	CACA 48760	Solar Investments I LLC	10,880	1,000 Mw	Solar Trough	Amboy
	CACA 48761		12,640		Solar Trough	Nipton
	CACA 48776		30,720		Solar Trough	Piute Valley
	CACA 48778	Solar Investments I LLC	5,440	1,000 Mw	Solar Trough (solar thermal)	Arrowhead Junction
	CACA 48779		15,040		Solar Trough	Camino
	CACA 48781		10,165		Solar Trough	Mountain Springs Road
	CACA 48965	IDIT, Inc.	6,680	500 Mw	Solar Trough	Stedman
	CACA 48999	IDIT, Inc.	6,080	500 Mw	Solar trough	Amboy
	CACA 49002	Leopold Companies, Inc.	37,760	4,100 Mw (100 Mw per 900 acres)	Concentrated solar power (ENTECH's technology) – no groundwater usage	Ward Valley
	CACA 4900	IDIT, Inc.	7,000	500 Mw	Solar trough	Arrowhead
	CACA 49003	Boulevard Associates, LLC	7,306	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	East Bagdad
	CACA 49004	Boulevard Associates, LLC	15,040	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Mesquite
	CACA 49005	Boulevard Associates, LLC	8,480	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Rose

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Field Office	Serial Number	Applicant	Acreage	Megawatts (Mw)	Planned Technology	Geographic Area
Needles	CACA 49006	Boulevard Associates, LLC	12,160	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Killbeck
	CACA 49007	Boulevard Associates, LLC	52,480	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Ward Valley
	CACA 49008	Boulevard Associates, LLC	35,200	1,000 mw	Solar trough	Cadiz lake
Palm Springs South Coast	CACA 48649	Optisolar	14,784	.1,000 Mw	Photovoltaic	Desert Center Area – added additional lands 2/2007.
	CACA 48878	Leopold Inc.	22,913	1,000 Mw	Solar trough Photovoltaic	Blythe area
	CACA 48810	Chevron Energy 2	5,540	500 Mw	Solar trough	Desert Center / Chuckwalla area
	CACA 48808	Chuckwalla Solar 1	4098	49 Mw	Photovoltaic & trough	Desert Center area
	CACA 48811	Chevron Energy - I	1,950	500 Mw	Solar trough	Chuckwalla area
	CACA 49098	Altera Renewable Energy Ventures	8,742			Black Hills (Blythe) north of I-10
	CACA 49097	Altera Renewable Energy Ventures	6,630			Mule Mountains
	CACA 48880	Boulevard Associates	16,094	1,000 Mw	Solar trough	Desert Center 2

**California Desert District
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Field Office	Serial Number	Applicant	Acreage	Megawatts (Mw)	Planned Technology	Geographic Area
Ridgecrest	CACA 48728	Boulevard Associates	20,652	1,000	Solar trough	McCoy
	CACA 48820	Opti-Solar "Sapphire Project"	6,000	745 Mw	Photo-voltaic	Between Aqueduct and Hwy 14 near Mojave, CA
	CACA 49017	Opti-Solar "Garnet Project"	7,200	500 Mw	Photo-voltaic	Highway 395 Kramer Junction
	CACA 49018	Opti-Solar "Turquoise Project"	11,800	400 Mw	Photo-voltaic	Freeman Junction Little Dixie Wash Area Hwy 14
	CACA 48872	Solar Millennium	11,200	1000 Mw	Parabolic trough	Freeman Junction Little Dixie Wash Area Hwy 14
	CACA 49016	Solar Millennium Ridgecrest	11,000	500 Mw	Parabolic trough	Jacks Ranch Road
	CACA 49015	Solar Millennium	5000	300 Mw	Parabolic trough	Highway 395/Cuddeback Road
	CACA 49013	IDIT, INC Redrock	8000	1,000 Mw	Parabolic trough	Redrock Area

**California Desert District
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Field Office	Serial Number	Applicant	Acreage	Megawatts (Mw)	Planned Technology	Geographic Area
	CACA 49014	AES/SEAWEST "Sage Canyon"	4,000	Not stated	Parabolic trough/ Met towers	Freeman Junction Little Dixie Wash Area Highway 14

Column

Acreage: The total acreage in the application, any phases, and the area to be developed at this time. Also the area not proposed for immediate development. It is likely that, as some projects proceed through the application process, they may reduce the initial acreage identified in the application.

Megawatts: The total Mw in the project area, Mw proposed to be developed now. It would help to describe Mw per acreage, e.g., "X" Mw per 800 acres, if that's what an applicant uses.

Planned technology: Photovoltaic (PV), Concentrating Solar power technology (CSP): parabolic trough, dish-engine system (e.g., Stirling engine), power tower system.. California Energy Commission is responsible for Certification of solar thermal plants (solar technologies other than photovoltaic) larger than 50 Mw.