

**Docket Optical System - Fwd: Creosote rings**

**From:** John Kessler  
**To:** Docket Optical System  
**Date:** 4/4/2008 1:08 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Creosote rings  
**CC:** Caryn Holmes  
**Attachments:** A3 - creosote ring on project site.jpg

<b>DOCKET</b>	
07-AFC-1	
<b>DATE</b>	APR 04 2008
<b>RECD.</b>	APR 04 2008

Dear Docket Staff:

Please docket this email and attached photo to Victorville 2 (07-AFC-1).

Thank you,

John

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>>> Caryn Holmes 4/4/2008 11:47 AM >>>

John - this should be docketed. And are we going to be talking workshop dates today?

cjh

>>> Rick York 4/4/2008 11:45 AM >>>

Good morning Victorville 2 Committee members and advisors -

Following the evidentiary hearings Commissioner Boyd and Susan Brown had some questions about creosote rings. Creosote rings are formed when a mature creosote bush (shrub) continues to branch and root from its base even after the original plant has died. This outward growth creates a ring of what appears to be individual plants, but instead is actually a ring of shrubs that are genetically identical, a clone of the original plant. These uncommon botanical wonders can be quite old. The largest and oldest known specimen, dubbed King Clone, is now protected by Fish and Game in San Bernardino County. King Clone is thought to be more than 11,000 years old and has a diameter of more than 40 feet across. Some scientists believe that creosote rings may be the oldest living creatures, older than the infamous bristlecone pines in California's White Mountains in Inyo County and much older than the largest coast redwoods in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

Staff filed the attached photo as part of the evidentiary records, however the printed version you received for the hearings was very poor quality. I've attached the original digital version so you can get a much better sense of what a creosote ring looks like. Staff found several of these on the proposed Victorville 2 site last week. The photo shows Misa Ward, the Commission's Senior Biologist, standing on the outer edge of the creosote ring located on the western edge of the proposed power plant site. This creosote ring has a diameter of more than 20 feet. Let me know if you have any further questions.

Rick

Rick York, Supervisor

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**Creosote ring on project site - March 25, 2008**