

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

Notice of Issue Resolution Workshop for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2)

The California Energy Commission staff will conduct an Issue Resolution Workshop for the proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project. The purpose is to discuss potential project-related impacts to desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and other species of special concern. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop will be held:

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Lunch Break: 1:00 – 1:30 p.m.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003
(Wheelchair Accessible)
(Directions Attached)

DOCKET	
08-AFC-2	
DATE	AUG 14 2008
RECD.	AUG 14 2008

To participate in the meeting by telephone, please call 1-888-693-8686.
Conference ID: 2824463

(Calls should be received at least 5 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.)

Purpose

The Energy Commission Staff is currently analyzing the Application for Certification (AFC) for the Beacon Solar Energy Project. Staff has provided the applicant with one set of data requests, dated June 16, 2008, which contained several requests for biological resource information. These issues were briefly discussed at the Staff Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop, held on July 22, 2008 in California City. However, all parties could not be present and issues regarding potential impacts to desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, and other special status species and development of mitigations and conditions of certification for these impacts were not resolved. The staff workshop will focus on issues identified in the June 16, 2008, data requests and the applicant's application for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the California Department of Fish and Game, with particular emphasis on the desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, burrowing owl, migratory birds, and the proposed Raven Monitoring Plan. (See the Energy Commission project website for access to all referenced documents at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon/documents/index.html>.)

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 7/31/08) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 8/14/08
MS

This will be the first of at least two Staff Issue Resolution and/or Data Response Workshops to discuss potential project-related biological resource impacts.

Background

On March 14, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification from Beacon Solar, LLC, (Applicant), a subsidiary of FPL Energy. The proposed project is a concentrated solar electric generating facility to be sited on approximately 2,012 acres in eastern Kern County, California. The project would use parabolic trough solar thermal technology to produce electrical power, using a steam turbine generator fed from a solar steam generator. The solar steam generator receives heated transfer fluid from solar thermal equipment comprised of arrays of parabolic mirrors that collect energy from the sun.

On April 11, 2008, the Applicant submitted an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) Application to the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (Project). The ITP Application addressed potential project-related impacts to the desert tortoise (listed as threatened by CDFG and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) and Mohave ground squirrel (listed as threatened by CDFG), and made recommendations to fully mitigate for those impacts (see the CDFG website at www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/cesa/incidental/incid_perm_proced.html for a description of the Incidental Take Permit Process, in accordance with Sections 2081(b) and (c) of the California Endangered Species Act).

The CDFG responded to the Application with requests for clarification and additional information. Staff from the Energy Commission and the USFWS also requested more information on the ITP Application and other biological resource issues discussed in the AFC. These requests for information prompted conference calls on May 21st and June 9th with the Applicant and staff from the Energy Commission, CDFG, and USFWS. One of the outcomes of those calls was a request to prepare a raven monitoring and control plan, which the Applicant submitted to the Energy Commission on July 17, 2008. However, substantive issues regarding impacts and mitigation for desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel were not resolved in the course of the conference calls, or at the Staff Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop held on July 22, 2008 in California City.

Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser provides the public with assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Questions and Access to Information

General information and documents on the proposed project are available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon/index.html> . Please direct all news media inquiries to Susanne Garfield, Assistant Executive Director, at (916) 654-4989 or email mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us. For general or technical questions on the subject matter, please contact Shaelyn Strattan, Project Manager, at (916) 651-0966 or email mstratta@energy.state.ca.us. If you are unable to attend the workshop, written comments may be sent to the staff's project manager electronically or to the Energy Commission's street address shown on the letterhead of this Notice.

Date: 8/14/08



TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Energy Facilities Siting Division

Proof of Service List

Mail Lists:

General - 7230

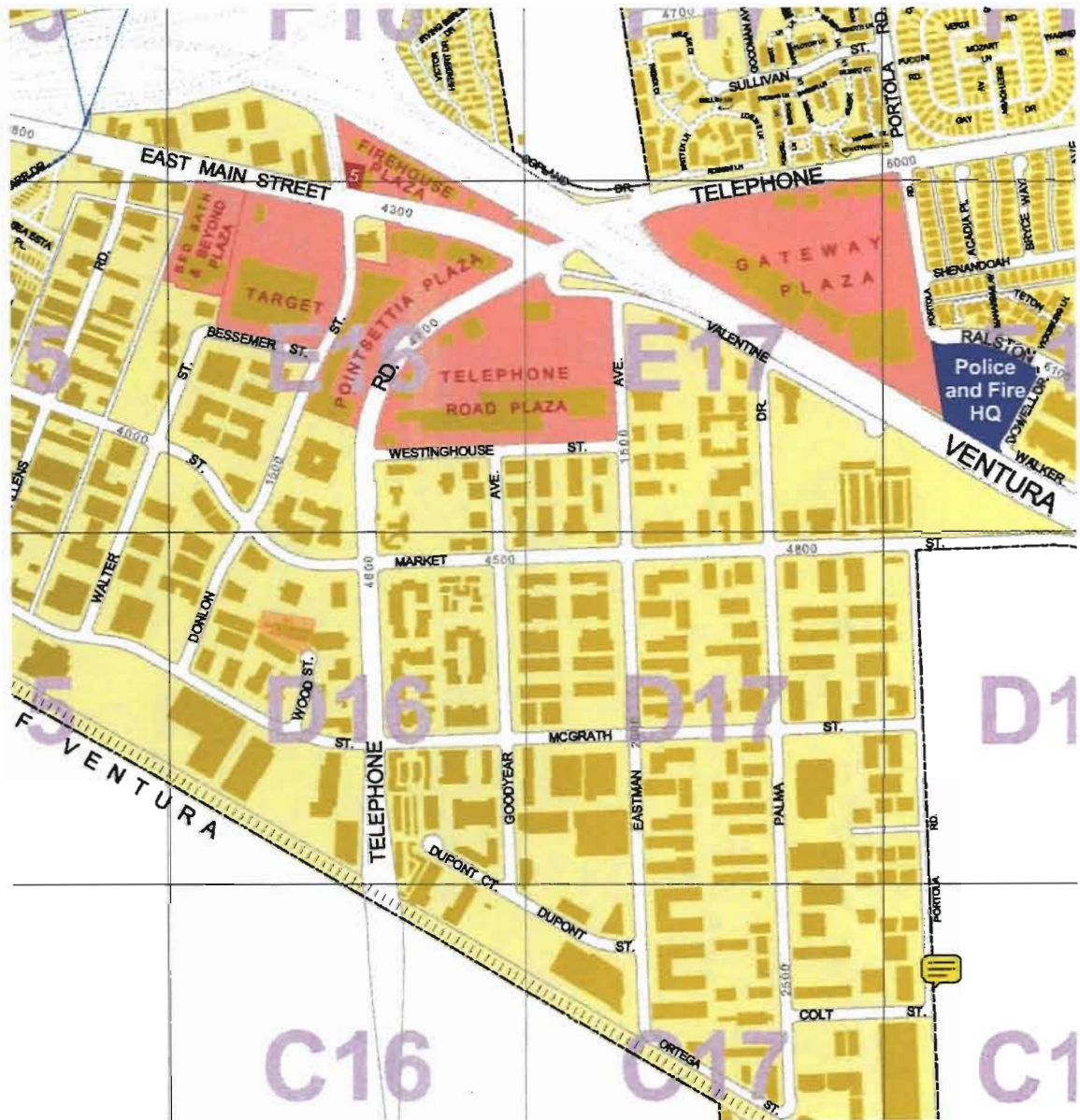
Property Owners - 7231

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ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF WORKSHOP
Notice of Issue Resolution Workshop for the Beacon Solar Energy Project

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office
 2493 Portola Road, Suite B - Ventura, CA 93003



Southbound from Santa Barbara

South on Highway 101
 Exit on **VICTORIA AVENUE** in the City of Ventura
 Turn **RIGHT** onto Valentine Road
 Valentine Road becomes Market Street
 Turn **LEFT** onto Portola Road
 Building is located at the end of the street

Northbound from Los Angeles

North on Highway 101
 Exit on **VICTORIA AVENUE** in the City of Ventura
 Turn **LEFT** onto Victoria Avenue
 Turn **RIGHT** onto Valentine Road
 Valentine Road becomes Market Street
 Turn **LEFT** onto Portola Road
 Building is located at the end of the street



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the *BEACON SOLAR ENERGY
PROJECT*

Docket No. 08-AFC-2

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 7/31/08)

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-9
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

APPLICANT

Ryan O'Keefe, Vice President
FPL Energy, LLC
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Ryan.Keefe@fpl.com

Bill Narvaez, P.E.,
Transmission Manager
FPL Energy, LLC
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Guillermo.Narvaez@fpl.com

Kenneth Stein, J.D.,
Environmental Manager
FPL Energy, LLC
700 Universe Blvd., MS JES/JB
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Kenneth.Stein@fpl.com

Meg Russell, Program Manager
FPL Energy, LLC
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, F 33408
Meg.Russell@fpl.com

Duane McCloud,
Engineering Manager
FPL Energy, LLC
700 Universe Boulevard
Juno Beach, FL 33408
Duane.McCloud@fpl.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

Sara Head, Vice President
ENSR Corporation
1220 Avenida Acaso
Camarillo, CA 93012
SHead@ensr.aecom.com

Geoffrey R. Baxter, P.E.
Project Manager
Worley Parsons
2330 E. Bidwell Street, Suite 150
Folsom, CA 95630
Geoffrey.Baxter@worleyparsons.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Jane Luckhardt, Attorney at Law
Downey Brand Attorneys LLP
555 Capital Mall, 10th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
jluckhardt@downeybrand.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

*California ISO
P.O. Box 639014
Folsom, CA 95763-9014
e-recipient@caiso.com

INTERVENORS

Tanya A. Gulesserian
Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell

ENERGY COMMISSION

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member
KLdougl@energy.state.ca.us

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner and Associate Member
Jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

Kenneth Celli
Hearing Officer
kcelli@energy.state.ca.us

Shaelyn Strattan
Project Manager
mstratta@energy.state.ca.us

Jared Babula
Staff Counsel
jbabula@energy.state.ca.us

Public Adviser's Office
pao@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Sergoyan, declare that on August 14, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached Notice of Issue Resolution Workshop for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

OR

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Maria Sergoyan