

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 NINTH STREET  
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www.energy.ca.gov

**DOCKET****07-AFC-8**DATE MAY 04 2009RECD. MAY 04 2009

May 4, 2009

Ms. Sierra Rodriguez  
1530 Santa Rosa Street, Apt. 2  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Subject: Carrizo Energy Solar Field (07-AFC-8) –  
Staff's Response to Your 4/29/09 Letter Regarding the Staff Assessment**

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

I am responding to your letter to me that I received on April 29, 2009 expressing concern that the Energy Commission should prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and consider a number of potential environmental effects from the proposed Carrizo Energy Solar Farm. First of all, I want to express our appreciation that you took the time to express your concerns in writing and have given us the opportunity to respond. I believe that you will find from my explanations below that we are already addressing these issues.

The Energy Commission staff is preparing a fully comprehensive environmental assessment, which has been in-progress for well over a year. We published the Preliminary Staff Assessment in November 2008, and are in the process of preparing the Final Staff Assessment. Our Staff Assessments are prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. Our environmental review, while not technically called an "EIR", is the full functional equivalent under CEQA. We encourage you to review our Preliminary Staff Assessment, which can be found using the following URL to access the document on our Energy Commission website: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2008publications/CEC-700-2008-011/CEC-700-2008-011-PSA.PDF>.

You also expressed concern for the potential of the project to harm sensitive wildlife species and plant communities. These resources are primarily evaluated in our Biological Resources section of the Staff Assessment. In addition, we evaluate potential soil and water disturbance or contamination issues that could affect plant and wildlife habitat in other sections of the Staff Assessment including Soil and Water Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management. Furthermore, staff is continuing work on a Wildlife Corridor Study; you may be interested in more detail which can be found on:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/carrizo/documents/index.html>

Thank you again for your interest in the project and for expressing your concerns. We would be happy to address any other questions you may have. You may also reach me by phone at (916) 654-4679.

Sincerely,

John Kessler  
Project Manager

cc: Dockets 07-AFC-8