

ADAMS BROADWELL JOSEPH & CARDOZO

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

601 GATEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 1000
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080-7037

TEL: (650) 589-1660
FAX: (650) 589-5062

lmiles@adamsbroadwell.com

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

520 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 350
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4715

TEL: (916) 444-6201
FAX: (916) 444-6209

DANIEL L. CARDOZO
THOMAS A. ENSLOW
TANYA A. GULESSERIAN
MARC D. JOSEPH
ELIZABETH KLEBANER
RACHAEL E. KOSS
LOULENA A. MILES
ROBYN C. PURCHIA

OF COUNSEL
THOMAS R. ADAMS
ANN BROADWELL
GLORIA D. SMITH

June 9, 2009

James D. Boyd
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
jboyd@energy.state.ca.us

Jeffrey D. Byron
Commissioner and Associate Member
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

Paul Kramer
Hearing Officer
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
pkramer@energy.state.ca.us

DOCKET	
08-AFC-13	
DATE	<u>JUN 09 2009</u>
RECD.	<u>JUN 09 2009</u>

Re: Site Visit and Informational Hearing for SES I (08-AFC-13)

Dear Commissioners Boyd and Byron and Hearing Officer Kramer:

We are writing on behalf of CURE (we have petitioned to intervene in this proceeding) to suggest how usefulness of the site visit can be maximized. The Application for Certification for Stirling Energy System LLC's Solar One Project indicates that the Project site lacks riparian vegetation, and that it does not contain any jurisdictional water features such as lakes, streambeds or washes.¹ However, Google Earth imagery suggests that the Project area may contain several seasonal

¹ See AFC, pp. 5.6-16 and 5.6-18.
2309-004a

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lakes, or playas.² In particular, the imagery depicts several basins surrounded by what appears to be riparian vegetation.³ Views of the basins across seasons and years suggest they contain water during winter months, began to dry out in the spring, and are dry in the summer.⁴

Seasonal lakes and associated riparian vegetation are unique features that provide extremely valuable wildlife habitat in desert environments. Visual inspection of the potential playas within the Project site will provide information on their functions and values. As a result, we request that the June 22nd site tour allot time for the group to visit at least a few of the features and view any surrounding vegetation. We think this can be easily accomplished.

Specifically, a cluster of three potential playas is located near the western edge of the site. It appears these playas can be accessed by walking less than a half mile from one of the existing access roads.⁵

Two other potential playas are located in the southwest corner of the site, approximately halfway between Interstate 40 and the railroad tracks. It appears that an access road bisects these playas, with one located approximately 200 feet north of the road, and the other approximately 400 feet south of the road.⁶

Potential playas 4 and 5 are located very close to the boundary of the proposed Project site. Maps in the AFC do not provide the precision necessary to conclusively determine whether these potential playas are inside or outside of the Project area. However, based on visible mineral deposits at the location where these potential playas occur, it appears they may be part of a larger playa complex that includes land both in and out of the Project area. We believe it would be

² See attached Figure 1.

³ See attached Figures 2-4.

⁴ See attached Figure 5.

⁵ The corresponding UTM coordinates (Zone 11S; WGS 84 Datum) for these playas are:

#1) 545565 m E, 3852567 m N

#2) 545617 m E, 3852516 m N

#3) 545724 m E, 3852569 m N

⁶ The corresponding UTM coordinates (Zone 11S; WGS 84 Datum) for these playas are:

#4) 545865 m E, 3851012 m N

#5) 546247 m E, 3850792 m N

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valuable for the group to visit this area to see characteristics of the site's hydrology and potential playas.

In addition to the potential playas, a couple locations within the site have what appears to be riparian vegetation.⁷ One of the potential riparian areas is located approximately 300 feet east of Hector Road, which appears to be easily accessed by tour bus. The other potential riparian area is located in the vicinity of playas #1-3, but would require walking approximately 700 feet across a large wash to access. CURE plans to have a biologist present during the tour that can provide assistance in identifying specific resources.

We think that a little time spent like this at the beginning could help address many issues that will surely arise during the course of the proceeding. It will be time well spent. Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Loulena A. Miles

LAM:bh

⁷ The corresponding UTM coordinates (Zone 11S; WGS 84 Datum) for these potential riparian areas are:

#1) 545325 m E, 3852615 m N

#2) 550191 m E, 3850638 m N

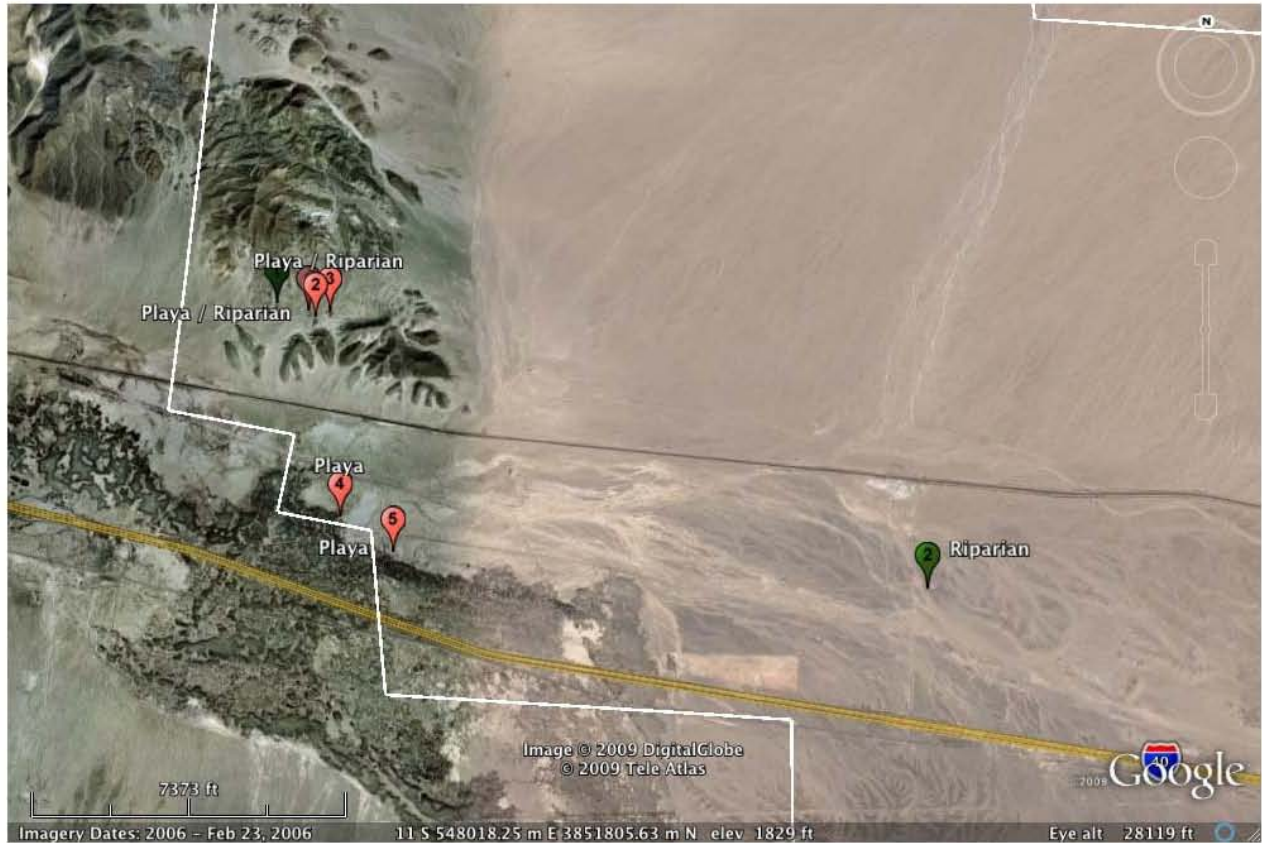


Figure 1. Location of potential seasonal lakes and riparian vegetation within the SES Solar One site.

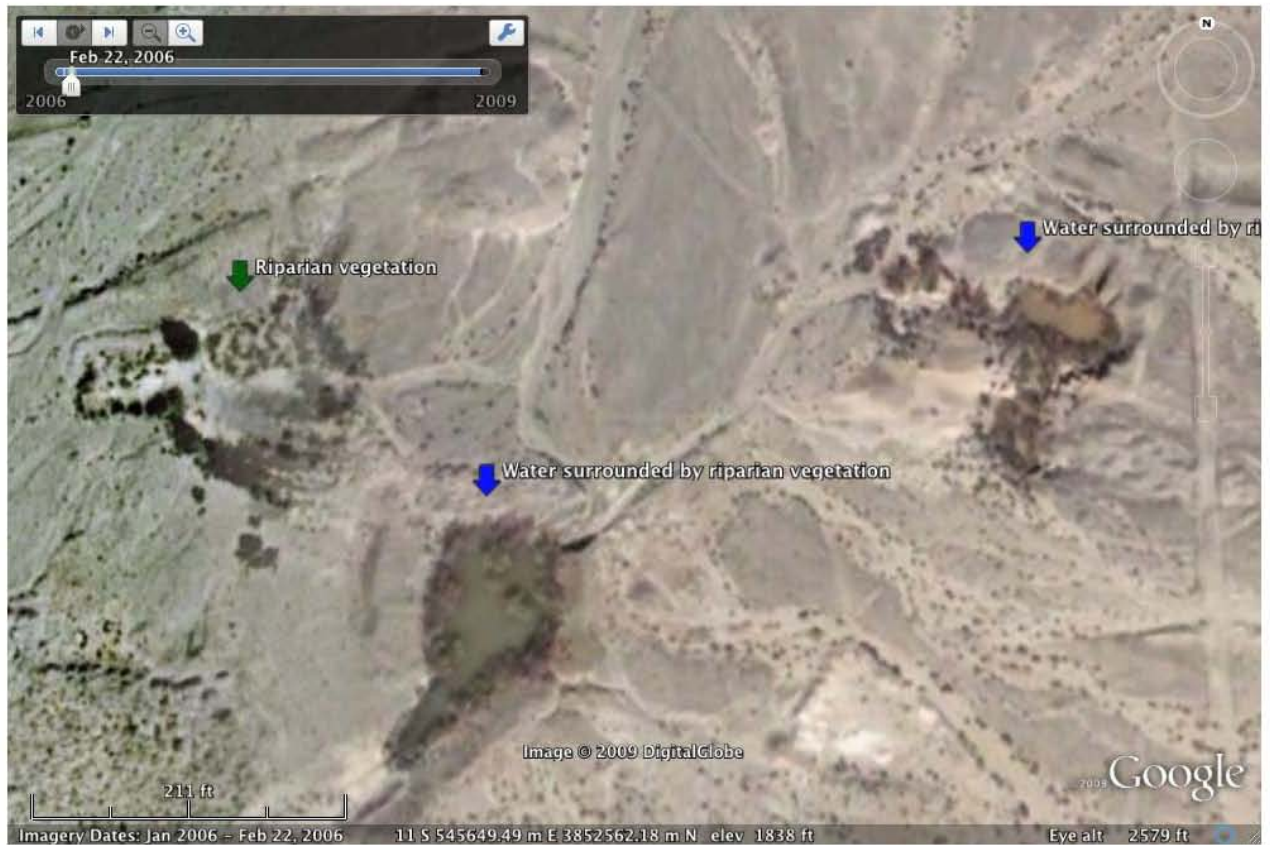


Figure 2. Playas #1-3.

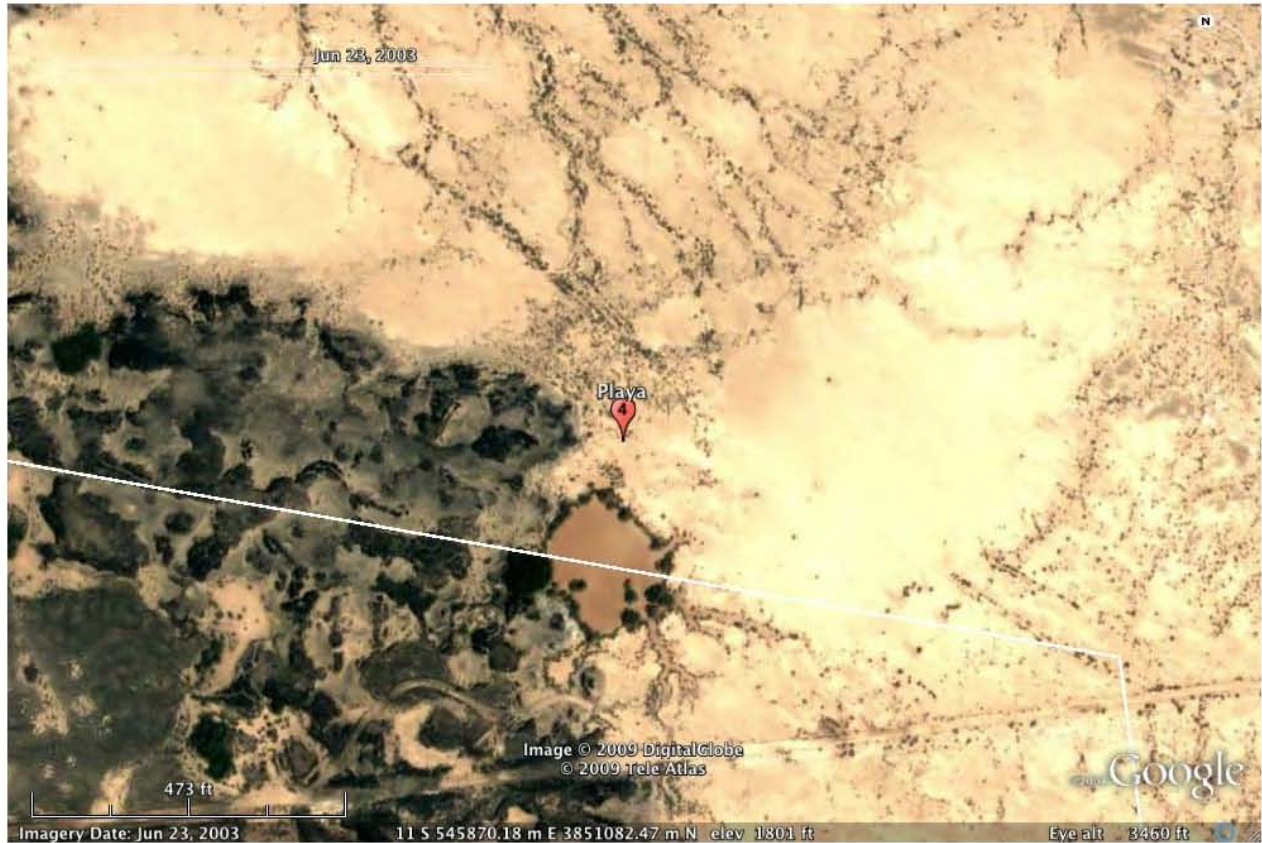


Figure 3. Playa #4.

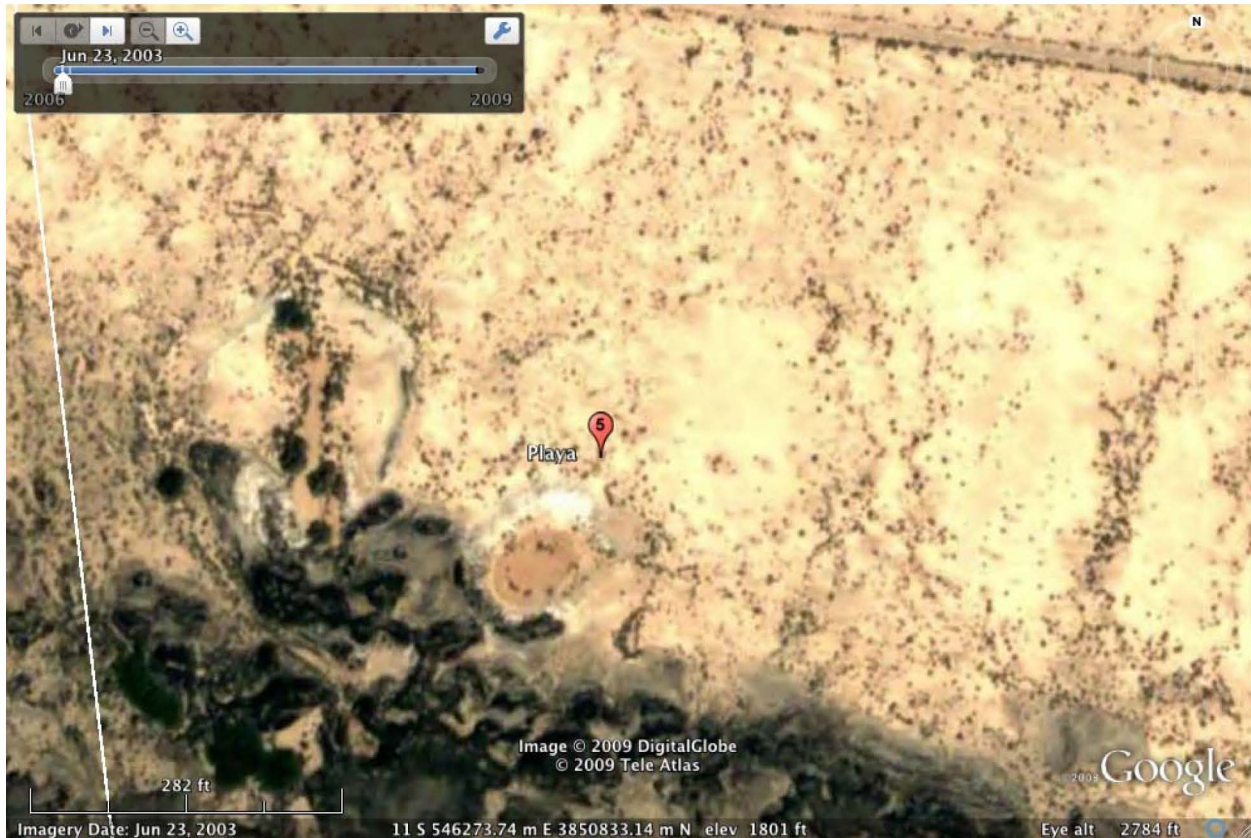
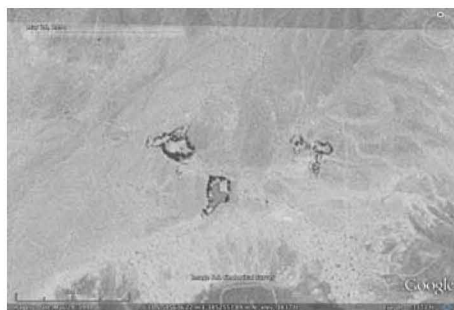


Figure 4. Playa #5.



Nov 2005



May 1994



June 2003

Figure 5. Playas #1-3 across seasons and years.



Figure 6. Riparian area #1.

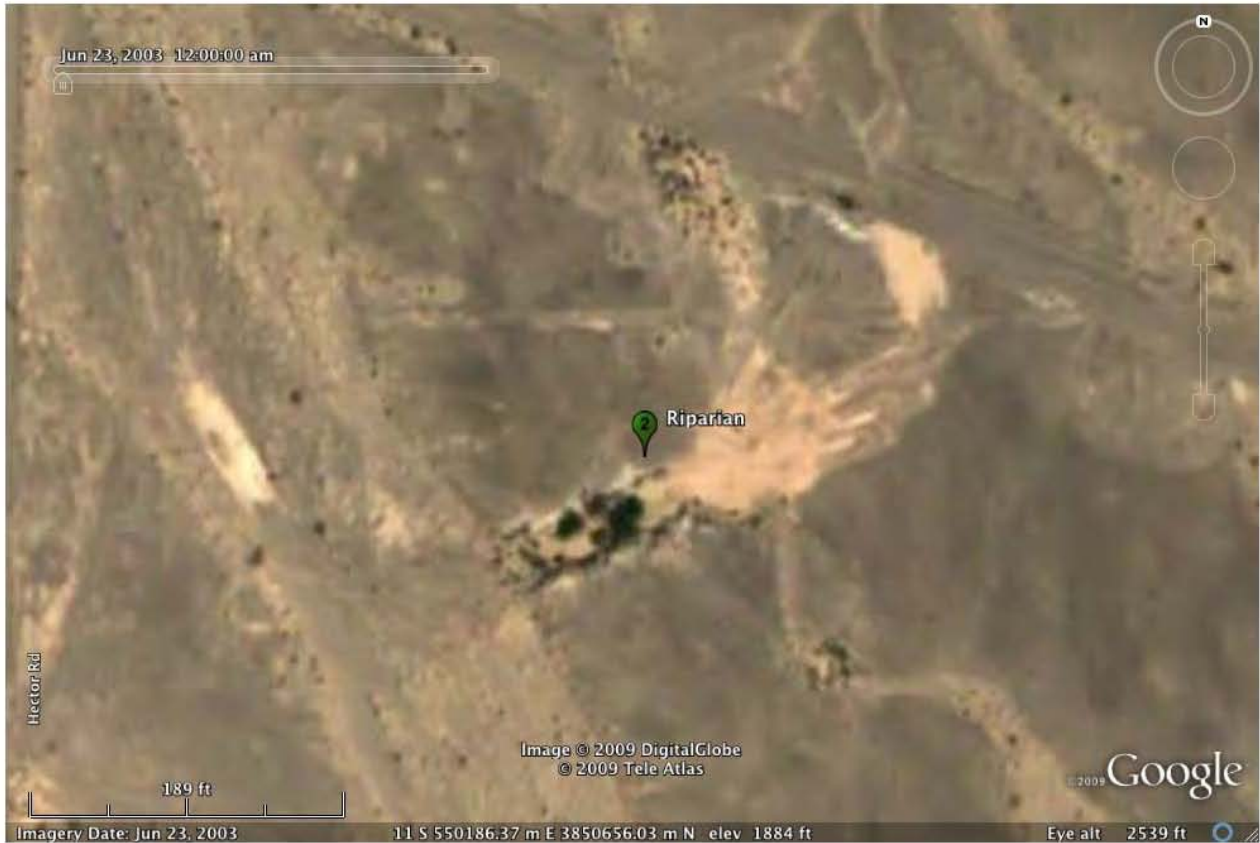


Figure 7. Riparian area #2.

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Bonnie Heeley, declare that on June 9, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached letter to Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Byron and Hearing Officer Kramer, re: Site visit and Information hearing for SES I (08-AFC-13) dated June 9, 2009. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solareone. The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding electronically and by depositing the US mail at South San Francisco, California, with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list to those addresses NOT marked “email preferred” and for filing with the Energy Commission by sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below.

<p>CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-13 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 docket@energy.state.ca.us</p>	<p>Felicia Bellows Vice President, Development Tessera Solar 4800 North Scottsdale Road Suite 5500 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 Felicia.bellows@tesseractosolar.com</p>	<p>Camille Champion Project Manager Tessera Solar 4800 North Scottsdale Road Suite 5500 Scottsdale, CA 85251 Camille.champion@tesseractosolar.com</p>
<p>Bill Magdych AFC Project Manager URS Corporation 1615 Murray Canyon Road Suite 1000 San Diego, CA 92108 Bill_magdych@urscorp.com</p>	<p>Allan J. Thompson Attorney at Law 21 C Orinda Way #314 Orinda, CA 94563 Allanori.comcast.net</p>	<p>California ISO e-recipient@caiso.com EMAIL ONLY</p>
<p>Jim Stobaugh BLM-Nevada State Office PO Box 12000 Reno, NV 89520 Jim_stobaugh@blm.gov</p>	<p>Rich Rotte Project Manager Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 Richard_Rotte@blm.gov</p>	<p>James D. Boyd Vice Chair & Presiding Member California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 jboyd@energy.state.ca.us</p>

Jeffrey D. Byron Commissioner & Associate Member California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 jbyron@energy.state.ca.us	Paul Kramer Hearing Officer California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 pkramer@energy.state.ca.us	Caryn Holmes Galen Lemei Staff Counsels California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 cholmes@energy.state.ca.us glemei@energy.state.ca.us
Christopher Meyer Project Manager California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us	Public Adviser California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us	

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

_____/s/_____
Bonnie Heeley