

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**DOCKET**
09-AFC-9

March 8, 2010

DATE MAR 08 2010RECD. MAR 16 2010Robert Gladden
Galati Blek LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: **Application for Confidentiality
Ridgecrest Solar Power Project, Transmission Line
Cultural Resources Records Search
Docket No. 09-AFC-9**

Dear Mr. Gladden:

On February 8, 2010, Solar Millennium LLC, filed an application for confidentiality to the above-captioned docket, on behalf of Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (Applicant). The application seeks confidentiality for Applicant's Cultural Resources Records Search Results ("Results") for the transmission line interconnection to Inyokern Substation for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project. Applicant states that the Results contain cultural resource records search information and mapping of archaeological sites and isolates. Applicant further states that the Results:

. . . specifically identifies areas of potential cultural and archaeological significance . . . The public interest will be served by nondisclosure by preventing looting of the cultural and archaeological resource sites described in (the Results). Such looting would preclude scientific study of the sites to gain data about the cultural and archeological resources of the area.

A properly filed application for confidentiality shall be granted under the California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2505(a)(3)(A), "if the applicant makes a reasonable claim that the Public Records Act or other provision of law authorizes the [Energy] Commission to keep the record confidential."

The California Public Records Act provides for the nondisclosure of archaeological site information and reports. Gov. Code, sec. 6254.10. The Public Records Act also recognizes the confidentiality principles of federal law. (Gov. Code, sec. 6254(k).) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act establishes a clear, national legal policy that all types of archaeological, paleontological, and cultural resource site locations must be kept confidential in order to preserve them. (16 U.S.C. sec. 470hh.) Non-disclosure of cultural resources, such as the information that you have submitted in the Cultural Resources Records Search Results, is expressly in the public interest.

Therefore, Applicant's February 8, 2010, confidentiality application for the Cultural

Robert Gladden

March 8, 2010

Page 2

Resources Records Search Results is granted in its entirety. The Results will be kept confidential for an indefinite period.

Any subsequent submittals related to cultural resources can be deemed confidential as specified in this letter without the need for a new application under California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 2505(a)(1)(G) and 2505(a)(4), if you file a certification under penalty of perjury that the new information is substantially similar to the information granted confidentiality by this determination.

Be advised that persons may petition to inspect or copy records that I have designated as confidential. The procedures and criteria for filing, reviewing, and acting upon such petitions are set forth in the California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 2506. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Deborah Dyer, Senior Staff Counsel, at (916) 654-3870.

Sincerely,

/S/

MELISSA JONES
Executive Director

cc: Docket Unit
Energy Commission Project Manager