

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



Notice of Energy Commission Staff Workshops on the Staff Assessment/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8)

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff will conduct workshops on the joint Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Energy Commission Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS) for the Genesis Solar Energy Project on April 19, 20 and 21, 2010. Participants and the public are encouraged to participate via telephone to minimize travel. The workshops will be held:

Monday, April 19, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **800-988-9478** (pass code: **36748**)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **888-606-5914** (pass code: **58430**)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **888-942-9536** (pass code: **57916**)

**California Energy Commission
Hearing Room B
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
(Wheelchair Accessible)**

DOCKET 09-AFC-8
DATE <u>04/08/10</u>
RECD. <u>04/08/10</u>

PURPOSE

The purpose of these workshops is for staff to summarize its conclusions and to receive comments from the applicant, public, interveners and local, state and federal agencies. Environmental and engineering related topics and any outstanding issues contained in the SA/DEIS will be open for discussion, with the following focus for each day:

- Monday: *Alternatives, Biology, Cultural Resources, Soil and Water Resources*
- Tuesday: *Biology, Soil and Water Resources*
- Wednesday: *Biology, Soil and Water Resources, and any other topic*

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 3/10/10) FILED WITH
 ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 4/8/10

MS

Comments from the workshop and any written communications will be used to revise the SA/DEIS and complete the Supplemental Staff Assessment. Public comments on the SA/DEIS are welcome and encouraged to be submitted in writing by May 8, 2010, to Mike Monasmith, Project Manager, at the address on this letterhead.

BACKGROUND

On August 31, 2009, the Energy Commission began review of the project. The Energy Commission has the exclusive authority to certify the construction, modification, and operation of thermal electric power plants 50 MW or larger in California. The Energy Commission certification is in lieu of any permit required by state, regional, or local agencies and federal agencies to the extent permitted by federal law (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25500). The Energy Commission must review thermal power plant applications for certification (AFC) to assess potential measures to mitigate identified impacts, and to insure compliance with applicable governmental laws or standards (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25519 and Sec. 25523(d)). The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If approved by the Energy Commission, the decision will establish the conditions under which the project shall be constructed, operated, and decommissioned.

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the BLM is responsible for processing applications for rights-of-way to authorize the proposed project and associated transmission lines and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing applications, the BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires that federal agencies consider the environmental impacts associated with the projects they approve.

The purpose of the BLM action is to provide the applicant a decision in processing its application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant for legal use and access of the public lands in Riverside County, California managed by the BLM. The need for BLM action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA, NEPA and other federal laws to respond to Genesis Solar, LLC's (applicant) request for a ROW for legal access to construct, operate and decommission a proposed concentrated solar thermal generation plant and related facilities on the public lands. BLM will decide whether or not to grant a ROW, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

The ROW application, if granted, would also create the need for amending the BLM California Desert Conservation Plan (1980 as amended) (CDCP). The purpose of the CDCP amendment is to ensure the public lands are managed according to the principles of multiple use identified in FLPMA while managing valid existing rights and other obligations established. The proposed amendment is necessary to address changing resource demands and technological development proposals on public lands. The CDCP as amended requires (page 95) that "Sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the Plan (as is this case) will be considered through the Plan Amendment process."

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BLM and the Energy Commission staff are conducting a joint environmental review of the Genesis Solar Energy Project in a NEPA/ CEQA process. It is in the interest of the BLM and the Energy Commission to share in the preparation of a joint environmental analysis of the proposed project to avoid duplication of staff efforts, to share staff expertise and information, to

promote intergovernmental coordination at the local, state, and federal levels, and to facilitate public review by providing a joint document and a more efficient environmental review process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us. If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar.

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. By being on this email list, you will receive all project-related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review. If you have any questions related to the automatic email notification list, please contact Maria Sergoyan, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by email at: msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

Date: _____

TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission & Environmental
Protection Division

Proof of Service List
Mail Lists (09-AFC-8)

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF WORKSHOPS GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (09-AFC-8)

Monday, April 19, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **800-988-9478** (pass code: **36748**)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

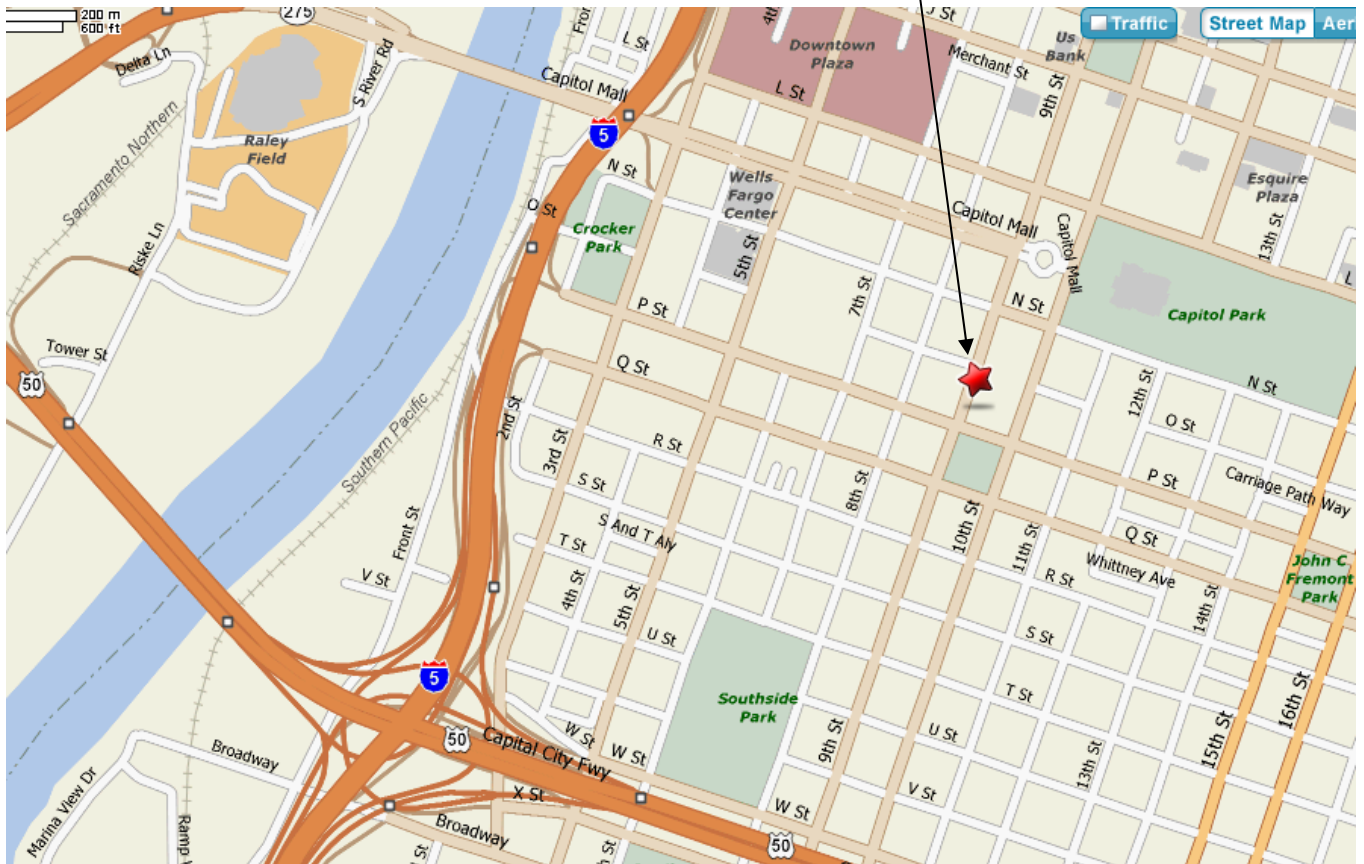
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1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
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BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE
GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT**

Docket No. 09-AFC-8

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 3/10/10)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on April 8, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Staff Workshops on the SA/DEIS for Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8), dated April 8, 2010. 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: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar].

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

- ☒ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- ☐ by personal delivery;
- ☒ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

- ☒ sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

OR

- ☐ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-8
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally Signed by _____
Maria Santourdjian