



ERIC HAMBURG

July 27, 2010

California Energy Commission
c/o Energy Commission Docket Unit
1516 Ninth Street
M/S-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. 07-AFC-5 - The Commission's Presiding Member's Proposed Decision on the BrightSource Energy application for the Ivanpah Solar Generating System (ISEGS)

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for soliciting public comments regarding the ISEGS Proposed Decision.

As a 40+ year California resident and a homeowner both in Los Angeles and in the Morongo Basin I am extremely concerned about this plan to turn public lands over to industry in ways that will negatively affect the public's ability to enjoy those vital resources.

I have read of the Proposed Decision and am troubled by a number of its aspects. Among them are:

- The translocation plan for tortoises is in draft form and is not available for public review. It is also my understanding that the Mojave National Preserve has not agreed to be the recipient of such a translocation and even if it does, a full, separate NEPA review should be undertaken for the relocation to take place. These reviews should be made available to the public for comment prior to any Decision being finalized.
- How will the loss of 4,000 acres of recreation land used by the public for hiking, birdwatching, camping and wildlife viewing next to the Mojave Preserve be made up for? A "Solar and Ecological Interpretive Center", as I understand is being proposed as mitigation by the county, will not to say the least, make up for losing the experience of the quiet, wild desert.
- Desert vistas should not be destroyed by industrialization and glare.

While I appreciate and agree with the need for exploring and implementing alternatives to fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources, I strongly believe that such plans, as the one contemplated by the Proposed Decision, must be well thought out, particularly in any aspects that will degrade the public's ability to enjoy one of California's most precious resources, that being our irreplaceable desert.

I urge you take my concerns and the comments you receive from others into account and delay your action on this Proposed Decision so that damage from this project does not take place.

Sincerely yours,

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