

KIM SNYDER

DOCKET

07-AFC-5

DATE AUG 27 2010

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August 27, 2010
Jeffrey D. Byron
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
1516 Ninth Street
MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Docket No. 07-AFC-5

Dear Mr. Byron:

I am writing today to express my concern over the California Energy Commission's Presiding Member's Proposed Decision on the BrightSource Energy application for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS).

I have sincere concern, as a resident of California, and frequent visitor to the Mojave Desert, of the impact that the proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System would have on the area.

In the Decision, it is noted that:

“The contribution of ISEGS, in combination with the many other renewable energy projects proposed for the Ivanpah Valley and Mojave Desert, to the loss of desert lands, is cumulatively significant. Lands formerly available for multiple uses—habitat, grazing, recreation, and open space— would no longer be available for those uses once a power plant is constructed.”

I believe that this project alone is significant to the open space and recreation opportunities being destroyed, and that includes bird watching, hiking, and wildlife viewing which will no longer be available

to me or to future generations. Not only will I not be able to enjoy these lands, which are public lands, but the destruction of the tortoise habitat is deeply disturbing, and should not be allowed to occur.

It is my understanding is that the Ivanpah Valley is within the Northeastern Recovery Unit, which has tortoises with very unique genetic make-up. If these tortoises are relocated, there are numerous problem which occur. It is imperative that any mitigation land acquired by the applicant for the loss of tortoise habitat be kept within this northeastern Mojave Desert area, not across the desert as California Energy Commission has allowed. Because this genetic population is unique, and the Ivanpah Valley is the only place in California which contains it, no projects should be allowed to destroy tortoise habitat and take (kill) tortoises. There has been no time for public review of the Tortoise Translocation Plan.

Our open space in America seems to be constantly dwindling, and an installation such as the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in the remaining open space in the Mojave Desert, which is an environmentally sensitive area full of unique plant and animal life, would cause unexpected problems now, and into the future.

There are so many changes to the Final Environmental Impact Statement that have not been fully vetted in evidentiary hearings or public review that the project needs to be delayed so that the public can review everything.

While I laud the idea of cleaner energy, I do not believe that this installation in the Mojave Desert is a good solution to our energy needs.

Please say no to the BrightSource Energy application for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System.

Sincerely,

Kim Snyder