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DOCKET 07-AFC-5
DATE _____
RECD. SEP 03 2018

Energy Commission's Docket Unit
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. 07-AFC-5

To the Commissioners of the California Energy Commission;

I am writing to encourage you to delay the BrightSource Energy application for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS).

California and United States laws require the protection of desert tortoises. Not enough is known about the effects of the planned translocation of these animals to proceed without further study. Moving these animals now will subject them to starvation and loss of life on the highways as they attempt to return to their accustomed environments.

The light glare effects on wildlife, migrating birds, and local traffic (tourist or otherwise) will be deleterious at best. How will we be assured that rare birds on Clark Mountain (an Internationally Important Bird Area according to Audubon) will not be killed by the three giant power towers? Whippoorwills, Hepatic tanagers, and Gray vireos breed here, and the first two species nowhere else in California.

Furthermore, this project site is on an active floodwash alluvial fan below Clark Mountain. The first rule of the desert is "don't build in a wash." It may not happen today, it may not happen next year, but there will be a flood through here.

Finally, it's preposterous to destroy a beautiful ecosystem for an industrial purpose when there are industrial sites that can be used instead. The Commission has no need to hand over public lands to industry. The public owns that land, not BrightSource. People use this valley for camping, hiking, birdwatching, rockhounding, and wildlife viewing. How will the loss of this recreational land be alleviated?

Please do not allow this project to go forward without sufficient attention to these issues. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Katherine J. Smith