

**Docket Optical System - Docket # 09-AFC - 10**

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**From:** Bill Harper <bharper@pacific.net>  
**To:** <docket@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 12/13/2010 2:17 PM  
**Subject:** Docket # 09-AFC - 10

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COMMENTS ON DOCKET NUMBER 09-AFC-10  
Please enter these comments into the record for this project.

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Rice Valley Solar Issues  
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12/12/10

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-10</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<u>DEC 13 2010</u>
<b>RECD.</b>	<u>DEC 13 2010</u>

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
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RICE SOLAR PROJECT  
Docket # 09-AFC-10  
Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph. D  
Presiding Committee Member

RE: Comments on the PMPD for Rice Solar Project -

Dear Sir:

I feel strongly that the project will cause SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS to which will not be mitigated by this proposal. These impacts are to Cultural Resources, and Safety of Motorist and Visual Deterioration of a highly scenic area.

The Patton Camp of Rice Valley should be a National Monument to the great effort this country made during W W II. This great outdoor museum is open everyday for exploration. Scraping up the artifacts and boxing them away somewhere cannot ever replace this kind of accessibility. I have witness the thrill of young hands touching history; an old C-ration can, shells of all sizes or tracing old communications wire from foxhole to a gun emplacement.

A 600 ft. tall tower glowing white hot next the highway is preposterous. The narrow scenic road has several jogs in it at the top of low rises in the tower vicinity. At 60 MPH these require full attention to stay in your lane. Other valleys were designated utility corridors because folks recognized them as a detrimental to the view. When exploring the area and viewing the valley from the Arica, Turtle, Big Maria's and Little Maria's mountains this uncluttered view has been enjoyed by me and many others on many trips over the last 12 years.

The botanical survey was done in the late summer after a one inch rain in August. I was in the valley this spring after several inches of rain and saw the biggest spread of desert lilies and other flowers ever.

Tortoise relocation does not work. A tortoise has at least a half dozen borrows that his alone, already dug to his size spread out amongst food sources. This spring we counted eight tortoises in seven days.

Three five acres evaporation ponds. What will be concentrated by the evaporation pond? Will it attract migrating birds? What is the affect on birds which navigate by the sun by having another white hot sun in the sky?

I have seen the Rice-Midland close off with blowing sand in less than 24 hours. This is up wind of the site. I have experienced a period of 48 hours with visibility in the hundreds of yards during dust storms. I doubt if the polished surfaces and moving parts can handle this. The amount of voluble water being used to wash the mirrors is probably underestimated.

Up to 40 % of the power is lost in transmission lines. Another reason power should be made where it is used.

Current rooftop grid-tie photovoltaic systems are being Installed for 8 to 10 dollars per watt. A local company is advertising \$6.50 per watt. I had it for 20 years. No moving parts. I live in the foggy coastal belt. Public money could be better spent on rooftop and parking lot solarization where power lines and need are side by side..

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill Harper