CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

REPORT OF CONVERSATION **Page 1 of 1**

DOCKET
11-AFC-2
DATE FEB 23 2012
RECD. JUN 01 2012

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

FILE: 11-AFC-2

PROJECT TITLE: Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

☐ Email	☒ Phone	☐ Meeting Location:

NAME:	Sandy Cleland, Agricultural Standards Officer Level 4	**DATE:**	February 23, 2012 March 20, 2012	**TIME:**	11:00 AM 1:00 PM
WITH:	San Bernardino County Ag Commission				

SUBJECT:

In response to question regarding current agricultural operations occurring in Mesquite Valley, Sandy identified the crops being grown include sod, alfalfa for hay, and most recently potatoes. Sandy identified alfalfa is currently a value crop of high prices for hay and demand in the California Central Valley.

Sandy also identified three new wells have been constructed to provide water for irrigating.

Sandy identified the reason that farming is occurring in Mesquite Valley results from cheap land, an available and viable groundwater resource, and a potential growing industry.

Lastly, Sandy identified the decrease in sod farming is a result of decreased demand in Las Vegas for landscaping in new residential developments. In response to question regarding current agricultural operations occurring in Mesquite Valley, Sandy identified there is approximately 1,700 acres of irrigated land in Mesquite Valley portion of San Bernardino County. Some of the acreage is being experimented with to determine what crops will grow (e.g., potatoes, corn).

There are two major agricultural operators which include Valley Sod, who owns approximately 600 acres, and Two Hawk, who owns approximately 1,100 acres. These two operators have made numerous improvements to the soil over the past 30 years. Some improvements come from cooperation with a dairy in Pahrump which supplies them with fertilizer.

The crops being grown in Mesquite Valley require lots of water (i.e., water intensive crops). One example is alfalfa which is a Middle Eastern plant that tolerates heat but requires abundant water.

CC: John Hope Amanda Stennick Project File	**Prepared by:** John Hope / Mike Monasmith