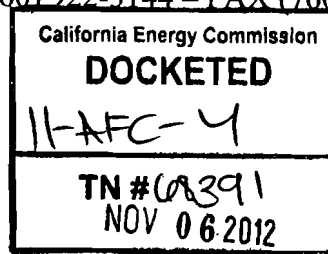




PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
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California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 11-AFC-04
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



November 1, 2012

Re: Palo Verde Irrigation District's comments on Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility Preliminary Staff Assessment Part B issued Oct. 2012. (11-AFC-04)

Dear Energy Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility Preliminary Staff Assessment Part B issued Oct. 2012. The following comments are provided:

1. Page 4.2-6, bottom of third paragraph: PVID's Outfall Drain flows into the old River Channel in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. The old River Channel enters the River in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge not south of it.
2. Page 4.3.6 and all other references to Private Drain No.1 in PVID: Based on information provided PVID this is a mis-identified item--- it is not a drain, it is an unlined farmer's irrigation ditch lying east of Highway 78 at 30th Avenue carrying water from PVID's delivery #120E in C03 Canal.
3. Page 4.3-140, second paragraph: The Imperial Valley and the Palo Verde Mesa have been intertwined in the text. In order for the mesa to slope westerly for gravity irrigation from the River, one has to go almost 7 miles west of the Palo Verde Valley to the west side of the Mule Mountains before ground slopes westerly toward the Imperial Valley down Arroyo Seco. One has to go west another 50 miles before ground surface is lower than the Colorado River at the Imperial County Line. Water would have to be pumped from the river to a high reservoir with its water surface elevation around 420 to 450 feet above sea level for proposed Palo Verde mesa ground to be gravity irrigated. In the late 1970s to 1980s, jojoba was irrigated from deep wells on the mesa.
- 4 Page 4.3-141, third paragraph, second sentence: Diversions from the River were not made to Palo Verde Drain. Palo Verde Drain in PVID is north of the town-site of Palo Verde. Palo Verde Drain Arizona was constructed around 1955 to drain south end of Parker Valley and enters river below Palo Verde Diversion Dam. The early valley development used Olive Lake Bend as a source until facilities could be built on the river at Black Point and at existing dam site. The original intake at Black Point was closer to 11 miles northeast of Blythe while the existing dam site was 10 miles.
5. Page 4.3-141, middle fourth paragraph: In 1923 there were not 3 water companies in the Palo Verde area. There were three agencies in the Valley that were combined in the 1923 Special Act that created PVID: Palo Verde Mutual Water Co, Palo Verde Joint Levee District, and Palo Verde Drainage District.
6. Figure 15: Palo Verde and Hodges Drains are not accurately portrayed in the Figure.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please call.

Thank you,
Roger Henning
Roger Henning
Chief Engineer