



# CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**Siting, Transmission and  
Environmental Protection  
Division**

**FILE: 11-AFC-04**

**PROJECT TITLE: Rio Mesa Solar Electric  
Generating Facility**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	WebEx call	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:
<b>NAME:</b> Christopher Dennis	<b>DATE:</b> Nov. 6, 2012	<b>TIME:</b> 9:00 am
<b>WITH:</b>	Roger Henning (PVID), Richard Gilmore (PVID), Mike Tietze (Jacobson James), Mark Trudell (WorleyParsons), Mike Flack (AECOM), Chris Dennis (Energy Commission), Karim Abulaban (Energy Commission), Mike Conway (Energy Commission)	
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Written Comments by the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID)	

This WebEx conversation was held to clarify comments made in letters by the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), dated October 26, 2012 and November 1, 2012. These letters raised concerns of PVID about the groundwater basin balance and groundwater modeling completed for the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) and proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (Rio Mesa SEGF). The letters received by the Energy Commission from PVID are:

- November 1, 2012 Part A. Palo Verde Irrigation District's comments on Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility Preliminary Staff Assessment *Part A* issued Oct. 2012. (11-AFC-04). Docket Number TN68389.
- November 1, 2012 Part B. Palo Verde Irrigation District's comments on Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility Preliminary Staff Assessment *Part B* issued Oct. 2012. (11-AFC-04). Docket Number TN68391.
- October 26, 2012. Blythe Solar Power Project (09-AFC-6C) Riverside County, CA, Numerical Groundwater Flow Model of the Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa (Soil & Water-l6) dated October 2010. Submitted as an attachment to the November 1, 2012 Part A letter. Docket Number TN68389.

The November 1, 2012 Part A letter and the October 26, 2012 letter discuss what PVID believes are inaccuracies in the groundwater basin inputs used for the modeling analysis in the Rio Mesa SEGF Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and for BSPP compliance analysis. During the meeting BrightSource indicated they will incorporate the comments and new information provided by PVID into the conceptual basin budget and will then evaluate the conceptual basin budget with the model calibrated budget and report any resulting changes to the groundwater model results.

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The Part A letter also discusses potential storm water runoff impacts down gradient of the proposed Rio Mesa SEGF. The PVID raised the concern that the Rio Mesa SEGF solar field could increase the impervious surface area and thereby increase storm water runoff that could adversely affect the PVID property and the Hodges Drain down gradient of the proposed Rio Mesa SEGF. Staff agreed to further evaluate this potential impact and address this comment in the FSA.

The November 1, 2012 Part B letter discusses PVID's concerns related to inaccuracies in the PSA Biological Resources section and, therefore, was not included in this WebEx conversation. A copy of the letter, however, was forwarded to the Energy Commission biologist working on the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the proposed Rio Mesa SEGF.

BrightSource will respond to PVID's comments by November 19, 2012. Their response will be submitted to the Energy Commission as part of their Rio Mesa SEGF PSA comments. The Energy Commission will consider PVID's comments and BrightSource's response when completing the analysis for the FSA.

<b>cc:</b> Pierre Martinez	<b>Signed:</b>
	<b>Name:</b> Christopher Dennis