

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**  
**09-AFC-7C**

TN 71123

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June 5, 2013

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

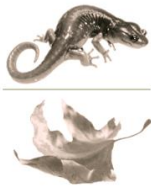
**Subject: PSEGS SPRING 2013 GOLDEN EAGLE NEST SURVEY RESULTS  
INTERIM REPORT  
PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM  
DOCKET NO. (09-AFC-7C)**

Enclosed for filing with the California Energy Commission is the electronic version of **PSEGS SPRING 2013 GOLDEN EAGLE NEST SURVEY RESULTS INTERIM REPORT**, for the Palen Solar Electric Generating System (09-AFC-7C).

Sincerely,



Marie Fleming



## Bloom Biological, Inc.

Research | Consulting | Conservation

April 15, 2013

Ms. Alice Karl

[via email]

**SUBJECT:** Initial Palen Eagle Nest Survey Results

Dear Ms. Karl:

The following is an interim report to let you know what we have found to date from Golden Eagle ground and helicopter surveys during the early spring effort. I still advise that we perform a complete aerial survey of the Chuckwalla Mountains, but that we wait until the end of BHS lambing season (July 1) when we can fly below 1,500 ft.

Flown by Pete Bloom and Chris Niemela on April 6th and 7th, 2013. No Golden Eagle nests were known from within the 10 mile radius of the project and also located within the Palen Mountains (BLM files). The Palen Mountains were flown at approximately 500 feet, resulting in three potential golden eagle nests. Two nests are old while the third is a more recently active nest that over the decades has probably been alternated between pairs of RTHAs and Golden Eagles (most recently by RTHAs). Several active and inactive RTHA territories were identified, all in cliffs.

The known nests of the Chuckwalla Mountains were flown at > 1,500 ft. (to avoid BHS lambing issues) for the purpose of viewing nest locations, perhaps seeing eagles, and identifying and establishing a ground route whereby we might return on the ground to verify the status of known nests and known nest cliffs. No suggestion of active Golden Eagle nesting activity (eagles, eagle white wash, fresh eagle nest material, etc.) was observed at any of these sites. However, 1,500 feet is too great a distance to provide any measure of certainty. No other potential eagle nest locations in the Chuckwallas were examined. One Golden Eagle nest slightly outside the 10 mile radius and on a prominent isolated cliff was determined to be inactive by direct visual observation of the nest from the helicopter. After several hours of morning observations in early April, all other known nests appeared to be inactive eagle nests via later ground surveys. Some of these were occupied by other species, and verification of status will be determined by a proposed early July helicopter survey effort.

No eagle nests are known from the south end of the Coxcomb Mountains and also within the 10 mile radius buffer of the project. The portion of the Coxcomb Mountains (southern most end) within the 10 mile radius of the project and within Joshua Tree National Park was not surveyed by helicopter, but was examined from the ground. No Golden Eagle nests were detected.

The entire approximately 22 mile length of east-west trending DPV2 power lines within the Palen 10 mi radius survey area were checked by helicopter from < 200 feet. While no Golden Eagle nests were found, nests of active RTHAs were abundant. Follow-up helicopter surveys are proposed for mid May in the Palen Range and again after July 1 at the end of the BHS lambing season in the Chuckwalla Mountains.

Sincerely,

**BLOOM BIOLOGICAL, INC.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter H. Bloom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'B'.

Peter H. Bloom  
Zoologist/President



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
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**PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM AMENDMENT**

**Docket No. 09-AFC-7C  
PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 05/23/2013)**

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\*Indicates change

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*After docketing, the Docket Unit  
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Adviser to Presiding Member

Gabe Taylor  
Adviser to Associate Member

Eileen Allen  
Commissioners' Technical  
Adviser for Facility Siting

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Marie Fleming, declare that on June 5, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached PSEGS SPRING 2013 GOLDEN EAGLE NEST SURVEY RESULTS INTERIM REPORT, dated April 15, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

The document has been sent to the other persons on the Service List above in the following manner:

*(Check one)*

**For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:**

  X   I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the U.S. mail with first class postage to those parties noted above as "hard copy required";  
**OR**

       Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the U.S. mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: June 5, 2013

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Fleming