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via email to: docket@energy.ca.gov

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN 72381

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To DRECP:

I write regarding DRECP's Starting Point Maps and the Owens Valley Solar project. As a native of Bishop and as a climate scientist with Scripps Institution of Oceanography at U.C. San Diego I recognize both the need for conservation in the Owens Valley and the importance of developing affordable, reliable, and clean energy sources that reduce carbon emissions. The two goals share a common foundation as the severe effects of climate change operate at local scales. They also share a common resolution with California striving for energy independence and security.

SB X1-2 establishes California as a leader in shifting the large-scale energy portfolio onto a platform of renewable energy generation. However, in its present state, I oppose Owens Valley Solar not because of technological challenges associated with energy generation, storage, and use, but because of the proposed location. Bulldozing hundreds of acres of relatively undisturbed habitat characterizes development, not progress. The current plan resonates with a model of thinking that reflects unsustainable behavior and one ill-equipped for resolving complex challenges. Building sustainably means not unnecessarily destroying undisturbed land for electricity production.

I advocate relocating the proposed solar project to the previously disturbed area of Owens Dry Lake. Owens Dry Lake's topography and position at the southern end of Owens Valley culminate in an ideal setting. The dual use opportunity of integrating electricity generation with dust mitigation trumps challenges associated with installation, protection, and visibility of solar panels on the lacustrine sediments.

Investments in cleaner energy position California as a leader in energy security. Other nations and states will look to California's grid as a model for envisaging a brighter future. The urgency of the situation requires action, but not at the expense of precision. The speediness of the solar project highlights a commitment, but also suggests a capacity for change. I appreciate the transparency of the project and strongly encourage relocating Owens Valley Solar to Owens Dry Lake so that it can serve as a blueprint for the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Tomczik  
Master's Candidate  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
University of California San Diego