

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office MS-4  
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento CA 95814-5512



DRECP Contact Coordinator  
Beth Bagwell Phd, RPA  
8801 Folsom Blvd, Suite 290  
Sacramento CA 95826

RE: Comments in Opposition to the Proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Dear Dr. Bagwell

My name is Alfredo Acosta Figueroa. I am a native of the Colorado River, born in Blythe, CA, elder, historian and one of the Chemehuevi Sacred Sites Tribal Monitor.

I hereby declare:

We are vehemently opposed to the current Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) that is supposed to remedy the vast devastation the solar power projects and wind projects have caused on the pristine landscape and desert, especially on the sites that are already designated as sacred sites by the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106.

We have attended two meetings held by the DRECP Committee and we have yet to see any benefit that will enforce the laws that have been enacted by the United States Government. We see that the current proposed area in California has not deviated from the original proposed area for solar power. As the current DRECP Plan Area map shows, Eastern Riverside County, San Bernardino County and Inyo-Kern Counties did not change pertaining to the open BLM areas for solar power projects.

La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management. Excerpts from that MOU are as follows:

*Section II Definitions:*

*LCASSPC: La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle Advisory Committee A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is comprised of 15 Indigenous and culturally aware individuals who are dedicated to physically protecting the Blythe Giant Intaglios, other geoglyphs and several hundred sacred sites that are located along the Colorado River from Needles, California to Yuma, Arizona.*

*Section III State of MOU Purpose*

*This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will provide a means for the MOU signatories to work in partnership to enhance cultural resources protection, conservation, and interpretation efforts on BLM lands within the Yuma Field Office's*

*jurisdiction and the Southern Low Desert RC&D area. The purpose of this MOU is to assist the BLM with its responsibilities under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.*

*The MOU was signed by the following:*

*Thomas Burgin, President of the Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council 3/6/2008*

*Alfredo Figueroa, La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle Advisory Committee 2/15/2008*

*Jim Shipley, Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Information Center 2/29/2008*

*James T. Shoaff, Field Manager of the Bureau of Land Management Yuma Field Office 3/14/2008*

From the flyer advising of the meeting on February 19 sent by the Desert Renewable Conservation Plan:

*National Historic Preservation Plan*

*The BLM and USFWS **must comply** with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. & 306108, where their respective actions under the DRECP have the potential to adversely affect historic properties. Based on the size and complexity of the undertaking, the BLM and USFWS have determined that the development of a PA described at 36 C.F.R & 800.14 (b) is the most appropriate manner to meet our responsibilities under Section 106 of NHPA. The BLM anticipates the PA will address potential effects associated with adopting a land use plan amendment (LUPA) regarding possible siting for future utility scale renewable energy projects on BLM land. The USFWL will use the PA to address effects to historic properties and cultural resources on private property that could result from authorization of incidental take at site-specific locations where renewable energy activities that would result in incidental take would occur on the ground. The BLM and USFWS have notified the ACHP and the SHPO, and are currently identifying and inviting other parties to consult on the development of a PA for this undertaking. At this time we would like to determine whether you would like to participate in the development of the PA as a consulting party.*

Despite all the laws that have been passed to support sacred sites, these projects currently under development such as the McCoy and Blythe Solar Projects along the I-10 corridor in Eastern Riverside County are destroying sacred sites. The sacred sites are all tied together and there is no way that they can be singled out. The solar projects cannot destroy just one sacred site without destroying the sacredness of the entire area. The construction of the Blythe Solar and McCoy projects are one of the most heinous modern day crimes committed against humanity in the world and it is occurring right now along the Colorado River I-10 Corridor. The solar projects were fast-tracked and approved by BLM and the California Energy Commission. Both are in the McCoy Valley which is one of the most sacred valleys that overlooks all the area west and northwest of Blythe. This is where the Giant Kokopilli (over 200 feet long, 50 feet wide) geoglyph image is located. Also in the same group is Cicimitl (El Cucuy, ET), and over 25 other geoglyphs that include the 13 level underworld temple, cairns, sacred trails, etc. The descending human spirit called El Tosco is directly in line with Granite Peak. Granite Peak is where sky meets earth and its symbol is the X like the hour glass image. In the Nahuatl language it is called Tamoanchan, Ta-Tata/Grandfather, Moan-Meets/Merges, Chan-Chante/House. In other words, it is where the human spirits descend from the cosmos to earth.

Last month, we were at the Kokopilli/Cicimitl site and we were horrified to see the devastation of the finger meseta where the world known giant Kokopilli/Cicimitl geoglyphs are located. A modern day highway has been paved through the meseta after the solar companies excavated 10 ft deep to level the highway from the alluvial plain plus a giant concrete bridge was added where the big wash forms the northern part of the meseta. The highway begins at the I-10 frontage road to the solar site which is approximately 5 miles north. Attached is a picture that includes the paved highway with the concrete bridge at the Kokopilli/Cicimitl site. See CrewFilms Jesus drumming attachment.

During the early 1970's, Palo Verde College had a vocational program to train Native Americans as tour guides along the Colorado River and the Mesas. According to Ron VanFleet, a student in the program said that Boma Johnson of BLM was the instructor and they were shown a lot of the geoglyphs in the McCoy Valley. Also during the late 70's, CRIT representatives of the culture museum did some studies together with Southern California Edison. This was done in the McCoy Valley where the transmission lines were going to pass through.

Also in the late 70's, there were a lot of people working in the McCoy Valley gathering desert varnish round pebbles that are large, approximately 2 inches in diameter and dark. They were being sold for yard decorations in the Palm Springs area. This was when BLM under the Antiquities Act of 1906 enforced cancelling all of the mining claims and stopped all the groups that were gathering the pebbles. These pebbles were mostly on top of the mesetas where the geoglyphs are located. Likewise, the off-roaders were also stopped because they were destroying the sacred sites. In those days the off-roaders were our main concern.

The California Energy Commission's (CEC) own cultural resources investigation had found an abundant of cultural resources as stipulated in their report. C-3 Cultural Resources Docket 09-AFC-8 C.3.1 Summary of conclusions dated 06/22/10 by Elizabeth A. Bagwell, Ph.D., RPA and Beverly E. Bastian: *Staff Finds that the GSEP construction impacts, when combined with impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, contribute in a small but significant way to the cumulatively considerable adverse impacts for cultural resources at both the local I-10 Corridor and regional levels. **This analysis estimates that more than 800 sites within the I-10 Corridor and 17,000 sites within the Southern California Desert Region will potentially be destroyed. Mitigation can reduce the impact of the destruction, but not to a less-than-significant level.*** Yet the CEC has not respected nor honored its own research or the BLM's despite all our touring with them of the sacred sites and describing what they mean in the human creation story.

The Solar projects will destroy remnants of what is the North/South Quechan trail that begins at Avi Kwame-Spirit Mountain north of Laughlin Nevada and ends in Yuma in the south. The solar sites will also destroy the four circles that represent the four suns as shown in the Aztec Sunstone calendar.

In a recent article regarding the Jenko Solar Project in China, the Chinese are setting an example in protesting against the large solar panel projects in their country because they have not only contaminated their drinking water but also the climate change has ruined their agriculture industry. Apparently not even China is benefitting from these

solar panel projects. The Jenko Solar Project is an excellent example of why in the United States, we do not need these projects near agricultural land much less near the Colorado River where its water reserve in Lake Mead is barely 1/3 of its capacity and all of its water has already been allocated. Lake Mead is at its lowest level since Hoover Dam created the lake in the 1930s according to an article in the Press Enterprise of July 9, 2014. The Colorado River, as we all know, is one of the main water sources in the Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico.

All these solar power projects have to use water and they are destroying the agriculture for the water rights. That is why they are following the agricultural fields in the valley for the water rights.

Currently California is suffering its worst drought since the records have been kept. Governor Jerry Brown has declared a drought emergency allowing the State to request Federal aid. The drought is so severe that it is beginning to dry up the water supply for some of the state parks. Restrooms with flush toilets have been closed at Bliss State Park, Lake Tahoe, Hearst Castle Visitor's Center, San Simeon State Park, Portola, Redwood State Park, etc.

The Blythe Solar Power and McCoy Solar Power projects have already drilled wells from aquifers that lead to the Colorado River. The Colorado River Board of California has stipulated that all these aquifers within 50 miles go the Colorado River and any water taken from these aquifers has to be approved by the Board of Directors.

The Blythe airport is also in opposition of the solar power projects that are proposed to be built around the airport. According to Pat Wolfe, past operator of the airport, stated "currently the pilots are experiencing severe flying conditions when they fly over the Florida Light and Power Plant when they are taking off or when they are landing on the landing strip." The FLP was built despite the opposition of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). FAA regulations are that the plant was to be built no less than a mile away from the end of the runway and that the towers could not be more than 150 feet tall. These two regulations are being violated.

The Blythe airport has been declared as a backup for the Los Angeles International Airport in case it is attacked. The Blythe airport will be available to provide safe landing. Currently the Blythe airport is also used as a training site for pilots.

Fortunately no pilots have yet crashed flying above the FLP. As we know, two professional pilots of the First Solar Company crashed and died when they were flying above the Desert Sunlight Solar project. They were reviewing the damage that had been done by the summer monsoons on the solar project last year. The solar power projects create a dramatic atmospheric change. This is not just a threat to the planes but also to all flying birds, etc. These are facts that have been researched and documented at the Ivanpah Solar Power Project plus at the Israel BrightSource Power Projects sites in Israel.

According to David Danelski article of July 14, 2014, the heat created from the solar power towers of the Ivanpah plant creates up to 800 degree temperatures and now the company has trained dogs to retrieve birds that perish while flying above the solar power plant.

The Ivanpah project is currently receiving a lot of negative comments pertaining to the pilots that fly to and from Las Vegas International Airport and Nellis Air Force Base and

other airports in Southern Nevada. As a matter of fact the Ivanpah Solar Project is brightly seen from the cosmos as seen by satellite photography.

Currently, one of the most recognized butterflies is the Monarch Butterfly that has its massive migration from the Northern United States and Canada down to Michoacán in the winter. It is an endangered species. One of its western migration routes is centered through the Colorado River/McCoy Valley. The Monarch image can be seen as part of the Midland Mountain outline in the Little Maria Mountain Range. The Monarchs, along with any other butterfly flying through the area will be completely destroyed as will the birds such as the eagles, herons, etc.

Already, there are many complaints by the Mesa Verde Community residents that are suffering from bronchitis, asthma, and other respiratory illnesses that lead to Valley Fever. These illnesses are related to the dust storms caused by the leveling of the pristine desert. Solar sites have been proposed nearly surrounding the Mesa Verde Community. Likewise, the residents of East San Joaquin Valley parallel to I-5 north from Bakersfield to Fresno have been suffering grave Valley Fever epidemic. Close to a hundred inmates from the State Correctional facilities including Avalon, Corcoran, Coalinga and Delano have died from Valley Fever which was caused by the leveling of 410,000 acres. The land was supposed to be for proposed solar power projects and also to be farmed but was fallowed because of the lack of water. The fungus is carried by the dust of the fields that are fallowed. A lot of the sick prisoners have been brought to the Chuckawalla and Ironwood prisons in Eastern Riverside County.

There are five Indian Reservations in the lower Colorado River Basin Valleys. Each Native Tribe in the Colorado River has a unique identity and interpretation of the creation story given to them by the creator yet all their oral history relates to the cosmic cultural tradition. All this oral history begins in the north with Spirit Mountain down to the Gulf of California and to Rocky Point, Sonora Mexico where the last geoglyphs are. Most of the creation stories are based on oral history thousands of years old, taught to the Indigenous Elders. It reveals how it relates to the mountain images, the solstices, the equinoxes, over 300 geoglyphs which center focuses are the Blythe Giant Intaglios, Bouse Fisherman, petroglyphs, and pictographs. Fortunately, the Uto-Azteca have a few Pre-Hispanic Codices that inter-relate with the above sacred sites along the Colorado River Valleys. That is why our group has been able to inter-relate them to the surrounding areas of the Colorado River.

The Rio Mesa Solar Project that was proposed to be built at the base of the sacred Mule Mountains was denied because the Palo Verde Irrigation District and other farmers plus the Cibola Wildlife Refuge and the Indigenous Tribes of the Colorado River protested it.

The U.S. Government does not need to continue its Manifest Destiny Policy of the 1850s. The Native American cultural cosmic tradition is still alive despite its 500 years of domination by the Spanish and English. One of the worst catastrophes in the world committed against a nation was when Hernan Cortes invaded Mexico/Tenochtitlan in 1521. Mexico/Tenochtitlan was completely razed and leveled off. The Spanish built a new city on top of the old one to totally destroy the Natives' cosmic traditions. With the soldiers came the Catholic priests and what wasn't destroyed by the soldiers was going to be destroyed by the priests. This is when they implemented the notorious Spanish Inquisition of the Holy Catholic Roman Church. They even built churches on top of the

pyramids and other sacred sites like the cathedral in downtown Mexico City (Templo Mayor) was built on top of the Twin pyramids. The Inquisition was in operation for over 300 years until the Mexica ousted the Spanish in 1821.

The Natives of the southwest, especially from California were finally free to practice their cosmic cultural tradition when Governor Jose Figueroa secularized all of the Catholic Mission lands in 1836 and gave them back to the natives. This freedom was short lived and only lasted 12 years until the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. This ended the war with the United States. This is when the Manifest Destiny policy was in full swing. All the land from sea to shining sea belonged to the Anglo-Saxons.

In the lower Colorado River Basin Valleys, the government tried to put all of tribes together on one reservation. The CRIT Reservation was organized in 1865 according to Gilbert Leivas. The original southwestern corner boundary was the high water flood stage level on the west mesa where I-10 goes up the mesa. CRIT at one time bordered the east side of the west mesa of the Palo Verde Valley

In 1875, Thomas Blythe, an Englishman with the reputation as an international speculator and swindler based in San Francisco applied to the State of California to purchase most of the Palo Verde Valley. He applied under the State Swamp and Overflow Act even though the northern half of the valley was already part of the CRIT Reservation and Chemehuevi and other tribes were living there.

Present day West Blythe was called Barrio de la Liebre (Jackrabbit Neighborhood) and in the Nahuatl language it was called Acacitli. West Riverside Drive was called Vereda de la Liebre (Jackrabbit Trail). It was also called the Coco-Maricopa Trail that went up the mesa where the Florida Light and Power Plant is.

During the 1890's, the government started the Indian boarding schools, on and off the Reservation. Most of the Native Americans were forced to attend. They were prohibited to practice their culture and speak in their language, etc. On top of that, the government allowed the different Christian Church groups to build their churches on the Reservation to further deviate them from their cosmic culture tradition.

In the rest of the Nation the educational system was based on the separate but equal schools. In Blythe, they were called the Americanization schools and the majority of the Mexicans were sent there. Those schools were closed in 1947 after the Mendez vs Westminster Schools decision and for the Native Americans it was until the Brown vs The Board of Education in 1954.

Despite all the government's efforts to destroy the Native American's cosmic cultural traditions, the knowledge has survived the policy of "Kill the Indian, Save the Man". There were laws made to protect sacred sites in Europe during the war against Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan that killed over 60 million people in the world. The protection of sacred sites has been well demonstrated during the 2nd World War. On June 23, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in war areas. The commission drew up lists of cultural treasures with the hope that military action might be planned to avoid harming them. Dwight D. Eisenhower understood the importance of the protection and preservation of these sacred sites. Eisenhower stated "if we have to choose between destroying a famous building and sacrificing our own men, then our men's lives count infinitely more and the building must go". He prefaced the

proclamation by saying, "Shortly we will be fighting our way across the Continent of Europe in battles designed to preserve **our civilization....**". His order made clear that destruction of everything in an army's path was not justifiable, that a people's long-established culture and the most beautiful manifestations of what it believes in and values matter and we, when we enter and defend it, are duty-bound to respect those things. Currently a movie is in theaters directed by George Clooney, and based on the book by Robert M. Edsel called "Monuments Men". This is a story of how strongly Eisenhower felt about saving these cultural sites and artistic monuments. Cathedrals, historic structures, famous paintings, sculptures and more were saved for the preservation of the culture of **our civilization**.

In the Smithsonian magazine of March, 2009, the featured article related to the must-see 10 endangered cultural treasures that included many of the sacred sites that should be preserved from all over the world. In the United States, they included Route Hwy 66 but no Indigenous sacred sites. According to Kaisa Barthuli, the program manager of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program stated, "if we lose these stories, we're really losing a sense of ourselves."

During the Iraq war, in 2003 and 2004, the United States caused damage to ancient sites with their heavy vehicles and machinery. Military forces built a helipad, carved out parking areas and trenches destroying these sites. Babylon, Iraq was damaged by war and by looters. The U.S. has said it will help rehabilitate Babylon, funding an effort by the World Monuments Fund and Iraq's State Board of Antiquities. This site is tremendously important according to Gaetano Palumbo of the World Monuments Fund, yet in its present state, Babylon is "hardly understandable" as a place where so much happened in history".

It took the Taliban only days to destroy 1,500 years of history when they destroyed the two Bamiyan Buddha twins carved into a sandstone cliff near the provincial capital in Central Afghanistan. They stand 165 feet and 114 feet tall. They were built around the 2nd century. Appeals came from all over the world such as the World Monument Fund and the United Nations Secretary General for the Taliban government of Afghanistan to preserve these sacred sites of the Buddha creation story in Afghanistan. W.L. Rathje, an archaeologist at Stanford University described the destruction of the statues as a **crime against humanity**. Afghanistan was later invaded by the United States after they destroyed the statues that the world considered to be masterpieces. The United State Government fought to save these foreign religious sacred sites but is not willing to preserve sacred sites in its own country. See the attachment kokopilli-cicimitl and Bamiyan Buddha

On July 22, 2012, columnist Victor Davis Hanson said, "sometimes post-modern, politically correct westerners can be every bit as zealous and as potentially destructive of the past as pre-modern Islamics."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has called for the USDA and the U.S. Forest Service to work more closely with tribal governments in the protection, respectful interpretation and appropriate access to Indigenous Cultural sacred sites. Vilsack said, "American Indian and Alaska Native values and culture have spirit and deserve to be honored and respected. By honoring and protecting sacred sites on national forests and grasslands, we foster improved tribal relationships and a better understanding of the Native people's deep reverence for natural resources and contributions to society."

During President Barack Obama's speech of January 28, 2014, he stated that "And while we are at it, I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations." Also, 109 House Democratic members urged President Obama to protect National Monuments using the Antiquities Act.

Green Peace was threatened with arrest because they stepped on the sacred site area of Peru. Please see attachment geoglyphs compared to ..

See attachment groundbreaking photo where government officials including Governor Jerry Brown, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and Assemblyman Manuel Perez were present for the official groundbreaking of the Blythe Solar Power Project.

Our group was very successful in diverting the North Baja Pipeline from its original designated path that was going to traverse through the sacred sites of Palo Verde Peak. The letter by James Cleland explains how they went around Palo Verde Peak through the Palo Verde Valley to avoid the sacred sites. This is what we have been trying to get BLM and the CEC to understand that we know what we are talking about. See attachment cultural sites in path of pipeline.

We are opposing the Desert Renewable Conservation Plan because of its gross violation to the following Indigenous, State, Federal and United Nations laws that support our demands:

- **National Congress of American Indians:** Resolution #LNK-12-036, opposing the Department of Interior Fast-Track Polices of Renewable Energy Projects on Ancestral Homelands, June 17, 2012.
- **Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona: Resolution 2012**, opposing the Department of Interior Fast-Track Polices of Renewable Energy Projects on Ancestral Homelands, June 29, 2012. The Resolution specifies that whereas over 40 proposed solar and wind renewable energy projects are to be undertaken within a 50-mile radius of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation which puts tens of thousands of acres of land within the ancestral territory homelands of CRIT as well as other Yuma tribes, at further risk of destruction.
- **Colorado River Indian Tribes Resolution and Letter to President Barack Obama:** opposing the construction of Solar Power Projects within 50-miles from the CRIT Reservation boundary of February 27, 2012.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People Resolution of 2007:** was adopted by the General Assembly during the 107<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting and was signed by President Barack Obama on December 15, 2010.
- **Native American Sacred Places**, March 6, 2003(S.B. 18)
- **Native American Sacred Lands Act**, June 11, 2003 (H.R. 2419)
- **The Sacred Land Protection Act**, July 18, 2002 (H.R. 5155)
- **The Native American Sacred Sites Protection Act**, February 22, 2002 (S.B. 1828)
- **Accommodations of Sacred Sites and Federal Land**, Signed by President Bill Clinton on May 24, 1996 (Executive Order 13007) This focuses on specific sites and Indian religion.
- **Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act** of 1990

- **Archeological Resources Protection Act** of 1979
- **American Indian Religious Freedom Act**, August 11, 1978
- **The Civil Right Act** of 1968
- **Antiquities Act** of 1906

That is why La Cuna de Aztlán Sacred Sites Protection Circle under the auspices of the Athapaskan Tribe from Alaska, Chief Gary Harrison has submitted a request to the United Nations to intervene and stop the destruction and declare the McCoy Mountains (Kokopilli/Cicimitl/EI Tosco geoglyphs site), Big Maria Mountains (Blythe Giant Intaglios, large white eagle), Granite Mountain that includes Granite Peak (Tamoanchan) as a World Heritage Site under UNESCO.

We strongly urge that the DRECP consider the above information and disapprove this plan. It will behoove President Obama to continue his motivation and concern in protecting those sacred sites by enforcing the laws and establish a National Monument in the McCoy/Big Maria Mountains and Valleys.

Sincerely,  
Alfredo Acosta Figueroa  
Elder/Historian/Chemehuevi Tribe Monitor  
Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle

Patricia Robles  
President of La

# Geoglyphs of Kokopilli/Cicimitl Compared to Geoglyph at Nasca Lines, Peru

Sacred geoglyphs that are within construction site of the NextEra Blythe Solar Energy and McCoy Solar Projects, January 30, 2015



Kokopilli is the Creator's image of Quetzalcoatl in the form of a half human, half insect. He is leaving during the end of the 3rd sun of the suns in the Aztec Sunstone Calendar. Already a portion of the Kokopilli geoglyph group has been destroyed. The solar power projects, backed by the US Government continue to destroy sacred sites.

Cicimitl, the Great Spirit, El Cucuy, Kokopilli's twin takes the human spirits to the 4 directions and to its final destination at the Topock Maze which is 13 magnetic north from the Mule Mountains (Calli-earth). This sacred site is being threatened and the US Government continues to show no regard for the cultural sacred sites.



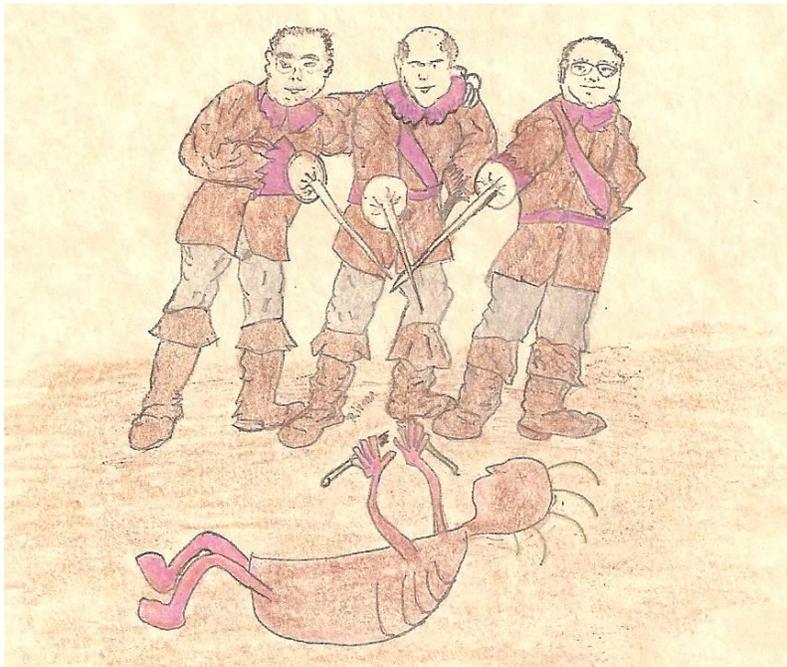
An expression of concern by the environmental group Greenpeace about the carbon footprint was marred this week by real footprints — in a fragile, and restricted, landscape near the Nazca lines, ancient man-made designs etched in the Peruvian desert. Annie Leonard, the executive director of Greenpeace in the United States, said the stunt showed “a complete disregard for the culture of Peru and the importance of protecting sacred sites everywhere.”

The Nasca Lines in Peru are in a Third World Country and yet the Government of Peru has more respect for the cultural sacred sites than the United States. Greenpeace has been one of the forerunners in protecting sacred sites, Mother Earth, climate change, etc. but in Peru they were ousted because they were walking on sacred land when they were putting their sign up.

# Groundbreaking of the Solar Trust of American Solar Power Project at the Blythe Site on June 17, 2011



Left to Right: City of Blythe Mayor Joseph DeConinck, California Governor Jerry Brown, Solar Trust of America Chairman and CEO Uwe T. Schmidt, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and 80th Assembly District Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez shovel dirt on June 17, 2011 during a groundbreaking event near Blythe, California for the Blythe Solar Power Project.



**Three Musketeer cartoon emulating what the above government officials and company representatives are manifesting in the destruction of the Kokopilli/Cicimitl Geoglyph Sites.**

Left to right are 80th Assembly District Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez (Señor El Vendido), Governor Jerry Brown and Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar. Mr Perez has been fully aware of the sacredness of the site and is knowledgeable of its significance. He had previously taken a tour of the sacred sites. Governor Brown was a main supporter in stopping the construction of the Sun Desert Nuclear Power Plant 10 miles south of the Kokopilli/Cicimitl site in 1979, now one of the main supporters of destroying the sacred sites. Mr. Salazar is well aware of the atrocities that are being committed.

## Twin Geoglyphs of Kokopilli/Cicimitl

Sacred geoglyphs that are within the approved NextEra Blythe Solar Energy Project by the California Energy Commission, January 15, 2014



Kokopilli is the Creator's image of Quetzalcoatl in the form of a half human, half insect. He is leaving during the end of the 3rd sun of the suns in the Aztec Sunstone Calendar. Kokopilli means koko-hurt and pilli-our Lord. He is hurt because humans have not respected the Creator's dictation of harmonious equilibrium among all species



Cicimitl, the Great Spirit, El Cucuy, Kokopilli's twin takes the human spirits to the 4 directions and to its final destination at the Topock Maze which is 13 magnetic north from the Mule Mountains (Calli-earth). In English, this image is called extra-terrestrial (ET)



Bamiyan Buddha twins carved into a sandstone cliff near the provincial capital in Central Afghanistan. They stand 165 feet and 114 feet tall. They were built around the 2nd century. Appeals came from all over the world such as the World Monument Fund and the United Nations Secretary General for the Taliban government of Afghanistan to preserve these sacred sites of the Buddha creation story in Afghanistan. W.L. Rathje an archaeologist at Stanford University described the destruction of the statues as a crime against humanity. Afghanistan was later invaded by the United States after they destroyed the statues that the world considered to be masterpieces. The United State Government fought for these foreign religious sacred sites but is not willing to fight to preserve sacred sites in its own country.

# Valley News

## A tour of cultural sites in the path of the pipeline

A tour of Native American cultural sites led by Alfredo Figueroa scheduled for yesterday was to include a representative of EDAW Inc, the archeological and anthropological consultant for the North Baja Pipeline Project.

Figueroa, leading the tour as "an elder historian Colorado River native," said representatives of the Bureau of Land Management, Native Americans of the Colorado River, and a "monitor of sacred land sites" were scheduled to take part.

"Native Americans and Blythe power plant intrevornors will meet with a coalition of archeologists and BLM (representatives) for a tour of consecrated

land of Native American cultural sites of the surrounding Palo Verde Valley," Figueroa said.

Clyde Woods, representing EDAW, said his group would provide two four-wheel drive vehicles to visit sites along the proposed route of the North Baja Pipeline.

Archaeologist Boma Johnson, of Ivins, Utah, in a letter addressed to Carmella Garnica, and included in the packet about the tour, said that a review of the resources section of the Blythe Energy Project Environmental Report showed that while the report was well done and met basic legal requirements it overlooked the concepts of "sacred geogra-

phy" and "spiritual landscape."

"Sometimes no archaeological features or artifacts may be present," Johnson said. "Native American people often hesitate to discuss this level of concern because of the usual negative reactions by the non-Indian community. The usual result is that projects proceed with little or no mention of the Native American spiritual, non-physical cultural values that exist in the region."

"Is there any evidence of sacred geography in the area of the proposed project? The answer is a definite yes," Johnson said. "There are a great number of seen and unseen features in the nearby area that are part of the sacred landscape."

Johnson said there are ancient and sacred trails systems extending east west through the proposed project, including the Xam Kwatchan trail, which is visible north of Blythe in the Big Maria foothills. "Associated with the trail is the greatest concentration of geoglyphs in North America, including an intricate path site on the river terrace only two miles north of the power plant site," Johnson said, "The trail is still used today by local Native Americans for cultural events."

Johnson said Mule Mountain is considered sacred and that there are sacred cremation areas three miles south of the project site.



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February 22, 2005

Mr. Alfredo Figueroa  
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Re: Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites

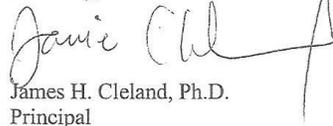
Dear Mr. Figueroa:

As you are well aware, the California deserts are experiencing rapidly increasing development in the form of housing, commercial enterprises, transportation projects, and other modern intrusions into formerly untouched areas. Such projects have the potential, if poorly planned and implemented, to adversely affect the cultural heritage of Native American groups. The unique intaglios, rock art, and trail system of the Colorado and Mojave deserts, as well as former habitation sites, form an extensive, inter-connected cultural landscape that is integral to the culture of the Mojave, Quechan, Chemehuevi, and other groups along the lower Colorado River.

I appreciated working with your organization in identifying and avoiding important cultural heritage sites during the environmental studies conducted for the North Baja Pipeline Project, 2000-2002. Your group helped to identify significant sites and called attention to the need to protect them during the public scoping meetings held during preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. You brought to our attention locations that we had not previously identified through our literature search and archaeological surveys. You also assisted in a field inspection of sites to assist the pipeline company in avoiding impacts. As you acknowledged, as a result of these efforts and those of interested tribes and governmental agencies, North Baja Pipeline did an outstanding job of siting and building its project so as to avoid harming cultural heritage sites. This could not have been accomplished without advocacy from the public.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well in your future endeavors (1) to educate the public about the importance of cultural heritage and (2) to work within the context of environmental and historic preservation programs to protect these unique and non-renewable resources from unnecessary damage.

Sincerely,



James H. Cleland, Ph.D.  
Principal

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