

LUCERNE VALLEY SOLAR PROJECT

DRAFT EIS/CDCA PLAN AMENDMENT

LUCERNE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010

6:30 P.M.

REPORTED BY:

AMY P. SMITH

CSR #12154

Job No. 4474

1 MS. WILLIS: Good evening. We're going to go ahead
2 and get started tonight.

3 My name is Christina Willis, and I'm the
4 Chief Planner with Ecology and Environment. Our firm is
5 the third-party contractor here in the EIS on behalf of
6 BLM.

7 We want to welcome you tonight to the Lucerne
8 Valley Solar Project Public Comment Meeting.

9 A few guidelines. Please sign in, if you
10 have not already, at the table near the door. This is
11 the best and the only way we have of recalling who is in
12 attendance at the meeting.

13 And, also, please fill out a blue speaker
14 card, if you'd like to make a comment tonight, or you
15 can take one of the yellow comment forms. You can leave
16 your comments with us tonight, or you can e-mail us your
17 comments, or you can mail them to us later.

18 We are going to ask that you hold your
19 comments for the comment period, and note that there
20 will be no public -- excuse me -- there will be no
21 question-and-answer session tonight.

22 However, we will be available for a while
23 after the meeting is over, if you have any questions.
24 We're here to get your comments.

25 A copy of this -- of tonight's presentation

1 is going to be available on the BLM website. And the
2 BLM website address is shown on the bottom of your
3 meeting agenda, and it's also shown on the bottom of
4 this project fact sheet.

5 And now I'll turn the meeting over to Roxie
6 Trost.

7 MS. TROST: Good evening. I'd like to welcome you,
8 too. My name is Roxie Trost, and I am the field manager
9 for the BLM for Barstow field office. And I'd like to
10 take just a moment and introduce you to the BLM team
11 that we have here tonight.

12 We have Mickey Quilman, who is the chief of
13 resources for the Barstow field office, and Rick Rotte,
14 who is the realty specialist. And also from the
15 district office we have Lynette Elser, and we have Greg
16 Thomsen.

17 We also have in attendance tonight Mr. Chuck
18 Bell, who is the president of the Lucerne Valley
19 Economic Development Association.

20 And it was very helpful in our July scoping
21 meeting to have Mr. Bell briefly summarize the other
22 projects being completed in the area. So if he could
23 just take a moment and do that for us, we would really
24 appreciate it. Thanks, Chuck.

25 MR. BELL: I think this is the list we have. We

1 have Boulevard Associates, which is the next area in
2 north Lucerne Valley. That's 60 megawatts on 440 acres,
3 and that's on private land. It's fallow ag. land.

4 We have Rabbit Springs Solar, which is Rabbit
5 Springs and Barstow Road. And that's 104 megawatts.
6 This is just panels. There's no solar thermal proposed
7 here, all PV. And that's about 900 acres, but they're
8 only going to use about 500 of it. That's also
9 disturbed. That's fallow ag. land.

10 And Strawberry Peak Solar, which is south of
11 Highway 18 between Lucerne and Apple Valley. That's
12 15 megawatts on 160 acres. And both of those used to be
13 Edison. That's how they were brought to us. And now, I
14 guess, they are -- First Solar bought them, paid, I
15 guess, just to buy out the projects. I'm not sure.

16 Status of those, those are all County,
17 private land, and the County is working on the -- and
18 the consultants are working on an environmental impact
19 report.

20 Daggett Wind, and that's north of Lucerne
21 Valley. Is closer to Barstow. That's 82 megawatts on
22 about 1500 acres, and I think that's mostly BLM. I
23 think there's some private land involved, too. That's
24 pretty close to the -- the access road before you get to
25 the Barstow mountain as you're heading north.

1 Granite Mountain Wind, that's between
2 Apple Valley and Lucerne Valley. I can't recall exactly
3 the number of megawatts. It's about 15 or so turbines.
4 I can't remember exactly how many. That's both BLM and
5 private, so it's a joint EIS environmental impact
6 report, and that should be out pretty soon.

7 We had a meeting in Lucerne Valley about a
8 week ago or two weeks ago, and I was at that meeting in
9 which BLM actually made quite a big presentation on that
10 project.

11 West Fry Mountain Wind, that's between --
12 that's also Lucerne Valley, most of it is, and Johnson
13 Valley open area. That's in the area of the Twenty-Nine
14 Palms Marine Base expansion, so we don't know the status
15 of that. That has been withdrawn from the new projects
16 because of the expansion.

17 And, according to issues associated with the
18 Feinstein's Desert Monument Bill, that probably -- which
19 will likely preclude and trump any opportunity for the
20 Marines to release the -- come west into Johnson Valley,
21 and so those projects, we don't know what's going to
22 happen to them.

23 And I guess there's a major solar project on
24 map that the County was good enough to give us. I don't
25 know what site they used to -- to -- to pick up the map,

1 but there was some projects. One was a major area, a
2 solar project called "Gasper," on BLM. Apparently,
3 that's been cancelled. Chris can confirm it.

4 There's another one I guess Amber on our
5 eastern boundary, closer to Highway 247. That one is
6 also on BLM. Apparently, that's been cancelled out.

7 A lot of it might be because of the Marine
8 Base expansion proposal.

9 And then Major Wind shows up on this map, and
10 I don't know much about it. It's southwest Lucerne
11 Valley and southeast Apple Valley, right between us, a
12 big chunk of ground. It looks like, according to this
13 map, is a verified wind energy project. We've not heard
14 much about it. Right below the Forest Service.

15 And I'm sure there will be more pending. I
16 don't know what to tell you. Whoever has to write
17 impact reports and EIS's on cumulative impacts in terms
18 of what happens in Lucerne Valley better factor in those
19 viable projects there because when we start getting two
20 of these constructing at one time, you tie up traffic in
21 town, and it's going to be a mess. So that's just one
22 issue, so...

23 Anything else? That's all I know about. You
24 guys may know about more. I'm sure the County has got
25 them coming through the assembly line right now, so --

1 but that's what we have, that we know about.

2 MS. TROST: Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIS: Thank you.

4 MS. TROST: And I'll turn it over to Greg Thomsen.

5 MR. THOMSEN: Hi. I'm Greg Thomsen. I'm BLM's
6 project manager for this project.

7 You may recall that Chevron filed an
8 application for a right-of-way to -- to build and
9 operate a solar-generated facility on lands managed by
10 BLM. Currently, we -- as Tina mentioned, we're writing
11 an environmental impact statement, or EIS, to analyze
12 the proposed project.

13 One of the things we're factoring in are a
14 lot of comments that we received during the scoping
15 process on this project, which was last summer.

16 Some of you were here in late July in this
17 room, and we had a meeting, and we heard a number of
18 good comments. So we've been working to -- working with
19 Environmental and Ecology, the consultants, to factor
20 those comments into the draft EIS.

21 Now is really a key time to -- to receive
22 public view of and -- and thoughts on this draft. So
23 we're looking forward to hearing from you either tonight
24 or over the next two months during the public-comment
25 period.

1 And we'll talk later, but there's a number of
2 ways you can comment. But certainly we hope to hear
3 from you tonight.

4 And thanks, and I'll turn this over to Ram
5 Ambatipudi, who's from Chevron to talk more about the
6 proposed project.

7 MR. AMBATIPUDI: Thank you for that.

8 Good evening, everyone, and thank you for
9 coming. My name is Ram Ambatipudi, and I'm the senior
10 business development manager for our large-scale
11 renewable group within Chevron Energy Solutions. I work
12 out of our Pasadena, California, office.

13 Most of you, I'm sorry, are familiar with
14 Chevron. You may not fully be aware of how big a
15 presence Chevron has in California. Chevron is
16 headquartered in California in San Ramon.

17 We are, I believe, the largest private
18 company in California, as well. We currently employ
19 nearly 10,000 people directly in California and nearly
20 60,000 people indirectly, which equates to approximately
21 1 in 250 jobs in this state.

22 In -- since 2007, Chevron has spent nearly
23 1.8 billions dollars with small businesses, including,
24 you know, approximately 40 percent of that with woman
25 and minority-owned businesses.

1 The group that I work for and represent is
2 Chevron Energy Solutions. We are one of the largest
3 sustainable -- leading sustainable energy services
4 companies in the United States providing energy
5 efficiency renewable power and clean energy and
6 reliability and infrastructure services.

7 Primarily we work with public sector and
8 government clients. We are one of largest installers of
9 photovoltaic -- solar photovoltaic systems in the US,
10 with over 25 megawatts at public institutions, mostly
11 "K" through 12 school districts and community colleges
12 and other public sector institutions.

13 The -- the location of the proposed solar
14 project is approximately eight miles east of Lucerne
15 Valley. The -- we looked at various alternatives, and
16 we're interested in pursuing this site for several
17 reasons. It has a great solar resource in the region.

18 Also, the Southern California Edison
19 distribution system here has spare capacity to handle a
20 Phase I 20 megawatt project.

21 So the first phase would not require any new
22 transmission or distribution lines, which -- which was
23 very attractive. The -- the size of the parcel
24 corresponded to the size of the project that we wanted
25 to pursue, as well.

1 We're proposing to building the project in
2 two phases. Phase I would be 20 megawatts, and then
3 Phase II would be 25 megawatts, for a total of
4 45 megawatts at the site. The site is 516 acres of BLM
5 land, and it would interconnect to Southern California
6 Edison's 33 KB Distribution System.

7 We're hoping to begin construction in the
8 fourth quarter of 2010. The project size is roughly a
9 hundred million dollars, and we are targeting
10 approximately 20 million dollars of that for -- for
11 local content.

12 During the peak period, the construction
13 workforce will be about a 40 -- 40 workers, we estimate.
14 And once the plant is operational, there will be a small
15 permanent workforce of two individuals.

16 With that, I'd like to turn it over to
17 Christina Willis.

18 MS. WILLIS: Thank you.

19 The BLM has prepared a draft EIS for the
20 Lucerne Solar Project. And we're here tonight to
21 receive your comments.

22 What we intend to do is present findings of
23 key resources evaluated in the draft EIS and take your
24 comments on the project and the analysis.

25 The draft EIS describes BLM's purposes and

1 needs, as well as Chevron Energy Solutions' purposes and
2 needs for the proposed action.

3 It analyzes the project alternatives,
4 identifies potential environmental impacts and
5 mitigation. It describes how your concerns were treated
6 in the analysis, and it identifies the preferred
7 alternative.

8 During the scoping period, approximately
9 85 people attended two scoping meetings held in July of
10 this year, and 15 provided verbal comments. In
11 addition, 40 people mailed letters or sent e-mails about
12 the project.

13 And these comments were used to form the
14 scope of the analysis of the EIS, and they were also
15 used in the development of the alternative, as well as
16 modifying the project design.

17 A summary of the scoping comments and how
18 they were addressed in the EIS can be found in Chapter 1
19 of the draft document, and more detailed information on
20 the scoping process can be found in Appendix A of
21 Volume II.

22 A majority of comments were received in the
23 area of aesthetics and visual, air quality, biological
24 resources, cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and
25 project alternatives.

1 So based on the Applicant's right-of-way
2 grant application, as well as the comments received
3 during the scoping process, the draft EIS evaluated five
4 alternatives.

5 Included in this list are two no-action
6 alternatives. Under Alternative 1, the no action, no
7 California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, the
8 right-of-way application is denied. The solar plant
9 would not be constructed. The CDCA plan would not be
10 amended, and current management of the site would be
11 maintained.

12 Alternative 2 is similar to Alternative 1,
13 with the exception that in Alternative 2 it does include
14 a CDCA plan amendment to classify the right-of-way as
15 either suitable or unsuitable for large-scale solar
16 development.

17 Alternative 3 is Chevron's proposal. It
18 includes construction and operations of a 45-megawatt
19 solar power plant developed in two phases.

20 In addition, it includes improvements to
21 Santa Fe Fire Road, and rerouting of a portion of Zircon
22 Road to allow its continued public use. Alternative 3
23 also includes a CDCA plan amendment.

24 Alternative 4 is a modified site layout
25 alternative. In response to the comments received

1 during the public comment period, the draft EIS
2 evaluated an alternative that reduces effects on visual
3 resources.

4 This alternative would be the same as
5 Chevron's proposed action with three modifications to
6 reduce environmental effects.

7 It would include a 50-foot setback on either
8 side of Santa Fe Fire Road. It would use natural
9 vegetation as a screen along Santa Fe Fire Road, and it
10 would design site drainage to provide a water source for
11 that vegetative screen.

12 Alternative 5 is a smaller project
13 alternative, and this alternative reduces energy output
14 to 30 megawatts. It would also be developed in two
15 phases. And the Phase I and Phase II area are noted by
16 the blue and green shaded areas on the screen.

17 Similar to Chevron's proposal, Santa Fe Fire
18 Road would be improved, and a portion of Zircon Road
19 would be realigned to allow its continued public use.
20 And, as you can see, it would require a smaller
21 footprint.

22 The alternatives considered, but eliminated
23 from detailed consideration, include alternative sites
24 considered by Chevron Energy Solutions, both private
25 land, as well as alternate BLM land. It includes

1 alternative sites considered by BLM, as well as
2 alternative renewable energy technologies, different
3 solar technology, wind energy, and also residential
4 roof-top solar panels.

5 So, as you can see, the draft EIS evaluated
6 potential impacts to a host of environmental resources.

7 And I'll briefly summarize three of those key
8 environmental issues. For air quality, the EIS found
9 that the action alternative would generate dust and
10 other vehicle omissions during the construction and
11 decommission, and it included mitigation to reduce those
12 impacts. Please see Section 3-1 and 4-1 of the draft
13 EIS for details.

14 And I do need to mention that of the
15 environmental resources that I'm mentioning, we have
16 included boards that summarize exactly what we're
17 talking about tonight.

18 For biological resources, the EIS found that
19 the action alternatives would result in a loss of
20 on-site vegetation and habitat for special-status
21 species, including the desert tortoise.

22 And some of the desert tortoise protection
23 measures include pre-construction surveys and clearance
24 or tortoises from the site, installation of desert
25 tortoise exclusionary fencing, development of off-site

1 mitigation for effects to desert tortoise and their
2 habitat.

3 For cultural resources, no cultural resources
4 eligible for inclusion in the natural -- excuse me --
5 National Register of Historic Places were found to occur
6 in the project area.

7 And it should also be noted that BLM has
8 completed its consultation with the California State
9 Historic Preservation Office.

10 For cumulative analysis, the EIS identified
11 and evaluated potential cumulative effects from major
12 past, present and reasonably anticipated future actions
13 in the vicinity of the project. And those projects
14 included energy generation, military uses, roadway
15 improvements, and other local developments.

16 So where we are, in terms of the schedule,
17 the draft EIS has been distributed for a 90-day public
18 review period. And that period closes on May 19th.

19 The comment period was originally advertised
20 as closing on May 13th, but you may recall there was a
21 large snow storm in Washington D.C. in early February,
22 which delayed the Environmental Protection Agency's
23 publication of the notice of availability of the draft
24 EIS. So the comment period has been extended until
25 May 19th.

1 Once that comment period closes, we'll review
2 the comments that we've received, prepare responses to
3 those comments, and revise the environmental document
4 based on your input and input from other agencies and
5 organizations.

6 BLM will then circulate the proposed CDCA
7 plan amendment and final EIS for a 30-day protest
8 period. And once those protests are resolved, BLM will
9 issue its record of decision. We're looking at late
10 2010 for that.

11 And that decision will disclose the
12 alternative that has been selected, and it will identify
13 all approved mitigation measures.

14 So we are now coming to that portion of our
15 meeting tonight where we're ready to receive your
16 comments.

17 And I want you to know that the purpose of
18 this session is to hear from you. If you have not yet
19 submitted a speaker card and you would like to comment,
20 please raise your hand, and Connor Doyle will bring you
21 a card. And when your name is called, please stand and
22 we'll bring the microphone to you. Please state your
23 name and spell it for our court reporter and then state
24 your comments.

25 Is there anyone who has not filled out a

1 speaker card that would like to?

2 MR. LEVINE: Okay. So we have two comment cards or
3 speaker cards here. And the first person is Robyn
4 Purchia.

5 MS. PURCHIA: Hi. My name is Robyn Purchia.
6 That's P-u-r-c-h-i-a. I'm an attorney with Adams,
7 Broad, Well, Joseph & Cardozo, and I'm here tonight on
8 behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical
9 Workers, Local 477, whose members live, work, and
10 recreate in San Bernardino County.

11 We're currently in the process of reviewing
12 the draft EIS in determining whether or not to submit
13 written comments. But we have some initial comments
14 here for you tonight.

15 First, the draft EIS needs to consistently
16 describe and specifically identify the water source for
17 the project.

18 The draft EIS indicates that water will be
19 provided from an off-site source and that no new
20 development will be necessary. But on page 3.56, the
21 draft EIS actually says that new on-site wells may need
22 to be developed, so the draft EIS needs to consistently
23 describe the water source, because, right now, it's
24 unclear where the water will be coming from.

25 It also needs to specifically identify the

1 water source so that the public can ascertain whether
2 that source has sufficient capacity to service the
3 project and also how the water will be conveyed from a
4 possible off-site source to the project area.

5 The draft EIS should also describe whether
6 that will be potable water or non-potable water, and
7 what Federal, State and local permits are required for
8 the project to receive the water.

9 Secondly, the draft EIS should adequately
10 describe the current and reasonably foreseeable projects
11 in the area. Table 3-18-1 lists three solar projects
12 and several residential projects. But as we heard,
13 there are other solar projects in the area, including a
14 solar project proposed by Cannon Solar Partners, and
15 then the Edison PV, power plant.

16 An adequate description of all of the current
17 and foreseeable future projects is necessary so that the
18 project impacts to water supply are adequately reviewed
19 and possibly the groundwater aquifer and subsidence.

20 That's just one example, though. There are
21 other issues that come up with cumulative impacts.

22 Finally, we're in the process of reviewing
23 whether the project complies with the California
24 Environmental Quality Act.

25 The draft EIS indicates that a streambed

1 alternation agreement is required from the Department of
2 Fish and Game and an encroachment permit from the
3 Department of Transportation.

4 An environmental review under the California
5 Environmental Qualify Act may be necessary for these
6 State agencies to issue these permits.

7 So we suggest that the BLM immediately
8 consult with the Department of Fish and Game and the
9 Department of Transportation to make sure that there's
10 no duplication of the agency's resources, the public's
11 time and resources.

12 So, in sum, the draft EIS should adequately
13 describe, consistently describe the water source, the
14 cumulative impacts, and make sure that it's complying
15 with the State permitting requirements.

16 Thank you very much for this opportunity to
17 comment.

18 MR. LEVINE: The next person is Bill Lembright.

19 MR. LEMBRIGHT: Thank you.

20 Bill Lembright from Lucerne Valley Market and
21 Hardware. Bill and then Lembright, L-e-m-b-r-i-g-h-t.

22 Our town is being overrun with these
23 projects. I'm bothered that so few people from Lucerne
24 Valley are here tonight. Some of them that are even
25 neighbors to this particular project and are very vocal

1 aren't here tonight, so I'm kind of wondering how the
2 word got out about this meeting. But let me get on to
3 my comments.

4 They're kind of general, and they have to do
5 with our national problems right now, and I feel that
6 applies to this very much. This Obama care is a great
7 example and a very parallel situation to this.

8 We're having this stuff ramrodded on us. The
9 public is against the government as it stands now, and
10 the more the government -- the public wakes up, the more
11 they're against what the government's doing, but people
12 don't really seem to realize.

13 We need to protest, you guys. We've got to
14 write letters. We've got to call. We've got to attend
15 meetings, letters to the editors. We just need to get
16 to work, because we're being overrun by this stuff.

17 It started basically with the global warming
18 push. That failed. They turned it into climate change,
19 that then turned into a scandal. That's not really
20 being addressed. It's -- these projects are just
21 carrying on, and climate change is in shambles.

22 Nothing's proved doesn't mean climate change
23 doesn't happen. We know it does. We don't know that
24 it's manmade. We have no idea if all these projects are
25 going to do diddly squat to change anything, except

1 they're going to raise the cost of living and tighten up
2 our freedoms, reduce them, and also it looks like
3 they're going to pretty well decimate our community.

4 So it's get up and do something now. And I,
5 for one, am -- my comment to you guys, say no to this
6 project and no to the rest of these solar and wind
7 projects until something gets agreed on locally and
8 nationally that this is even practical.

9 Natural gas, nuclear and coal are very
10 efficient. Wind and similar are not.

11 So that's all I have to say. And any of you
12 from Lucerne Valley that would like to figure out ways
13 that we can efficiently fight this stuff, please give me
14 your e-mail address at the store, and we'll see what we
15 come up with.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. LEVINE: Did you want to --

18 MR. BELL: Chuck Bell, B-e-l-l, Lucerne Valley
19 Economic Development Association.

20 We're going to send our comments in during
21 that -- was it 60 or 90 days?

22 MS. WILLIS: Ninety.

23 MR. BELL: Ninety.

24 Okay. And I appreciate you guys sending us a
25 copy. We have one hard copy. We have one. The library

1 has one, and I -- we have an extra disk if anybody wants
2 to -- from the community wants to borrow it. They're
3 welcome to it.

4 In terms of water, you're probable aware of
5 the fact that I think your project is sitting on top of
6 Mojave Water Agency pipeline that goes to the Morongo
7 Basin. It's to reach our Morongo basin in Yucca and the
8 Joshua Tree area, and there are turnouts available, so
9 the construction water may be able to a cut deal with
10 the Mojave Water Agency and not have to use good ground
11 water for that purpose.

12 We are an adjudicated basin, and the water
13 can be hauled within the basin. Domestic water could be
14 hauled to the -- to the site.

15 You shouldn't need much after construction,
16 unless they're going to wash the panels now and then.

17 We have asked -- LVEDA has asked the County
18 and had a meeting to start looking at the whole of all
19 of these projects because we're getting buried in the
20 parts. Bill is absolutely right. We've just got too
21 many of them.

22 And even the ones that -- if every one of
23 these that has been filed on and EIR's and EIS's being
24 written on, permits are in the process, if they all get
25 approved, we basically could likely -- very likely lose

1 the land-use character -- our land-use configuration of
2 this -- of our community.

3 And we just did a community plan about three
4 years ago, and we're asking the County to help us do an
5 energy open (sic). Now, how much of that is applied on
6 BLM land? Probably not much. But we still need to look
7 at BLM and the private land projects in unison
8 cumulatively to see exactly what it's going to do to us.

9 So hopefully within that context, we can give
10 you some pretty good comments. And anything we can do
11 to help you make this as good a project as you can,
12 we're available.

13 MR. LEVINE: If there's nobody else, then I'll hand
14 this back to Tina.

15 MS. WILLIS: Thank you.

16 MR. LEVINE: Oh, wait a second. Is there somebody?

17 MS. WILLIS: We have this room until 8:30. If
18 anybody else would like to make a public comment, we are
19 here, and we'll wait, and we will accept your comment.
20 We'll just give a few minutes.

21 MS. SHUMWAY: Okay. I'll make a comment.

22 My name is Dinah Shumway, D-i-n-a-h
23 S-h-u-m-w-a-y.

24 Like Bill, I too am a little disappointed
25 that not more people from Lucerne Valley are making

1 comments on this. But my issues with these types of
2 projects have more to do with public land use than they
3 have with the specific use itself, as anybody who can
4 read and reads local newspapers knows my position on
5 these issues.

6 However, my issue with Chevron, for example,
7 is, there's plenty of other projects around here on
8 fallow private land.

9 Hey, listen, if private landowners want to do
10 whatever they want and it conforms with community
11 standards, then that should be fine for communities.

12 But we're talking public land here. This is
13 public. So my issues for Chevron would be, why not find
14 private land? Hey, if I had 600 acres, I'd invite solar
15 people to come in because I would be charging them a
16 rent.

17 But I am not convinced, with the information
18 that I have, that the public is going to reap any kind
19 of viable comparative financial benefit from these
20 programs.

21 We -- essentially, they're getting rent
22 practically free. We're getting 20 percent or less of
23 installed capacity to produce energy that the taxpayers
24 are subsidizing, and that it's going to cost us all
25 more.

1 Now, these, I understand, are legislative
2 imperatives, but they do not -- these projects on public
3 land do not serve the public, in my estimation, and I
4 think there's many other people who also feel this way.
5 That's only one.

6 The other thing is, I'm in the mining
7 industry. I do not see or hear or read that these
8 projects are going to be held to the same standards that
9 the mining industry is held to.

10 In the mining industry, it's -- even if this
11 is on public land, we don't obliterate habitat, as these
12 projects do. And when that project is done, we must --
13 so we have mitigation. The mitigation is one to one.
14 One acre of land given to the government of suitable
15 habitat or up to five, depending on what kind of habitat
16 occupies that land prior to mining.

17 But I don't see that these lands are going to
18 be mitigating to anything at all. For example, if you
19 disturb 500 acres, it's not all fallow land. If you
20 disturb 500 acres, well then how much of that acreage
21 are you going to have to find and give to the taxpayers,
22 Federal government, in some way? I don't see that
23 that's happening.

24 "Mitigation" means -- I don't see anything
25 here that says you have to re-vegetate. I would hope

1 that would be in the conditions. But, in the mining
2 industry, if you disturb land, in 20 or 30 years, when
3 that mine is depleted, you must re-vegetate. I don't
4 see that happening. That's a huge expense, so I hope
5 you're planning for that.

6 But my basic objections to these projects
7 are, they are not economic in any way, without taxpayer
8 subsidies. They're more expensive. They're
9 inefficient, and they take away public use from public
10 lands.

11 MR. LEVINE: Thank you. Anybody else now? Okay.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. WILLIS: So if there is no one else who wants
14 to make a comment, I will now turn it over Greg to give
15 specifics about submitting your comments.

16 MR. THOMSEN: Okay. Thanks again for showing up
17 tonight, and, certainly, we had a lot larger turnout in
18 July, but there's plenty of opportunity for people to
19 comment and participate in this project. As Tina said,
20 there's a 90-day period, so we look forward to hearing
21 from a lot of you.

22 There are a number of ways that you can
23 comment. You can fill out a form tonight and either
24 give it to us tonight, or you can take one and mail it
25 to us or drop it off at one of our offices. You can

1 e-mail us comments. Once again, they're due on
2 May 19th, so you should have ample time.

3 Chuck mentioned that we've tried to make
4 copies of the draft environmental document readily
5 available. In addition to being on our website and at
6 the libraries, both the Apple Valley and the Lucerne
7 Valley libraries, we have them in our BLM offices,
8 available in Barstow and in Moreno Valley. We have
9 copies of the CD. If you haven't been on our websites,
10 if you would like a CD, we have CDs available tonight.

11 And if somebody decides after tonight they
12 would like a copy it, just let us know, and we'll help
13 you get that.

14 Tina mentioned our website we have. We have
15 a number of documents posted on this project both on our
16 California Desert District website, which shows all the
17 renewable projects proposed on the BLM-managed lands in
18 Southern California; and then it's also available on the
19 Barstow field office website.

20 If you -- so you can check on the websites
21 for more information or you can e-mail us or call us.
22 Any way you want, we'll get you the information you
23 need.

24 So, once again, thanks to all of you for
25 coming out tonight. It's a pretty nippy night out

1 there. Your comments are appreciated. We did hear from
2 a lot of you last summer, and we expect that we'll
3 hopefully hear from a lot of you over the next couple of
4 months.

5 This does close the formal part of the
6 meeting, and we're happy to stay around as long as you'd
7 like. Like Tina said, we have the room set aside until
8 nine o'clock.

9 So thanks again.

10 (At which time the proceedings concluded at 7:45 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO)

I, AMY P. SMITH, a certified shorthand reporter for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the said meeting was taken down by me in stenotype at the time and place therein stated and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction and that the transcript is a true and correct record of the proceedings here held.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties hereto or in any way interested in the event of this cause and that I am not related to any of the parties thereto.

Dated this 24th day of March, 2010.

AMY P. SMITH
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 12154