



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243-4561

January 8, 2008

In Reply Refer To: EIS CA-670-2006-33; CA-47740; 8100/1310 (P)
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Leroy J. Elliott, Chairman
Manzanita Band of Mission Indians
PO Box 1302
Boulevard, CA 91905

Dear Chairman Elliott,

In September 2007 the Bureau of Land Management California Desert District sent a general notice letter to the tribes of southern California describing proposed alternative/renewable energy developments located on public lands throughout the region. One of the applicants listed, Stirling Energy Solutions, Inc (SES), has submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office (BLM) for a right-of-way to develop a solar energy generating facility on federal land in southwestern Imperial County. Approximately 7000 acres of public lands would be within this project's boundaries, titled SES Solar Two. It is located north of Interstate 8, south of Evan Hewes Highway, east of the town of Ocotillo, and 14 miles west of El Centro (see attached map). Ground disturbing activities associated with this project include geotechnical studies, construction of access and/or utility roads, a water pipeline, a transmission line to the Imperial Valley Substation, and installation of the solar collecting systems. Additionally, ancillary or support facilities to be constructed include administration, operations, and maintenance buildings.

Under federal law, BLM is responsible for processing requests for right-of-ways to authorize the projects, associated transmission lines, and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing the applications, BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires that federal agencies reviewing projects under their jurisdiction consider the environmental impacts associated with their construction and operation. In the case of solar thermal power plant projects such as SES Solar Two, this will be accomplished through preparation of Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) in coordination with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and its Preliminary and Final Staff Analyses. BLM is also responsible for meeting the consultation and documentation requirements for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Native American consultation, including Government to Government consultation.

Under California law, the California Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing the application for certification filed for the projects, and also has the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Commission conducts this review in accordance with the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act and its own regulations governing site certification proceedings. These provisions require the staff to conduct an independent analysis of applications for certification and prepare an independent assessment of a project's potential environmental impacts, feasible mitigation measures, and alternatives as part of this process. The Commission considers the staff assessments, along with those of the applicant, interested local, regional, state, and federal agencies, intervenors, and interested Native American tribes, in developing its decision on an application for certification. The Commission has a certified regulatory program under CEQA that

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The applicant, Sterling Energy Solutions, Inc., has also applied for a separate Temporary Use Permit (2920 Permit) from BLM to conduct geotechnical testing within the project area to provide preliminary information to assist with permitting, site development, planning and preliminary engineering design of the SES Solar Two Project. These investigations would be a short-term process of less than four weeks to collect subsurface data and information about the soils and foundation conditions on the site and to evaluate the potential seismic and geologic hazards of the site. They would utilize a variety of investigation techniques including geologic field mapping, subsurface exploration at representative soil and rock locations (including borings, cone penetration tests and pit excavations), shear-wave velocity measurements, soil resistivity measurements, and installation and removal of metal finned-pipe foundation types. This application for a Temporary Use Permit to conduct the geotechnical site assessment is independent from the right-of-way application for the proposed solar energy development project as this Permit establishes no right to further development. BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the environmental impacts that may be associated with the issuance of the Permit to conduct the geotechnical testing. As stated above, SES has submitted a separate right-of-way application to the BLM for the use of the land for future solar energy development, which will be the subject of a separate environmental analysis and any authorization of geotechnical site testing and monitoring does not automatically authorize the energy development project.

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Sincerely,



for Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Keith Adkins, EPA Director
Nick Elliott



United States Department of the Interior

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El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243-4561

January 8, 2008

In Reply Refer To: EIS CA-670-2006-33; CA-47740; 8100/1310 (P)
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Carmen Lucas
Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
PO Box 775
Pine Valley, CA 91962

Dear Ms. Lucas,

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Sincerely,



for Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Courtney Ann Coyle



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President Mike Jackson, Sr.
Fort Yuma Indian Reservation
PO Box 1899
Yuma, AZ 85366

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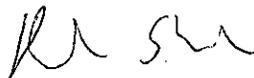
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Sincerely,



fsr Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Mrs. Bridget Nash-Chrabascz



United States Department of the Interior

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El Centro Field Office
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Mr. Robert Pinto, Sr., Chairman
Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
P.O. Box 2250
Alpine, CA 91903-2250

Dear Chairman Pinto,

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Sincerely,


for Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Mr Michael Garcia, Vice Chairman
Mr Willie Micklin, Executive Director



United States Department of the Interior

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January 8, 2008

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Mr. Raymond Torres, Chairman
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
P.O. Box 1160
Thermal, CA 92274

Dear Chairman Torres,

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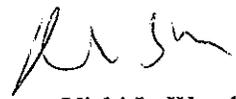
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Sincerely,


for Vicki L. Wood
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Attachment (map)

Cc: William J. Contreras



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In Reply Refer To: EIS CA-670-2006-33; CA-47740; 8100/1310 (P)
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Ms. Sherry Cordova, Chairwoman
Cocopah Indian Tribe
Avenue G and County 15th Street
Somerton, AZ 85350

Dear Chairwoman Cordova,

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This letter serves to provide notification of both the proposed projects, explain the roles of the CEC and BLM, and offer an invitation to the tribe to enter into government-to-government consultation pursuant to the *Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994* and other relevant laws and regulations. We request your assistance in identifying any issues or concerns the tribe might have, including identifying sacred sites and places of traditional religious and cultural significance which might be affected by the proposed projects. Currently, URS Corporation is undertaking the cultural resources record search and inventory of the project area and may be contacting you to gather additional information. If you provide sensitive information, a 1991 amendment to the national Historic Preservation Act allows the Bureau of Land Management to prevent the release of this information to the public if it may pose a risk to historic properties or traditional cultural properties.

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Sincerely,


for Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Mrs. Jill McCormick, Cultural Resources



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243-4561

January 8, 2008

In Reply Refer To: EIS CA-670-2006-33; CA-47740; 8100/1310 (P)
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. H. Paul Cuero, Jr., Chairman
Campo Kumeyaay Nation
36190 Church Road, Suite 1
Campo, CA 91906

Dear Chairman Cuero,

In September 2007 the Bureau of Land Management California Desert District sent a general notice letter to the tribes of southern California describing proposed alternative/renewable energy developments located on public lands throughout the region. One of the applicants listed, Stirling Energy Solutions, Inc. (SES), has submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office (BLM) for a right-of-way to develop a solar energy generating facility on federal land in southwestern Imperial County. Approximately 7000 acres of public lands would be within this project's boundaries, titled SES Solar Two. It is located north of Interstate 8, south of Evan Hewes Highway, east of the town of Ocotillo, and 14 miles west of El Centro (see attached map). Ground disturbing activities associated with this project include geotechnical studies, construction of access and/or utility roads, a water pipeline, a transmission line to the Imperial Valley Substation, and installation of the solar collecting systems. Additionally, ancillary or support facilities to be constructed include administration, operations, and maintenance buildings.

Under federal law, BLM is responsible for processing requests for right-of-ways to authorize the projects, associated transmission lines, and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing the applications, BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires that federal agencies reviewing projects under their jurisdiction consider the environmental impacts associated with their construction and operation. In the case of solar thermal power plant projects such as SES Solar Two, this will be accomplished through preparation of Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) in coordination with the California Energy Commission (CEC) and its Preliminary and Final Staff Analyses. BLM is also responsible for meeting the consultation and documentation requirements for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Native American consultation, including Government to Government consultation.

Under California law, the California Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing the application for certification filed for the projects, and also has the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Commission conducts this review in accordance with the administrative adjudication provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act and its own regulations governing site certification proceedings. These provisions require the staff to conduct an independent analysis of applications for certification and prepare an independent assessment of a project's potential environmental impacts, feasible mitigation measures, and alternatives as part of this process. The Commission considers the staff assessments, along with those of the applicant, interested local, regional, state, and federal agencies, intervenors, and interested Native American tribes, in developing its decision on an application for certification. The Commission has a certified regulatory program under CEQA that

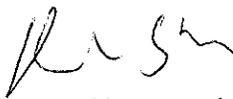
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Sincerely,


Vicki L. Wood
Field Manager

Attachment (map)

Cc: Mr. Fidel Hyde, EPA Supervisor



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

El Centro Field Office
1661 South 4th Street
El Centro, California 92243-4561

January 8, 2008

In Reply Refer To: EIS CA-670-2006-33; CA-47740; 8100/1310 (P)
CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson
La Posta Band of Kumeyaay Indians
P.O. Box 1120
Boulevard, CA 91905

Dear Chairperson Parada,

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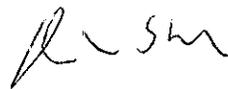
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Cc: James Hill, EPA Director