

Appendix C

Public Scoping Report

PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

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Abbreviations and Acronyms Used in this Report

AB	Assembly Bill
ACEC	areas of critical environmental concern
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DG	distributed generation
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
kV	kilovolt
MW	megawatt
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
OHV	off-highway vehicle
O&M	operations and maintenance
PTC	Permit to Construct
ROW	right-of-way
SB	Senate Bill
SDG&E	San Diego Gas & Electric Company
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 OVERVIEW OF NEPA/CEQA SCOPING PROCESS

1.1 Introduction

Ocotillo Express, LLC has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a right-of-way (ROW) on public lands to construct a wind energy facility approximately five miles west of the community of Ocotillo (30 miles west of El Centro). The project would generate approximately 474 megawatts (MW) of wind energy on a 15,000-acre (23.4-square-mile) project site. Most of the proposed site consists of lands administered by BLM and subject to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. Authorization of the ROW by BLM would require an amendment of the CDCA Plan. A small portion of the site lies on private land under the jurisdiction of Imperial County. Thus, Ocotillo Express, LLC has also applied for a Conditional Use Permit from the County of Imperial.

This public scoping report documents the BLM's and County's NEPA and CEQA scoping process and the comments received for the proposed project. Specifically, this report describes the scoping activities and summarizes the written and verbal comments received on the BLM's Notice of Intent (NOI) and County's Notice of Preparation (NOP) and comments received at the joint public scoping meetings held for the project. This report serves as an information source to the BLM and County in its determination of the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The County and BLM will use the comments received during the scoping period to:

- 1) Identify key issues to focus the analysis
- 2) Identify reasonable alternatives for analysis
- 3) Present environmental impacts of the project and alternatives
- 4) Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts
- 5) Inform the agency decision-making process.

1.2 Summary of NEPA/CEQA Scoping Process

The NEPA/CEQA scoping process provides government agencies, public and private organizations, and the general public the opportunity to identify environmental issues and alternatives for consideration in the EIS/EIR. The scoping process and results are an initial step in the NEPA/CEQA process.

To comply with NEPA (40 CFR 1501.7), the BLM published the NOI in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project (FR Vol. 75, No. 238, page 77654, December 13, 2010). The NOI serves as the official legal notice that a federal agency is

commencing preparation of an EIS. The Federal Register serves as the U.S. Government's official noticing and reporting publication. The NOI initiates the public scoping period for the EIS, provides information about the proposed project, and serves as an invitation for other federal agencies granted cooperating agency status to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIS.

As required by CEQA Guidelines §15082 (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), the California State Clearing House issued an NOP on December 21, 2010, that summarized the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project and stated its intention to prepare a joint EIS/EIR, and requested comments from interested parties. The NOP is included as Appendix A-1 and the NOI is included as Appendix A-2.

There were 72 public notices sent to stakeholders, including 15 copies to the state clearinghouse; 39 to federal, state, and local agencies and organizations; 7 to local libraries; and 11 to Native American groups. The public notice, included as Appendix B-1, ran in the Imperial Valley Press on December 21, 2010, and was sent to the general distribution list of all those identified as property owners within a 5-mile radius of the proposed project site. BLM issued a press release, included as Appendix B-2, regarding the NOI on December 16, 2010.

The NOI and press release were also made available to the public on BLM's website for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project at:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/ocotillo_express_wind.html

During the NOP/NOI comment period, the County and BLM held two public scoping meetings on January 5, and January 6, 2011, in the Imperial County Board Room (940 Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro, California 92243) and Ocotillo Community Center (266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, California 92259) respectfully.

The scoping meetings provided the public and government agencies the opportunity to receive information on the NEPA/CEQA process and on the proposed project and to provide verbal and written comments. Approximately 70 and 100 persons attended the scoping meetings in El Centro and Ocotillo, respectively, including representatives from local and state agencies, organizations, and private citizens.

Project fact sheets and comment cards were provided as handouts at the public scoping meetings (Appendix A). Additional materials provided to the public at the scoping meetings are contained within Appendix C and include the following:

- 1) Appendix C-1 – Project Fact Sheet
- 2) Appendix C-2 – Written Comment Card

- 3) Appendix C-3 – Speaker Registration Cards
- 4) Appendix C-4 – Scoping Meeting Presentation.

Appendix D includes scoping meeting sign-in sheets and completed speaker registration cards for the two meetings.

A digital audio recording device was used at the two public scoping meetings to capture verbal comments. The audio recordings are available from the County upon request. In addition, summary transcriptions of the verbal public comments are provided in Appendices E and F.

The comment period for the NOP and NOI ended on February 7, 2011. In total, 33 letters were received: 3 from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations; and 30 from individuals. These comments are incorporated into the EIS/EIR project record and are documented and summarized in this public scoping report.

1.3 Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Providing Scoping Comments

Federal, state, and local agencies; private and public organizations; and the general public provided written comments during the public scoping period. Written comments received during the public scoping meetings and in response to the NOP/NOI are included in Appendix G. In summary, Table 1 presents the agencies, organizations, and private citizens that provided comments during the NEPA/CEQA scoping process organized in the order they were issued.

**Table 1
Comments Received During Public Scoping Period**

Commenter	Date
Federal, State, and Local Agencies and Organizations	
Native American Heritage Commission, Dave Singleton, Program Analyst	December 27, 2010
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, Ann McPherson, Environmental Review Office	January 11, 2011
Department of Transportation, District 11, Division of Planning, Jacob Armstrong	January 19, 2011
Individuals	
George Blender	December 25, 2010
Parke Ewing	December 27, 2010
Charlene Compson	December 27, 2010
John Mood	December 28, 2010
Chris Pate	January 4, 2011
Robert Dallezotte	January 4, 2011

Table 1 (Continued)

Commenter	Date
Bill and Charlene Compson	January 4, 2011
Mark Meech	January 4, 2011
James and Rebecca Wilson	January 5, 2011
Edie Harmon	January 5, 2011
Martin Jorgensen	January 5, 2011
Bill Jackson	January 6, 2011
Ocotillo Community Meeting Notes (unknown author)	January 6, 2011
Wilburn E. Stovall	January 8, 2011
Barbara Hill	January 11, 2011
Scott Dollard	January 13, 2011
Pete Zeitler	January 14, 2011
Darrell and Ima Walker	January 15, 2011
Donna Tisdale	January 17, 2011
Charles and Laurie Baker	January 18, 2011
Joyce and Richard Denison	January 18, 2011
Joyce and Richard Denison	January 18, 2011
Chris Pate	January 19, 2011
Tony Ligutti	January 20, 2011
Cynthia Buxton	January 21, 2011
Terry Weiner	January 21, 2011
Cynthia Buxton	January 21, 2011
Edie Harmon	January 21, 2011
Parke Ewing	January 21, 2011
Mark Meech	January 24, 2011

1.4 Scoping Report Organization

This public scoping report summarizes the comments and issues identified through the project’s scoping period, including the public scoping meetings. Imperial County and BLM will review and consider all the written and verbal comments received in preparing the EIS/EIR for the Proposed Project.

Section 2 provides summary information on Ocotillo Express, LLC's stated project objectives and a description of the project and provides background information regarding the proposed project.

Section 3 provides an overall summary of the comments received and issues raised during the project's public review period, including verbal comments received during the public scoping meetings.

Section 4 provides a summary of future steps in the planning process and indicates opportunities for public participation in the environmental review process.

Section 5 includes a list of references used in preparation of this scoping report.

Following is the list of appendices that includes public scoping notices, scoping meeting materials, scoping meeting transcripts, and public comments received during the public review period.

A. Notices

A-1 Notice of Preparation (posted December 21, 2010)

A-2 Notice of Intent (published in the Federal Register on December 13, 2010)

B. Scoping Meeting Notices

B-1 Public Notice (County, December 20, 2010)

B-2 Public Notice (BLM, December 16, 2010)

C. Scoping Meeting Materials

C-1 Project Fact Sheet

C-2 Written Comment Form

C-3 Scoping Meeting Presentation

D. Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets and Speaker Cards

D-1 January 5, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet and Speaker Registration list

D-2 January 6, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet and Completed Speaker Registration Cards

E. Summary of verbal comments from scoping meeting on January 5, 2011, El Centro, California

F. Summary of verbal comments from scoping meeting on January 6, 2011, Ocotillo, California

G. Comments Received During Scoping Period

2.0 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT

This section provides an overview of the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project located in west Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the community of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California.

2.1 Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

2.1.1 APPLICANT'S OBJECTIVES

The Applicant's fundamental objective for the proposed action is to construct, operate, maintain, and eventually decommission a 474-MW wind energy facility and associated interconnection transmission infrastructure to provide renewable electric power to California's existing transmission grid to help meet federal and state renewable energy supply and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction requirements. The Applicant is committed to constructing and operating the project in an environmentally responsible manner and to providing a sustainable source of renewable energy to the State's investor-owned utilities and the public. The Applicant's specific objectives for the project are:

- 1) To construct and operate a cost competitive 474-MW wind energy facility to provide a renewable and reliable source of power to California's investor-owned utilities (IOU);
- 2) To locate the project on contiguous lands with high wind potential to maximize operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts and water use;
- 3) To minimize environmental impacts and land disturbance by locating the project near existing transmission infrastructure and roads and by avoiding sensitive environmental areas, recreational resources and wildlife habitats (e.g., Desert Wildlife Management Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern);
- 4) To develop a source of renewable electric power that can be placed into service in an expeditious manner by interconnecting to San Diego Gas and Electric's (SDG&E) Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line; and
- 5) To assist California and its IOUs in meeting the State's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) and GHG emissions reduction requirements, including the requirements set forth in Senate Bill (SB) 1078 (California RPS Program), Assembly Bill (AB) 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006), and the Governor's Executive Order S-14-08 to increase the state's Renewable Energy Standard to 33 percent renewable power by 2020. In particular:
 - a. California's RPS mandate that requires the State's IOUs to supply 20 percent of California's total electricity through renewable energy generation by 2010, as set

forth in Senate Bill (SB) 1078 (2001-2002 Reg. Sess.) (establishing the California RPS Program) and SB 107 (2005-2006 Reg. Sess.) (accelerating the 20 percent requirement to 2010).

- b. California's GHG emission reduction goals set forth in AB 32 that requires the State's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.

2.1.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project consists of a 474-megawatt (MW) wind energy facility. Approximately 158 wind turbines, in the 1.5 to 3.0 MW range, would be constructed within a 15,000-acre project site located 5 miles west of the community of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. In addition to wind turbines the project would include the following components:

- 1) A 2-acre O&M facility located in the central portion of the proposed project site.
- 2) An electrical collection system including twenty-three 34.5-kV circuits connecting into a 500-kV transformer and substation located at the central part of the proposed project site adjacent to the approved SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink (SPL) 500-kV transmission line.
- 3) A connection to the approved SDG&E SPL 500-kV transmission line scheduled for completion in June 2012 across the middle of the proposed project site. The Point of Interconnection would be adjacent to the proposed substation.
- 4) A 500-kV above-ground stub line to connect the proposed substation to the new SDG&E 500-kV line.
- 5) A 410-foot by 680-foot substation located adjacent to the interconnection utility switchyard.
- 6) Up to four permanent meteorological towers.
- 7) Up to 53 miles of new, permanent access and maintenance roads to provide access and circulation within the proposed project site.
- 8) For public safety, permanent fences would be erected around the substation/utility switchyard, the O&M building, and meteorological towers.
- 9) Temporary work areas, borrow areas, a concrete batch plant, and staging areas associated with project construction.

This project requires a Record of Decision from BLM and a Conditional Use Permit from the County of Imperial. Prior to ROW grant issuance, the project will require a Land Use Plan Amendment to the CDCA. The County of Imperial will use the EIS/EIR to issue the Conditional Use Permit for its compliance with CEQA.

3.0 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

This section of the report summarizes the comments raised by the public and agencies during the scoping process. This summary is based upon both written and verbal comments that were received during the NOP/NOI public scoping period and from the project scoping meetings held in El Centro on January 5, 2011, and Ocotillo on January 6, 2011. Table 1 provides a list of commenters including federal, state, and local agencies and organizations that provided written comments during the public review period. There were a number of environmental concerns raised during the public scoping process, which focused on the project's potential effects in several environmental categories. The scoping report summarizes the comments received according to the following major themes:

- 1) Project description
- 2) Human environment issues
- 3) Natural environment issues
- 4) Indirect and cumulative impacts
- 5) Project alternatives
- 6) EIS/EIR administrative and permitting issues.

3.1 Project Description

Several commenters express concerns regarding the reliability and efficiency of wind energy production and transmission. These commenters speculate that a backup energy source, such as a gas-fired energy plant, will be required, and thus, request that the backup energy source be described in the project description. Several commenters request that a discussion of the quality of the site's wind energy resource be included in the environmental analysis. One commenter requests an explanation for why the applicant's wind studies are based on metrological towers that are half the height of the actual proposed wind turbines. Some commenters request that contracts, such as a power purchase agreement, between the applicable public energy utility (SDG&E) and Ocotillo Express, LLC, be identified in the project description. The project's lifespan and plan for decommissioning is also requested for discussion in the EIS/EIR. One commenter recommends that the EIS/EIR identify bonding or financial assurance strategies for decommissioning and reclamation. Another commenter requests a description of how temporary disturbance areas associated with construction will be reclaimed or restored.

Statement of Purpose and Need

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted comments stating the following with regard to the Statement of Purpose and Need:

- 1) The purpose and need should be a clear, objective statement of the rationale for the proposed project.
- 2) The DEIS¹ should discuss the proposed project in the context of the larger energy market that the project would serve;
- 3) The DEIS should identify potential purchasers of the power produced; and
- 4) The DEIS should discuss how the project will assist the State in meeting its renewable energy portfolio standards and goals.

3.2 Human Environment Issues

Aesthetics/Visual Resources

The potential visual and aesthetic impacts of the wind turbine towers and associated above-ground transmission lines are identified as a public concern. Of particular concern, is that the project would nearly surround the community of Ocotillo with wind turbines. Visual impacts affecting the historic Desert View Tower and Mountain Springs Park are also raised as a concern. Some commenters note that views of the sunset for those living east of the project site would be significantly altered. Commenters also note that the subject property and surrounding areas are predominantly open and undeveloped, and consequently, the proposed wind farm could alter views of the Coyote Mountains and overall landscape and diminish the wilderness experience for visitors in the area. Several commenters expressed concern that the project would adversely affect the rural scenic value of the project area and impact views for landowners and users of the surrounding recreation and wilderness areas, which could reduce the visual appeal of the region potentially affecting tourism and revenue to local communities. Concerns about the project's visibility from Interstate 8 and routes leading to and from Anza-Borrego State Park were indicated. One commenter expressed concern about the adverse visual impacts that may result if the facility is subjected to a wildfire. Several commenters request that the EIS/EIR address the light and glare effects that project lighting would have on the night sky in the project area.

One commenter suggested that mitigation include painting the turbine arrays with tones that match the natural landscape.

¹ For purposes of this Scoping Report, the EPA's reference to DEIS is synonymous with EIS/EIR used herein.

Wildfire Hazards

A number of comments were raised regarding the increased risk of wildfire hazards due to the introduction of industrial wind turbines, new transmission lines, substations, and transformers. Commenters stated that these facilities would introduce a new ignition source. One commenter expresses concern regarding impacts affecting aerial firefighting operations in the project area.

Wilderness and Recreation

Several commenters request that the analysis identify the restrictions on public use of the proposed project site during and after construction. One commenter wanted to know if damage or vandalism to the wind turbines could result in the entire site being closed to public access. Several commenters state that the project site has valuable recreational resources including but not limited to camping, hiking, hunting, cycling and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use. One commenter raised concerns about the potential loss of dark sky for scientific study and recreation.

The EPA recommends the following with regard to wilderness and recreation:

- 1) The DEIS should provide full disclosure of the impacts to recreational users in the project area.
- 2) The DEIS should clarify what general measures will be incorporated to ensure that OHV and other recreational users are not injured due to hazards associated with the wind turbines, piping, and transmission lines. It is reasonable to assume that OHV users do not always stay on designated trails or may not know which trails are in fact designated. Some precautions regarding safety should be implemented.

Land Use

Several commenters noted that the proposed project would conflict with designated recreational and wilderness land uses in the project area. Commenters note that the analysis should consider the rural community character, quality of life, and potential conflicts with the proposed infrastructure project. One commenter is concerned about the project's consistency with the CDCA Plan Multiple Use Class designation for the project site.

The EPA states that the DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term "land use plans" includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ's Forty Questions, #23b).

Noise

A number of the commenters expressed concern regarding potential noise generated by operation and construction of the proposed wind turbines and its effect on adjacent residences, camping areas and special-status animal species in the area. Several commenters request that construction and operation noise of all project components including traffic noise should be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. The EPA stated that decibel levels of the turbines should be evaluated as should the effects of noise levels on a variety of species, as well as effects on property values, residences, and recreational use.

Cultural Resources

Numerous comments were received during the public scoping period concerning the project's potential effect on existing cultural and historic resources in the area, and the need to conduct Native American consultation, particularly government-to-government consultation as defined under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The environmental analysis should provide a detailed analysis of the cultural resources, including Native American sacred sites, burial/cremation areas, and traditional cultural properties. Consultation for tribal cultural resources is required under Section 106 of the NHPA, which requires a federal agency, upon determining that activities under its control could affect historic properties to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO).

Public Health and Safety

Several commenters indicate that a potential leak or spill of hydraulic or petroleum based fluids from the turbines, construction equipment or other vehicles during project construction, operation, or maintenance could contaminate soils, surface waters, or groundwater. Other commenters express concern regarding the safety of the turbines with respect to the towers collapsing or losing blades. Commenters were also concerned that the blades used on the turbines are constructed of toxic materials, which may not be disposed of properly. Some commenters indicate that public safety hazards may result from seismic activity in the area due to the presence of fault lines.

Potential hazards affecting radio communications, radar, Border Patrol operations, aircraft flight paths and military training flights and other operations were also requested for analysis. Concerns are expressed for the potential damage and hazards created during high winds. Several commenters are concerned about potential health effects related to low or high frequency noise, wind turbine syndrome, shadow flicker, headaches, sleeplessness, ground vibration, microwave/magnetic field exposure, and other health effects identified in medical studies. One

commenter is concerned about horizontal lighting strikes that may affect the viability of the project. Another commenter is concerned that the project will cause venomous snakes to enter residential areas due to habitat loss resulting from construction and operation of the project.

The EPA recommends that the proponent strive to address the full product life cycle by sourcing wind turbine components from a company that: 1) minimizes environmental impacts during raw material extraction; 2) manufactures wind turbines in a zero waste facility; and 3) provides future disassembly for material recovery for reuse and recycling.

Transportation

Several commenters request that traffic impacts resulting from transporting construction equipment and materials to the proposed project site should be analyzed in EIS/EIR. Several commenters express concern for potential damage to existing roads as a result of the project.

The California Department of Transportation provided the following comments:

- 1) Visual aspects of the project including glint and glare should be documented not to have any potential impacts to motorists driving on Interstate 8.
- 2) The NOP identifies that the project is proposing to connect to the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink transmission line. Any utility crossings of highways or freeways will need an encroachment permit from Caltrans. Supports for overhead lines crossing freeways must comply with these requirements, they:
 - a. Should have a minimum lateral clearance of 30 feet from the edge of a through lane and 30 feet from the edge of a ramp lane, when possible.
 - b. Shall be located outside the ROW or between the ROW line and access control line if different. Any other placement must be approved by the Division of Design, Chief.
 - c. Should not be permitted in medians.
 - d. Should not be permitted on cut or fill slopes.
 - e. Shall not impair sight distances.
 - f. Shall be compatible with access requirements.

Public Services and Utilities

A commenter requests that the project's septic needs be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. In addition, waste disposal, particularly for damaged blades is a concern identified in several comment letters. One commenter expresses concern regarding impacts affecting aerial firefighting operations in the project area.

Social and Economic Conditions

Commenters express concern regarding the potential impact of the project on their property values. Specific topics mentioned include rural blight due to the loss of recreational tourism, and impacts to local labor and suppliers. One commenter requests that a cost/benefit analysis be prepared. Another commenter suggests that the County will lose tax revenue as a result of decreased property values. Several commenters request that the number of local jobs created be identified in the EIS/EIR. One commenter suggests that jobs associated with the project would not be created locally because the local community consists of a high percentage of retired individuals and lacks skilled labor.

Environmental Justice

One commenter stated that a disproportionate number of projects are concentrated in western Imperial County.

Comments submitted by the EPA state that the DEIS should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. If such populations exist, the DEIS should address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations. Assessment of the project's impact on minority and low-income populations should reflect coordination with those affected populations.

3.3 Natural Environment Issues

Biological Resources

Biological issues raised by the public and responsible agencies included potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the overall health of the ecosystem and special-status species known to occur in the region. Specific comments (among others) included potential impacts to rare plants including but not limited to Ocotillo plants (*Fouquieria splendens*), Sonoran sandmat (*Euphorbia micromera*), and dye Bush (*Psoralea argemone*); and special-status wildlife species including but not limited to peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis cremnobates*), flat-tail horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcalli*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and other raptors and sensitive bird and bat species. One commenter requests that a detailed description of protocols used to conduct plant and animal surveys be provided in the EIS/EIR. Several commenters request that project impacts be assessed for all project components, including proposed infrastructure, transmission lines, roads, and staging areas. One commenter is concerned that the project may use rodenticides causing mortality in owl populations.

A number of comments were received concerning the project's potential effect on local and migratory bird species. Some commenters felt the proposed turbines with their spinning rotors posed increased risk for bird collisions and mortality. Of particular concern to these commenters was the project's potential to harm, injure, or kill golden eagles and other birds of prey that may commonly use the area for nesting, hunting, and/or migration.

Comments submitted by the EPA state the following with regard to biological resources and invasive plant management:

- 1) Design a comprehensive monitoring program to evaluate impacts on bats and avian species, and discuss design and management measures to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife and native and rare plants.
- 2) Identify specific measures to reduce impacts to eagles and clarify how the proposed project will comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- 3) Discuss the applicability of the recently finalized U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit regulations (50 CFR parts 13 and 22) to the proposed project. Elaborate on process and/or likelihood of obtaining a permit via these regulations.
- 4) Commit to additional data collection/analysis to identify areas that are important to bald and golden eagles to ensure proper siting and avoid take of these species.
- 5) If alternatives cannot be developed that avoid the take of eagles, develop an operational monitoring and adaptive management plan to address this issue.
- 6) Determine if the proposed project is within the existing or historical ranges of the California condor and consult with USFWS and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) early in the process.
- 7) Describe the potential for habitat fragmentation and obstructions for wildlife movement.
- 8) The DEIS should include an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds.

Water Resources

A number of comments address the project's potential impacts to local groundwater resources. Specifically, it is requested that the EIS/EIR include an analysis of any potential groundwater usage, including during construction, and groundwater recharge. Several commenters express concerns about the proposed hauling of water from an aquifer in Pine Valley. Groundwater impacts associated with this aquifer is requested for analysis. Impacts concerning flood plains, runoff, and erosion are listed as concerns. Diminishing water supplies provided by the Ocotillo

Mutual Water Company and the Coyote Mutual Water Company are identified as concerns. Several commenters requested that the water source for the proposed batch plant be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Another commenter wanted to know how wastewater from the batch plant will be handled.

The EPA submitted comments stating that the applicant should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a jurisdictional delineation and confirm the presence of Waters of the U.S. (WOUS), in order to determine whether or not a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit is needed. If a permit is needed, the DEIS should demonstrate the project's compliance with the CWA 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The DEIS should describe the geographic extent of any WOUS at the project site, as well as drainage patterns at the project location. The DEIS should discuss the steps taken to avoid and minimize impacts to WOUS. To the extent any aquatic features that could be affected by the project are determined not to constitute waters of the United States, the EPA recommends that the DEIS characterize the functions of such features and discuss potential mitigation. Include information on the functions and locations of ephemeral washes in the project area because of the important hydrologic and biogeochemical role these washes play in direct relationship to higher-order waters downstream.

The EPA also recommends that the DEIS identify source water protection areas within the project area; activities that could potentially affect source water areas; potential contaminants that may result from the proposed project; and measures that would be taken to protect the source water protection areas. The DEIS should describe the availability of a water supply for construction and operation of the proposed project and fully evaluate the environmental impacts associated with using the selected water supply. The DEIS should describe whether a temporary batch plant will be installed on site for the needed concrete, estimate the quantity of water required for the concrete mixture and describe the source of this water and potential effects on other water users and natural resources in the project area. The DEIS should provide information on CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in the project area, if any, and efforts to develop and revise Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). The DEIS should describe existing restoration and enhancement efforts for those waters, how the proposed project will coordinate with on-going protection efforts, and any mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid further degradation of impaired waters.

Air Resources and Global Climate Change

Comments were received during the public scoping period concerning the project's potential construction and operational impacts to the local air basin and global climate change. One commenter claimed that the San Diego Union Tribune editorial page had an article on the proposed wind turbine project in its January 6, 2011 edition. According to the commenter, the

article quoted information from UC Riverside professor Michael Allen who suggests that the destruction to desert soils caused by renewable projects may actually increase greenhouse gases more than the renewable facilities would decrease them. Several commenters request that the EIS/EIR analysis address air quality impacts resulting from road construction, trenching, soil displacement and the emission of noxious substances. Project related dust emissions were of particular concern to commenters. Several commenters suggest that the project may generate dust spores, which are known to cause valley fever. Diesel exhaust emissions are identified as a concern. Another commenter suggested that project related dust and diesel emissions will reduce the photosynthetic productivity of native vegetation. Several commenters are concerned with vehicle emissions associated with hauling water and construction materials to the project site.

Comments submitted by the EPA state the following with regard to air resources and global climate change:

- 1) Imperial County was designated nonattainment for the 2006 PM_{2.5} standard in October 2009. The air quality analysis should take into account this designation.
- 2) Existing Conditions - The DEIS should provide a detailed discussion of ambient air conditions, NAAQS, and criteria pollutant nonattainment areas in all areas considered for wind development.
- 3) Quantify Emissions - The DEIS should estimate emissions of criteria pollutants from the proposed project and discuss the timeframe for release of these emissions over the lifespan of the project. The DEIS should describe and estimate emissions from potential construction activities, as well as proposed mitigation measures to minimize these emissions.
- 4) Specify Emission Sources - The DEIS should specify the emission sources by pollutant from mobile sources, stationary sources, and ground disturbance. This source specific information should be used to identify appropriate mitigation measures and areas in need of the greatest attention.
- 5) Equipment Emissions Mitigation Plan (EEMP) - The DEIS should identify the need for an EEMP. An EEMP will identify actions to reduce diesel particulate, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and NO_x associated with construction activities.
- 6) The DEIS should consider how climate change could potentially influence the proposed project, specifically within sensitive areas, and assess how the projected impacts could be exacerbated by climate change.
- 7) The DEIS should consider the cumulative impacts associated with multiple large-scale wind and solar projects proposed in the desert southwest and clarify how existing and/or proposed resources will be affected by climate change.

- 8) The DEIS should quantify and disclose the anticipated climate change benefits of wind energy. EPA suggests quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from different types of generating facilities including solar, geothermal, natural gas, coal-burning, and nuclear and compiling and comparing these values.
- 9) Fugitive Dust Control Plan - The DEIS should identify the need for Fugitive Dust Control Plan.

Soils Resources

A commenter requests that a geological report be prepared identifying the existing type of soil, and recommendations for footing size, reinforcement and compaction of soil based on soil density. This commenter also requested that the elevations of the pads relative to existing topography maps be identified.

3.4 Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

One commenter expresses concern about the cumulative capacity of the substation and transmission line the project would interconnect with. Cumulative air quality impacts from traffic related sources to multiple industrial scale mining and energy projects on BLM lands in the area in addition to I-8 traffic impacts are also requested to be analyzed. One commenter recommends that significant cumulative impacts from numerous wind, solar, and transmission infrastructure projects should be analyzed.

Comments submitted by the EPA state the following with regard to indirect and cumulative impacts:

For each resource analyzed, the DEIS should:

- 1) Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of species habitat lost to date.
- 2) Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts. For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or in stasis.
- 3) Identify all on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area that may contribute to cumulative impacts.
- 4) Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of impacts from reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends.

- 5) Assess the cumulative impacts contribution of the proposed alternatives to the long-term health of the resource, and provide a specific measure for the projected impact from the proposed alternatives.
- 6) Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.
- 7) Identify opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts, including working with other entities. The DEIS should describe the reasonably foreseeable future land use and associated impacts that will result from the additional power supply. The document should provide an estimate of the amount of growth, its likely location, and the biological and environmental resources at risk.
- 8) The DEIS should consider the direct and indirect effects of the inter-connecting transmission line for the proposed project, as well as the cumulative effects associated with the transmission needs of other reasonably foreseeable projects.

3.5 Project Alternatives

Several commenters request that an alternative project location be considered in the EIS/EIR.

The EPA submitted comments stating that the DEIS should describe how each alternative was developed, how it addresses each project objective, and how it would be implemented. The alternatives analysis should include a discussion of location, including on-site alternatives that demonstrate a reduction of adverse affects. The DEIS should describe the benefits associated with the proposed technology. The DEIS should clearly describe the rational used to determine whether impacts of an alternative are significant or not. Thresholds of significance should be determined by considering the context and intensity of an action and its effects. The DEIS should identify and analyze an environmentally preferable alternative. Options such as reducing the footprint of the proposed project within the project area or relocating sections/components of the project to other areas, including private land, to reduce environmental impacts should be examined. The DEIS should discuss each alternative's potential to impact air traffic and safety in the vicinity of the proposed project.

3.6 EIS/EIR Administrative and Permitting Issues

Agency Permits/Consultation

A commenter noted that the project should analyze the consistency of the project with state and local agencies and conduct joint environmental review with all responsible agencies. All required permits should be listed and discussed. A commenter requested that early consultation occur with the resource agencies, specifically the CDFG, BLM, and USFWS.

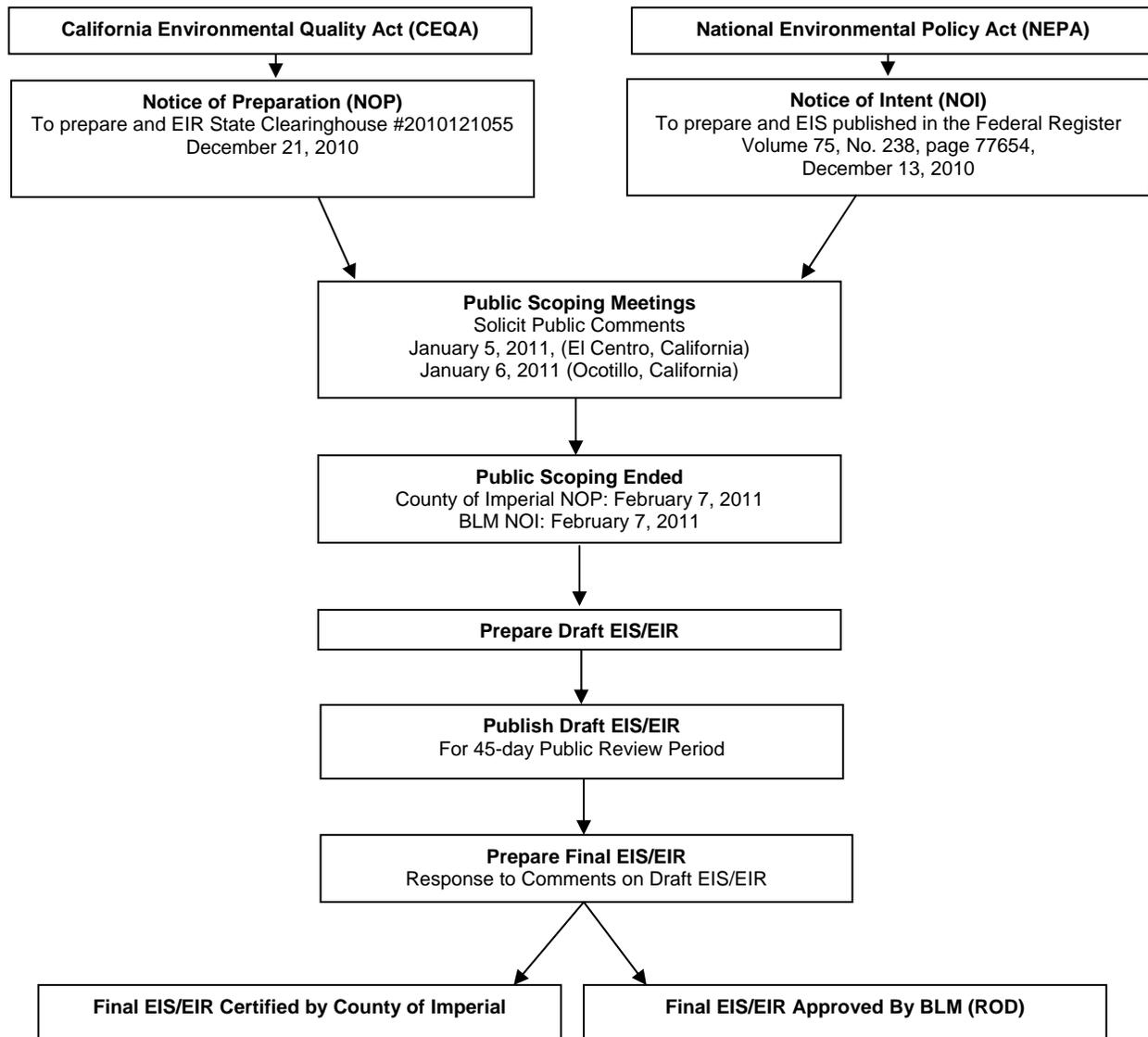
3.7 Issues Outside the Scope of the EIR/EIS

General comments were received that noted support and others that were against the development of the project. Some comments were received requesting copies of the project maps and other information. A comment was also received requesting that the project's public review time be extended. Numerous comments questioned Pattern Energy's integrity, expertise and financial capacity to fund the project.

4.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The EIS/EIR process requires a team of interdisciplinary resource specialists to complete each step. An important part of the environmental planning process is engaging the public and relevant agencies from the earliest stages of and throughout the planning process to address issues, comments, and concerns. The steps of the NEPA and CEQA planning processes and agency authority and decisions to be made are described as follows. Figure 1 provides a summary of the EIS (NEPA) and EIR (CEQA) processes.

Figure 1. NEPA/CEQA Process Flowchart



Identification of Issues

Issues associated with the project were identified through the scoping period, which initiated the planning process. The scoping process and the issues identified through the scoping process are documented in this scoping report.

Data Information and Collection

Much of the necessary resource data and information will be compiled from existing studies prepared for the project or through other local agencies. Additional data and information will be obtained from available sources to update and/or supplement existing data.

Preparing Draft EIS/EIR

Based on collected data, including public comments, a description of the project and alternatives (including no action) will be developed. Only alternatives that meet NEPA and CEQA screening criteria will be considered in detail. Impacts that could result from implementing the project and alternatives will be analyzed and measures to mitigate those impacts will be identified where appropriate.

Draft EIS/EIR and Public Comment Period

The next official public comment period will begin upon publication of the Draft EIS/EIR, which is anticipated to be in mid-summer 2011. This document will evaluate a range of project alternatives including a “No Action” alternative and a “Preferred” alternative and will generally include the following:

- 1) Executive summary
- 2) Introduction/overview (including purpose and need for the project)
- 3) Description of project and alternatives
- 4) Environmental analysis (including impacts and mitigation measures to minimize impacts)
- 5) Comparison of alternatives
- 6) Other NEPA/CEQA considerations.

Upon completion of the Draft EIS/EIR, BLM will publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and the County will file a Notice of Completion with the California State Clearinghouse and a 45-day public comment period will follow. Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR will be distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and interested members of the public. The document will also be available online at the BLM project website:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/ocotillo_express_wind.html

During this time, public comment on the Draft EIS/EIR will be received.

Response to Comments, Preparation of Final EIS/EIR, Notice of Determination, and Record of Decision

After the public comment period, the BLM and County will respond to comments and prepare a Final EIS/EIR. The availability of the Final EIS/EIR will be announced in the Federal Register, and a 30-day public protest period will follow. Copies of the Final EIS/EIR will be distributed to elected officials, regulatory agencies, and interested members of the public. The document will also be available online at the BLM website, as described previously.

For NEPA, following a 30-day Protest Period and concurrent 60-day Governor's Review, the BLM will resolve valid protests and prepare the Record of Decision. The Notice of Availability for the Record of Decision will be announced in the Federal Register.

5.0 REFERENCES CITED

14 CCR 15000–15387 and Appendix A–L. Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act.

40 CFR 1501.1–1501.8. NEPA and Agency Planning.

Federal Register, Vol. 75, No. 238, page 77654, December 13, 2010.

Appendix A-1

Notice of Preparation (posted December 21, 2010)



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Cathleen Cox
Acting Director

Notice of Preparation

December 21, 2010

To: Reviewing Agencies
Re: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EIR
SCH# 2010121055

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EIR draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Angelina Havens
Imperial County Planning Division
940 West Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243-2875

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

RECEIVED

DEC 27 2010

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

NOP Distribution List

AGD

County: *Imperial*

SCH#

~~2010121055~~
~~Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)~~
~~2010121055~~

Resources Agency

- Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou
- Dept. of Boating & Waterways
Mike Sotelo
- California Coastal Commission
Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- Colorado River Board
Gerald R. Zimmerman
- Dept. of Conservation
Rebecca Salazar
- California Energy Commission
Eric Knight
- Cal Fire
Allen Robertson
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
James Herota
- Office of Historic Preservation
Ron Parsons
- Dept of Parks & Recreation
Environmental Stewardship Section
- California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery
Sue O'Leary
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.
Steve McAdam
- Dept. of Water Resources
Resources Agency
Nadell Gayou

- Fish & Game Region 1E
Laurie Harnsberger
- Fish & Game Region 2
Jeff Drongesen
- Fish & Game Region 3
Charles Armor
- Fish & Game Region 4
Julie Vance
- Fish & Game Region 5
Don Chadwick
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 6
Gabrina Gatchel
Habitat Conservation Program
- Fish & Game Region 6 I/M
Brad Henderson
Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- Dept. of Fish & Game M
George Isaac
Marine Region

Other Departments

- Food & Agriculture
Steve Shaffer
Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- Depart. of General Services
Public School Construction
- Dept. of General Services
Anna Garbeff
Environmental Services Section
- Dept. of Public Health
Bridgette Binning
Dept. of Health/Drinking Water

Independent Commissions, Boards

- Delta Protection Commission
Linda Flack
- Cal EMA (Emergency Management Agency)
Dennis Castrillo
- Governor's Office of Planning & Research
State Clearinghouse

Fish and Game

- Depart. of Fish & Game
Scott Flint
Environmental Services Division
- Fish & Game Region 1
Donald Koch

Public Utilities Commission

- Santa Monica Bay Restoration
Guangyu Wang
- State Lands Commission
Marina Brand
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)
Cherry Jacques

Business, Trans & Housing

- Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics
Sandy Hesnard
- Caltrans - Planning
Terri Pencovic
- California Highway Patrol
Scott Loetscher
Office of Special Projects
- Housing & Community Development
CEQA Coordinator
Housing Policy Division

Dept. of Transportation

- Caltrans, District 1
Rex Jackman
- Caltrans, District 2
Marcelino Gonzalez
- Caltrans, District 3
Bruce de Terra
- Caltrans, District 4
Lisa Carboni
- Caltrans, District 5
David Murray
- Caltrans, District 6
Michael Navarro
- Caltrans, District 7
Elmer Alvarez

- Caltrans, District 8
Dan Kopulsky
- Caltrans, District 9
Gayle Rosander
- Caltrans, District 10
Tom Dumas
- Caltrans, District 11
Jacob Armstrong
- Caltrans, District 12
Chris Herre

Cal EPA

Air Resources Board

- Airport Projects
Jim Lerner
- Transportation Projects
Douglas Ito
- Industrial Projects
Mike Tollstrup

- State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Programs Unit
Division of Financial Assistance

- State Water Resources Control Board
Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
Division of Water Quality

- State Water Resources Control Board
Steven Herrera
Division of Water Rights

- Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
CEQA Tracking Center

- Department of Pesticide Regulation
CEQA Coordinator

- RWQCB 1
Cathleen Hudson
North Coast Region (1)
- RWQCB 2
Environmental Document Coordinator
San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- RWQCB 3
Central Coast Region (3)
- RWQCB 4
Teresa Rodgers
Los Angeles Region (4)
- RWQCB 5S
Central Valley Region (5)
- RWQCB 5F
Central Valley Region (5)
Fresno Branch Office
- RWQCB 5R
Central Valley Region (5)
Redding Branch Office
- RWQCB 6
Lahontan Region (6)
- RWQCB 6V
Lahontan Region (6)
Victorville Branch Office
- RWQCB 7
Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- RWQCB 8
Santa Ana Region (8)
- RWQCB 9
San Diego Region (9)

Other _____

To: State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research
Responsible Agencies
Trustee Agencies
Interested Organizations and Parties



Notice of Preparation of a Joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement

CEQA Lead Agency: County of Imperial
Planning and
Development Services

NEPA Lead Agency: Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District

Address: 801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Address: 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Contact: Jurg Heuberger
Director

Contact: Cedric Perry
Project Manager

The County of Imperial and the Bureau of Land Management will be the lead agencies for the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), referred to as an EIR/EIS, for the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Project. A draft and final EIR/EIS will be prepared to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The lead agencies would like to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/EIS prepared by the lead agencies when considering any permits or approvals that your agency may need to issue for the project. The public is also invited to submit comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EIS.

Information on the proposed project, its location, and potential environmental effects is presented below. Due to the time limits mandated by California law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to the Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department at the address shown above.

Project Title: Ocotillo Express Wind Project

Project Applicant: Ocotillo Express LLC

Project Location: The proposed project would be located almost entirely on BLM-administered lands in the Imperial Valley, approximately 5 miles west of the community of Ocotillo in Imperial County, California. Figure 1 shows the location of the project.

Project Description: The Ocotillo Express Wind Project consists of the construction and operation of wind turbine generators and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 550 megawatts (MW) of electrical energy. The project would be constructed in two phases: Phase I would consist of a total nameplate capacity of 299 MW, and Phase II would consist of a total nameplate capacity of 251 MW (nameplate capacity is the full-rated capacity of a wind turbine generator). Electrical energy generated by the proposed project would be transferred to the

electrical transmission grid through an interconnection with the Sunrise Powerlink project, an approved high-voltage transmission line that crosses the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project site.

Facilities for the proposed project would consist of wind turbine generators, an electrical collection system for collecting the power generated by each wind turbine generator, an electrical substation, access roads, meteorological towers, and an operation and maintenance (O&M) building. During construction, a batch plant, equipment laydown yard, and parking area would also be needed. The project area totals approximately 15,000 acres, of which all but 26 acres occur on BLM-administered lands (26 acres are located on private land). A site plan for the project is shown in Figure 2.

Borrow sites would be used for sand and gravel sources used during construction. Each borrow area would be up to 15 acres in size and would be rehabilitated upon completion of the construction phase. The borrow site locations are anticipated to occur outside the project area. A temporary laydown and parking area would be required to stage and store construction equipment and materials, and for construction staff parking. After construction, all temporary disturbance areas associated with the borrow sites and laydown area would be rehabilitated.

The project would include a network of roads that would provide access to each turbine location and to the project's O&M building. During construction, access roads would have a temporary disturbance of 36 feet to facilitate use by large tracked cranes. An underground collection system would also parallel the access road network further widening the disturbed area.

There would be a 500-foot diameter temporary work area for each turbine site that would be used for the crane pad, equipment laydown, and other construction related needs. The crane pad would be compacted to provide a stable and safe operation area for the cranes.

A-10 acre site would be allocated to install a batch plant to be located either on site (on BLM-administered land) or adjacent to the gravel and aggregate source, for preparing and mixing the concrete used for the foundations for the wind turbine generators, transformers at the substation, O&M building, and other project facilities. The batch plant complex would consist of a mixing plant, areas for sand and gravel stockpiles, an access road, and truck load out and truck turnaround areas. The batch plant itself would consist of cement storage silos, water and mixture tanks, gravel hoppers, and conveyors to deliver different materials. Following construction, the site of the batch plant complex would be rehabilitated.

Potential Environmental Effects

The lead agencies plan to prepare a full-scope EIR/EIS addressing all affected resources and issue areas. The anticipated environmental effects of the project are briefly described below.

Aesthetics. The proposed wind turbine generators would be highly visible elements added to the desert landscape. Visual simulations of the project will be prepared from key observation points and the aesthetic impacts will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS using BLM's Visual Resources Management methodology.

Air Quality. Project construction activities would generate exhaust emissions and fugitive dust. Construction-related trips, including material delivery, waste hauling, and worker commuting, would also generate exhaust emissions. Additionally, operation and maintenance of the facility would generate emissions from the operation of vehicles. Construction and operational emissions will be estimated and compared against applicable emission standards.

Biological Resources. Construction of the project could result in impacts to a variety of special-status species and their habitats, including but not limited to, flat-tailed horned lizard, barefoot banded gecko, golden eagle, burrowing owl, bighorn sheep, bats, and various songbirds and raptors. Some of the impacts associated with construction of the project could include the permanent conversion and temporary disturbance of habitat for special-status species, potential effects to jurisdictional waters pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 1600 et seq of the California Fish and Game Code, and interference with wildlife movement and migration corridors. Operation and maintenance activities could result in avian and bat collisions with project infrastructure.

Cultural Resources. Construction of the project could damage or destroy cultural resources, including archaeological sites, historical resources, and traditional cultural properties. In addition, the project area may contain important paleontological resources.

Geology and Soils. Areas of potential hazard, including landslide areas, high erosion potential, and seismic hazard, will be identified in the EIR/EIS. Soil erosion could contribute to sedimentation in water courses. Ground shaking, landslides, and other ground failures from seismic activity could damage project structures.

Hydrology and Water Quality. The EIR/EIS will evaluate the project's effects on surface and groundwater resources, including impacts on surface water drainage, water quality, aquifers, and jurisdictional waters. Altered surface water runoff, erosion, siltation, and sedimentation could diminish water quality.

Land Use and Planning. The project's effects on existing land uses and consistency with applicable land use policies will be evaluated, including consistency with both County and BLM policies. Construction and operation of the project could hinder or permanently preclude other uses of the land. Approval of the project would require amendment of the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan.

Mineral Resources. The project area's potential for containing important mineral resources will be investigated. The project's potential to hinder or preclude access to such mineral resources will be evaluated. Impacts associated with use of local sand and gravel during construction will be evaluated.

Noise. Although the project is located in a sparsely populated area, operation of wind turbine generators would generate noise that may affect sensitive receptors, including residents and recreationists. Construction activities would generate noise that may temporarily affect sensitive receptors. Noise associated with both construction and operation will be evaluated.

Population and Housing. The potential for the project’s social and economic consequences to result in changes to the physical environment will be evaluated. The potential for the project to disproportionately affect minority and low-income populations will also be evaluated.

Public Health and Safety. Due to their height and location, the proposed wind turbine generators may present an aviation hazard for military, law enforcement, and civilian aircraft operations. The EIR/EIS will evaluate potential effects on aircraft operations, including effects on military training routes in the area and Border Patrol operations. Effects on aviation radar systems will also be evaluated.

Public Services. The project’s demand for public services will be estimated. If new public facilities or infrastructure need to be constructed to meet project needs, the impacts associated with their construction and operation will be evaluated.

Recreation. The project site is public land that is available for limited recreational use, including dispersed recreation opportunities such as hiking, camping, and biking. Nearby areas are also used for recreational purposes, including BLM wilderness areas and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The potential for the project to hinder or otherwise adversely affect recreational activities in the area will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

Transportation/Traffic. During construction, vehicle trips will be generated by delivery of project components, delivery of construction equipment and materials, hauling of waste materials, and commuting construction workers. Due to the large size of some components of the wind turbine generators, oversize loads may temporarily disrupt traffic flow, including transit and emergency vehicles. During project operation, trips will be generated by the project’s O&M workers and delivery of equipment associated with maintenance and repairs.

Utilities and Service Systems. Effects associated with construction of necessary utility infrastructure will be evaluated, including water, wastewater, electrical, and communications systems. Water sources for both construction and operational uses will be identified and effects on water supplies investigated. The potential effects of the wind turbine generators on microwave communication systems will be evaluated.

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Signature: _____
Armando G. Villa, Planning & Development Services Director

Date: _____

Telephone: (760) 482-4236

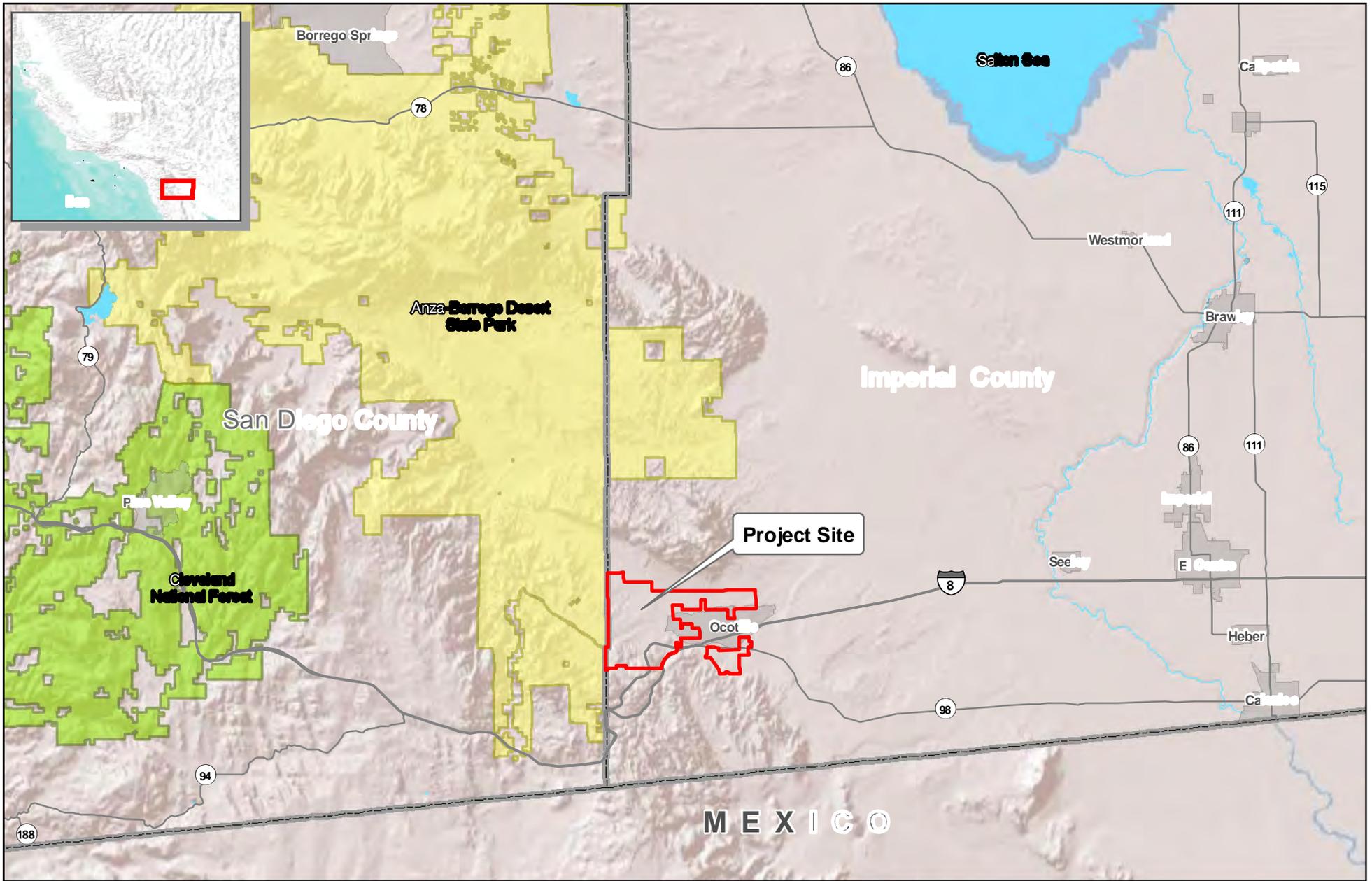


Figure 1
Project Location Map

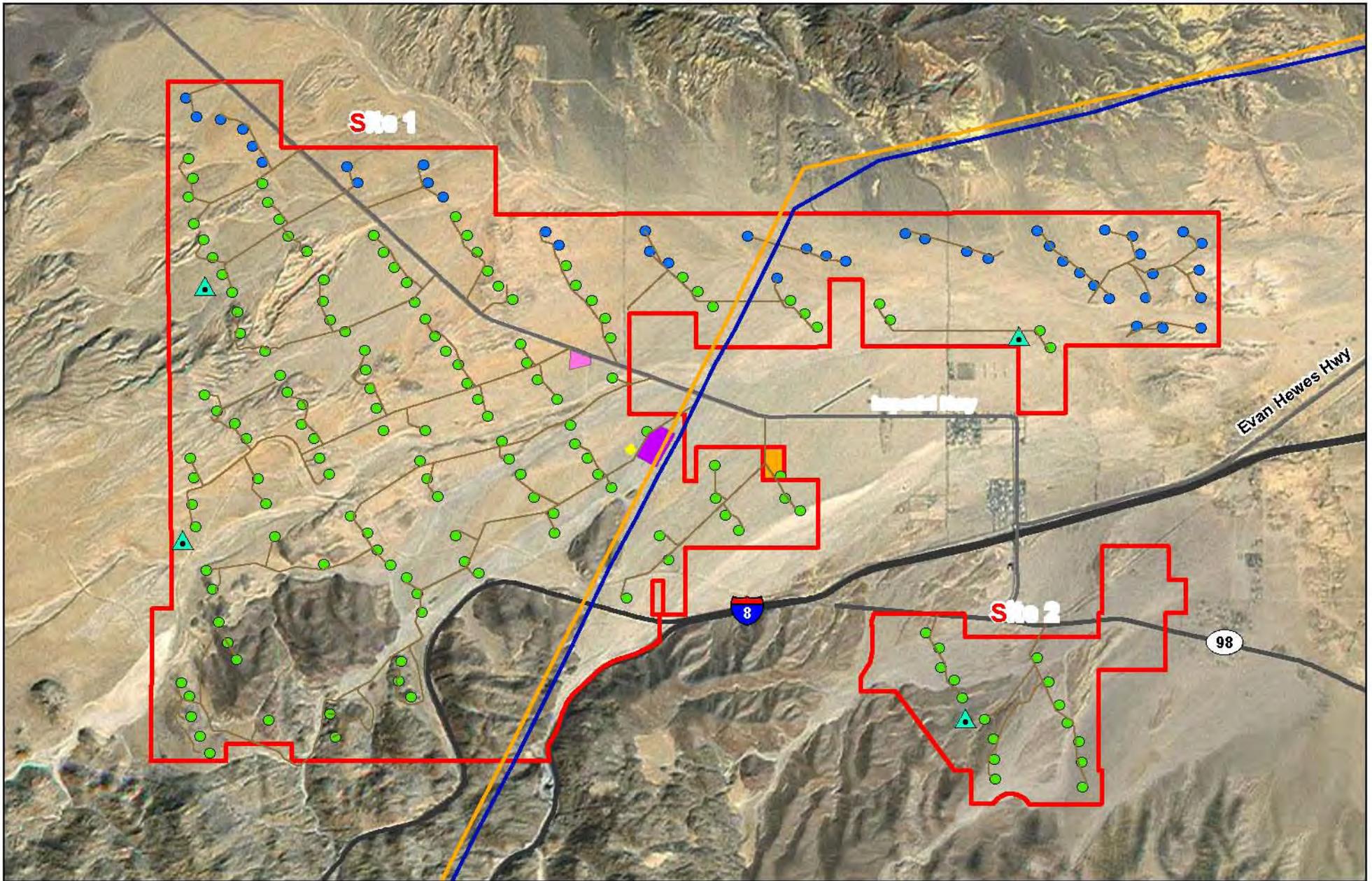


Figure 2
Site Plan

Appendix A-2

Notice of Intent

(published in the Federal Register

December 21, 2010)

management, sociology and economics, and Geographic Information Systems.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

Ron Wenker,

Nevada State Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-31207 Filed 12-10-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-HC-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CACA-051552, LLCAD0700 L51010000 ER0000 LVRWB10B3980]

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, Imperial County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office and Imperial County, California, intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended). This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Draft EIS/EIR and possible CDCA Plan amendment. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 12, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIR/EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIR/EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Draft EIR/EIS by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>.

- **E-mail:** caocotillo@blm.gov.
- **Fax:** (760) 337-4490.
- **Mail:** Cedric Perry, Project Manager, California Desert District (CDD), BLM, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the CDD or the BLM's California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact Cedric Perry, BLM Project Manager, telephone (951) 697-5388; address 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; e-mail Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ocotillo Express, LLC has submitted an application for a right-of-way authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission, an approximate 15,000-acre, 550 megawatt (MW) wind energy project including a substation, administration, operations and maintenance facilities, transmission, and temporary construction lay down areas. The proposed wind energy project would be located on BLM administered lands and a small portion on lands under the jurisdiction of Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. The proposed action consists of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind turbine generators and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 550 MW of electricity. The project would be constructed in 2 phases: Phase I is anticipated to total approximately 299 MW, and Phase II is about 251 MW. A recently approved high-voltage transmission line known as the Sunrise Powerlink crosses the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project site and will facilitate interconnection of the proposed project and transmission of its renewable energy output to Southern California.

The BLM will be the lead agency for NEPA compliance and Imperial County will act as the lead agency under CEQA for the project. The BLM has invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be a cooperating Federal agency in the preparation of the EIR/EIS because the proposed project may require a section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. The BLM and Corps agree that establishing a cooperating agency relationship will create a more streamlined and coordinated approach in developing the Ocotillo EIR/EIS and they will be developing a Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and will guide the process of developing the EIR/EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues. Authorization of this proposal would require an amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans. The BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project.

The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we

cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thomas Pogacnik,

Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

[FR Doc. 2010-31139 Filed 12-10-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLCOS06000 L91310000.EI0000]

Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules for Public Lands in Colorado: Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed supplementary rules.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado is proposing supplementary rules for public land included in the San Luis Resource Area Travel Management Plan (TMP), approved on June 4, 2009. These supplementary rules would apply to the public lands within Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties, Colorado, within the TMP, and under the management of the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center. The proposed rules implement decisions found in the TMP relating to the use of the lands, conduct of visitors, health and safety of visitors, and protection of visitors and natural resources.

DATES: You should submit your comments by February 11, 2011. Comments postmarked or received in person or by electronic mail after this date may not be considered in the development of the final supplementary rules.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by the following methods: Mail or hand-deliver: Larry Velarde, Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado, 81144.

You may also submit comments via electronic mail to: rgfo_comments@blm.co.gov (include "Attn: San Luis Resource Area Travel Management Plan" in the subject line).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Velarde, Natural Resource Specialist, Recreation, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144, (719) 852-5941. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may contact these individuals by calling the Federal Information Relay

Service (FIRS) at (800) 877-8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Authority
- II. Public Comment Procedures
- III. Background
- IV. Discussion of the Proposed Supplementary Rules
- V. Procedural Matters

I. Authority

43 U.S.C. 1740, 43 U.S.C. 315a, 43 CFR 8341.1, 8364.1, and 8365.1-6.

II. Public Comment Procedures

You may mail or hand-deliver comments to the Bureau of Land Management, San Luis Valley Public Lands Center, 1803 West Hwy 160, Monte Vista, Colorado 81144, or e-mail to rgfo_comments@blm.co.gov.

Written comments on the proposed supplementary rule should be specific, confined to issues pertinent to the proposed supplementary rules, and explain the reason for any recommended change. Where possible, your comments should reference the specific section or paragraph of the proposal that you are addressing. The BLM is not obligated to consider or include in the Administrative Record for the final supplementary rule, comments that the BLM receives after the close of the comment period (*see DATES*), unless they are postmarked or electronically dated before the deadline, or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (*see ADDRESSES*).

Comments, including names, street addresses, and other contact information of respondents, will be available for public review at the San Luis Valley Public Lands Center address listed in **ADDRESSES** during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

III. Background

A "Notice of Intent to Prepare the San Luis Resource Valley Travel Management Plan and Amend San Luis Valley Resource Management Plan and Start the Scoping Period" was announced in the **Federal Register** on

March 30, 2004 (69 FR 16599). The completion of the San Luis Resource Area TMP Environmental Assessment (EA) led to a 30-day public comment period, starting on June 3, 2008. Following analysis of the public comments, the BLM issued two decisions: An RMP amendment proposed decision record (May 14, 2009), and an implementation decision on the San Luis Resource Area TMP (June 4, 2009). The decision restricts off-highway vehicle use to designated roads and trails in the TMP area and includes discussion of the proposed supplementary rules.

IV. Discussion of the Proposed Supplementary Rules

These proposed supplementary rules apply to the public lands within the San Luis Resource Area TMP area. The TMP area consists of 520,945 acres of public lands within Saguache, Alamosa, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla Counties, Colorado, in the following described townships:

Colorado, New Mexico Principal Meridian

T. 45 N., R. 4 E. through T. 45 N., R. 11 E.;
 T. 46 N., R. 4 E. through T. 46 N., R. 11 E.;
 T. 41 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;
 T. 40 N., R. 4 E. through T. 40 N., R. 6 E.;
 T. 40 N., R. 11 E.;
 T. 42 N., R. 5 E. through T. 42 N., R. 7 E.;
 T. 42 N., R. 9 E. and R. 10 E.;
 T. 43 N., R. 5 E. through T. 43 N., R. 7 E.;
 T. 43 N., R. 9 E. through T. 43 N., R. 12 E.;
 T. 44 N., R. 4 E. through T. 44 N., R. 12 E.;
 T. 47 N., R. 7 E. through T. 47 N., R. 10 E.;
 T. 48 N., R. 8 E. and R. 9 E.;
 T. 36 N., R. 6 E. through T. 36 N., R. 8 E.;
 T. 36 N., R. 11 E. and R. 12 E.;
 T. 38 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;
 T. 38 N., R. 11 E. through T. 38 N., R. 13 E.;
 T. 37 N., R. 6 E. and R. 7 E.;
 T. 37 N., R. 12 E. and R. 13 E.;
 T. 37 N., R. 4 E. through T. 37 N., R. 7 E.;
 T. 37 N., R. 11 E. through T. 37 N., R. 13 E.;
 T. 32 N., R. 7 E. through T. 32 N., R. 11 E.;
 T. 33 N., R. 8 E. through T. 33 N., R. 11 E.;
 T. 34 N., R. 6 E. through T. 34 N., R. 8 E.;
 T. 34 N., R. 10 E. and R. 11 E.;
 T. 35 N., R. 5 E. through T. 35 N., R. 8 E.;
 and
 T. 35 N., R. 10 E. and R. 11 E.
 6th Principal Meridian
 T. 27 S., 73 W. through T. 29 S., R. 73 W.

The proposed supplementary rules are consistent with the record of decision of the San Luis Resource Area TMP, approved on June 4, 2009. The TMP includes specific management actions that restrict certain activities and define allowable uses. Restrictions on general travel and off-highway vehicle use are intended to enhance user safety and ensure compliance with travel management restrictions. These restrictions are designed to protect critical resources and scenic values in

Appendix B-1

Public Notice (December 21, 2010)

Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIS/EIR FOR OCOTILLO EXPRESS WIND ENERGY
PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIS/EIR SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, as described below. Public scoping meetings for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ocotillo Community Park located at 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, CA 92259. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting. Also, a National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to address the Applicant's request for grant of right of way through BLM lands.

SUBJECT: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EIR

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed wind energy facility site is located on BLM-administered lands and private land within the unincorporated area of the County of Imperial, in the vicinity of the unincorporated community of Ocotillo. A portion of the Imperial Highway runs through the proposed project site in a northwest to east direction, as well as the Interstate 8, which crosses a portion of the southern area of the proposed project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is the development of a wind energy facility on approximately 15,000 acres of open space and undeveloped range land. The proposed project would include wind turbine generators, operations and maintenance building, project substation, meteorological stations, underground electrical collector system, access roads, and fencing. The electric generating facility would connect to the new SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line scheduled for completion in June 2012.

URBAN AREA PLAN: Ocotillo-Nomirage Community Area Plan

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Jack Terrazas

ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIS/EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Air Resources; Climate Change; Cultural Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Environmental Justice; Lands and Realty; Mineral Resources; Multiple Use Classes; Noise; Paleontological Resources; Public Health and Safety; Recreation; Social and Economic Issues; Soil Resources; Special Designations; Transportation and Public Access; Vegetation Resources; Visual Resources; Water Resources; Wildland Fire Ecology; and Wildlife Resources.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects the proposed project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the proposed project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIS/EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Angelina Havens, Planner III, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: December 21, 2010, through January 25, 2011.

L163

D21

Appendix B-2

Public Notice (BLM December 16, 2010)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
California Desert District**Release Date:** 12/16/10**Contacts:** David Briery, (951) 697-5220 or
Steve Razo, (951) 697-5217**News Release No.** CDD-11-16

BLM Initiates Environmental Review of Proposed Wind Energy Project; Scoping Meetings Scheduled for Ocotillo and El Centro

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has published a notice of intent (NOI) to conduct an environmental review on the impacts of the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project in Imperial County, Calif., and will hold public scoping meetings for the review in Ocotillo and El Centro in early January.

Ocotillo Express, LLC has applied to the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) on public lands to construct a wind generation power plant facility approximately five miles west of Ocotillo (30 miles west of El Centro). The project would generate 550 megawatts of wind energy on 15,000 acres (23.4 square miles) of mostly public lands administered by BLM, as well a small portion of land under the jurisdiction of Imperial County.

The BLM and Imperial County intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended) and are seeking public comments to identify issues to be analyzed. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomic, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues.

The BLM will be soliciting public comments through Friday, Jan. 21, 2011. Public-scoping meetings will be held at the County of Imperial Board Room, 940 Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro, CA 92243 on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011 at 6 p.m., and at the Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Hwy, Ocotillo, CA 92259 on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, at 6 p.m. The BLM and Imperial County will use the public-scoping comments in preparing draft environmental documents to be available for public review later in 2011.

Further details on the proposed wind energy project can be found at the following website: <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro>. Comments may be submitted to BLM Project Manager Cedric Perry by e-mail at caocotillo@blm.gov or by mail to the California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

--BLM--

California Desert District 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Last updated: 12-16-2010

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Appendix C-1

Project Fact Sheet

Ocotillo Wind

Fact Sheet / January 2011

Location	Ocotillo, Imperial County, California
Number of Turbines	193
Project Capacity	550 MW (Phase 1: 299 MW)
Power Equivalent	300,000 homes
Phase I Target Construction Start	September 2011
Phase I Target Operation Start	December 2012
Permanent Jobs	up to 20
Construction Jobs	up to 300
Estimated Tax Revenue	Millions each year



The electricity produced annually by the Pattern's Imperial Valley wind project compared to coal-fired generation would offset more than 1,691,000 tons of carbon dioxide, equal to the annual emissions of more than 270,000 cars, and conserve nearly 1,016,550,000 gallons of water each year, enough to supply 31,000 people with freshwater each day. - Source: AWEA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro District Office published the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Pattern's Imperial Valley wind energy project in the Federal Register on December 13, 2010. During the public scoping process for the wind project, the BLM will host public meetings to inform the community about the project and the permitting process and provide an opportunity for the public to submit questions and comments about the project.

The public can also submit comments to BLM Project Manager Cedric Perry by e-mail, caocotillo@blm.gov, or regular mail: California Desert District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553. Project documents will be available on the BLM's website, <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>.

The proposed 550 MW project will be Imperial Valley's first wind energy project and will be located on approximately 15,000 acres of public lands administered by the BLM and Imperial County. The total disturbed area including temporary disturbance during construction will be approximately 1,290 acres. Once complete, the permanent footprint will be approximately 142 acres or 1% of the total project area.

Pattern's wind project will produce clean and renewable power equivalent to the annual energy needs of approximately 300,000 California homes and create many economic development benefits for the Imperial Valley region, including the creation of construction and ongoing permanent employment positions, substantial growth in the property tax base, and the economic ripple effect resulting from the project.



ABOUT PATTERN

Pattern Energy Group LP is one of North America's leading independent wind and transmission companies. Our mission is to provide our customers with clean, renewable energy, which we seek to achieve by developing, constructing, owning and operating projects that are built for lasting success.

Pattern commenced operations in June of 2009 as one of the most experienced and best-capitalized renewable energy and transmission development companies in the United States when a private equity fund managed by Riverstone Holdings LLC, an energy and power-focused private equity firm with the largest renewable energy fund in the world, and our Executive Management Team purchased our thriving energy business and development pipeline to form Pattern.

The Pattern team employs approximately 100 highly-skilled scientists, legal and financial professionals, engineers, and construction and operations experts. We are located in San Francisco, Houston, San Diego, New York, and Toronto, and we are all devoted to a common purpose: developing high performance renewable energy and transmission projects.

Pattern has projects totaling over 520 MW in operation or under construction. In addition, we are growing and building on our current development pipeline, which includes over 4,000 MW of wind power projects and multiple transmission projects in the United States, Canada and Latin America.

STRONG FINANCIAL BACKING

Facilitating our work is our financial strength as a company. Pattern is well-capitalized and with over \$800 million of equity committed to our business, no corporate debt and significant cash reserves, we have the financial ability to execute our business objectives for many years to come. In our first nine months as an independent company, we successfully raised non-recourse debt for our projects from thirteen U.S. and international banks.

We benefit from the partnership of our major stakeholder, a renewable energy investment fund managed by Riverstone Holdings LLC, an energy-focused investment firm. Riverstone's support assists us in securing and arranging ample capital for the development, construction and operation of all our projects.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Commitment to community is one of Pattern's core values. We are dedicated to building strong relationships with our landowners, communities, business partners, and customers. We are also committed to the environment, and we make the effort and take the time to understand and minimize our projects' impact on local habitat and wildlife. These values are supported by a strong company culture that fosters innovative and critical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and a deep belief in living up to our promises.

The Pattern team will continue using our in-depth industry experience, combined with innovation and science, to deliver the utmost value for our partners and the communities in which we work, while exhibiting a strong commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility. Pattern's corporate principles include a commitment to integrity and excellence in all aspects of our business.

Appendix C-2

Written Comment Form

Public Comment Card

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Comment: _____

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

How to Comment:

Hardcopy: Use the form on the other side of this sheet. Please fold and staple this form and mail to the address below

Email: caocotillo@blm.gov Make sure subject line reads "Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project"

Comments must be postmarked/emailed by January 21, 2011

- Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at Bureau of Land Management, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. **If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you MUST check this box.** Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Place
stamp here

**Bureau of Land Management
c/o Cedric Perry, Project Manager
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

Appendix C-3

Scoping Meeting Presentation

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
and
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL**

**Ocotillo Express Wind Energy
Project**
Pattern Energy

SCOPING MEETING

January 5, 2011



BLM's Role

■ BLM Authority

- ❖ Administration of public lands under Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- ❖ Review of the Land Use Plan and processing of an EIS-Level Land Use Plan Amendment (PA/EIS)
- ❖ California Desert Conservation Plan (1980, as Amended)
- ❖ Issuance of right-of-way grants for use of federal land
- ❖ Lead federal agency for National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and other federal law compliance
- ❖ Lead agency for consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act



Department of the Interior Secretarial Orders

- **Secretarial Order 3283 – Enhancing Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands (January 16, 2009)**
 - **Purpose.** This Order facilitates the Department's efforts to achieve the goal Congress established in Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to approve non-hydropower renewable energy projects on the public lands with a generation capacity of at least 10,000 megawatts of electricity by 2015.
 - **Policy.** The Department supports the permitting of environmentally responsible wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal operations and required electrical transmission facilities on the public lands.
- **Secretarial Order 3285 – Renewable Energy Development by DOI (March 11, 2009)**
 - **Purpose:** This Order establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for DOI and establishes a Departmental Task Force for Energy and Climate Change.
 - **Policy:** Encourage the production, development, and delivery of renewable energy is one of DOI'S highest priorities.



Summary of BLM ROW Processing and Administration

- BLM:
 - Regulations: 43 CFR 2800
 - Right-of-Way Toolkit Information:
 - ❖ General ROW
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/cost_recovey_regulations.html
 - ❖ Wind ROW
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/energy/wind_energery.html
 - ❖ NEPA
<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/planning/guidance.html>



BLM Authorized Officer's Role

- ❖ Initial Response to Proposal
- ❖ Pre-application Screening
- ❖ Accept Application or Reject Proposal
- ❖ Process Application / Land Use Plan Amendment (PA)
 - Conduct Formal Scoping
 - Prepare BLM Planning / NEPA Document (PA/EIS)
- ❖ Approve LUP Amendment / Decision on Application
- ❖ Authorize the Use and Establish Monitoring
- ❖ Administer through Termination



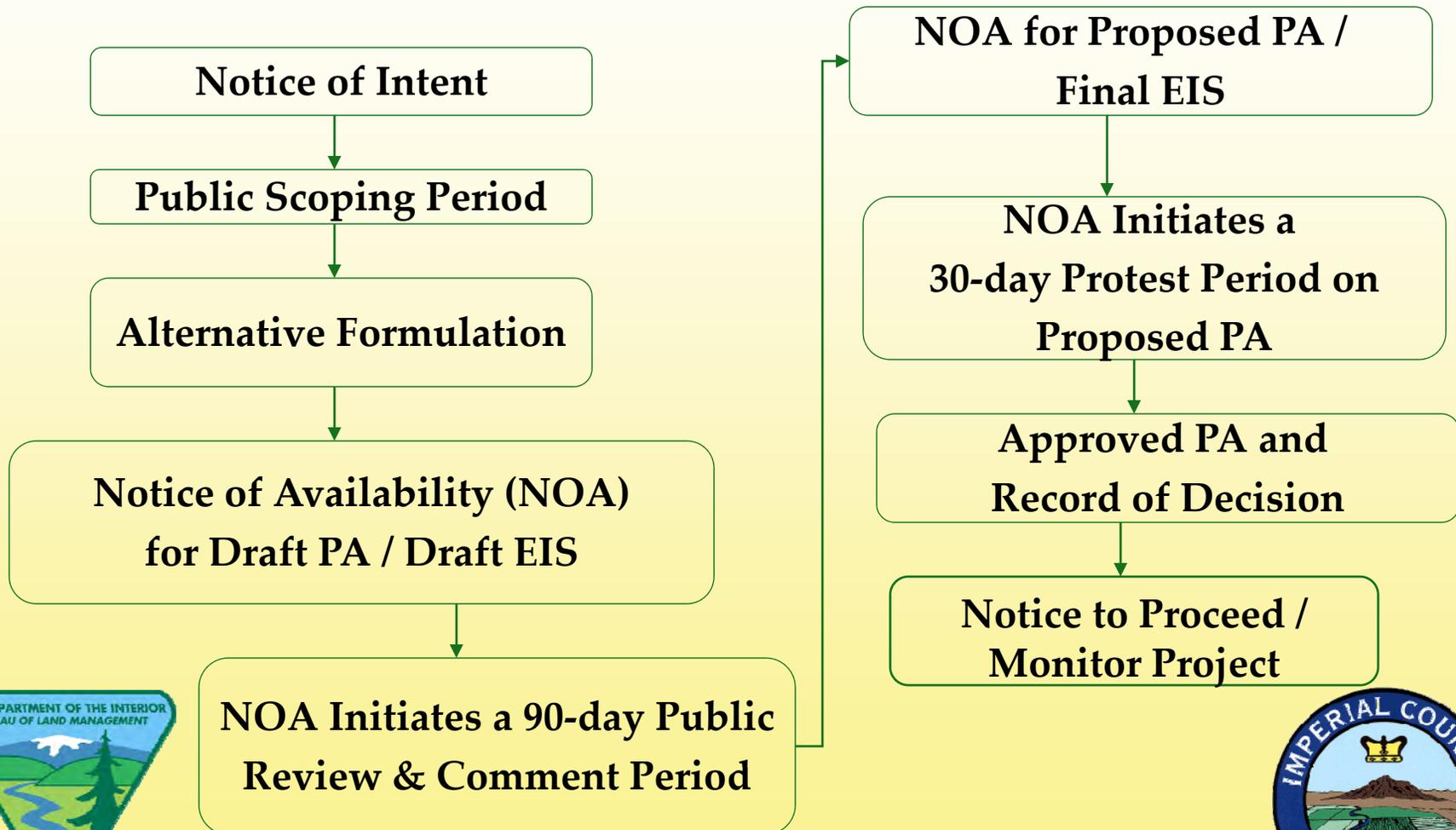
National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA

- **Establishes a public, interdisciplinary framework for Federal decision-making**
- **Ensures that agencies take environmental factors into account when considering Federal actions**
- **Required environmental analysis documents include environmental impact statements (EISs) and environmental assessments (EAs)**



BLM LUP Amendment / NEPA Process (PA / EIS)



Imperial County's Role

- **Approval of project elements on non-federal land**
 - **Conditional Use Permit**
 - **Variance (height)**
- **Lead agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**



California Environmental Quality Act

- **Requires environmental review of projects that need discretionary approvals by local and state agencies**
- **Focused on analysis of “significant” impacts**
- **Preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) is required for projects that would have a significant impact on the environment**



The EIR Process

- ❖ **Distribute Notice of Preparation (NOP)**
- ❖ **Prepare Draft EIR**
 - Identify and analyze significant impacts
 - Recommend measures to avoid/reduce impacts
 - Evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives
- ❖ **Circulate the Draft EIR for public review**
- ❖ **Respond to comments and prepare the Final EIR**
- ❖ **After completion of the EIR process, decision makers can render a decision on the project**



BLM Contacts and Comment Web Site

- ❖ **Cedric Perry , Project Manager**
 - Phone: (951) 697-5388
 - e-mail: cperry@blm.gov
- ❖ **BLM Web Page:** <http://www.ca.blm.gov/elcentro>

- ❖ **Scoping comments to:**

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Scoping Comments
c/o Cedric Perry, Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Or email comments to: caocotillo@blm.gov



Imperial County Contacts

❖ Angelina Havens, Planner III

- Phone: (760) 482-4236

- Email:

angelinahavens@co.imperial.ca.us

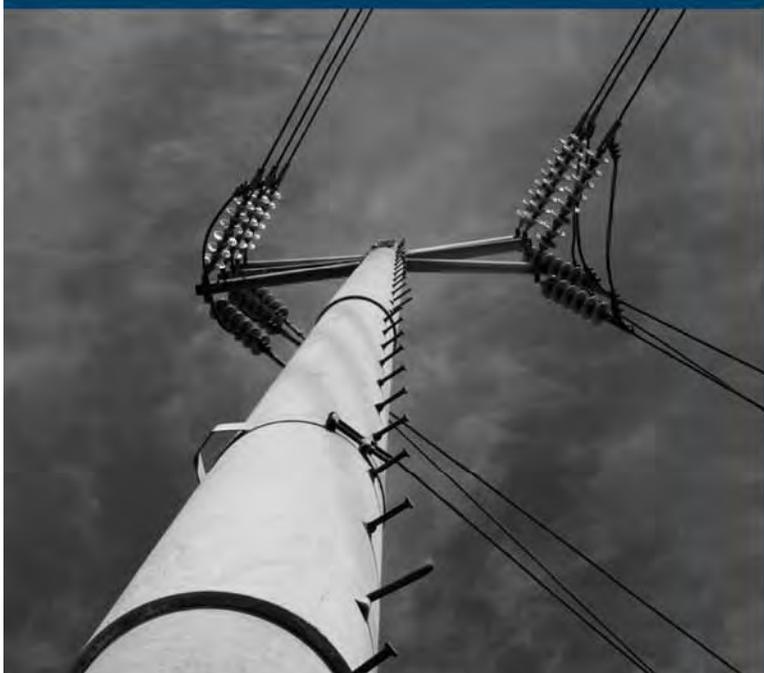
❖ County Web Page: <http://www.icpds.com/>





Harnessing the Winds of Imperial Valley

**BLM Public Scoping Meeting
January 2010**



Summary

- Up to \$1 billion dollar investment in Imperial Valley to build a 550 MW wind energy project that would harness the world-class winds just west of Ocotillo to produce power equivalent to that used by 300,000 Calif. homes
- Pattern Energy has strong financial backing and is a team that has completed over 20 projects totaling over 2,000 MW of wind power and \$4 billion in investment
- The Imperial Valley wind project would entail two project phases, creating up to 300 construction jobs and up to 20 permanent positions during operations
- Economic boost to local economy from the creation of jobs, business for construction subcontractors and property tax revenue





About Pattern Energy

Pattern Energy

<p>Pattern is Committed to Renewables and Transmission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern is an independent, fully integrated energy company that develops, constructs, owns and operates clean energy and transmission assets in the United States, Canada and Latin America• Formed in June 2009 by Riverstone and a premier management team with a proven track record	
<p>Riverstone Holdings LLC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riverstone is an energy focused private equity firm with the largest renewable energy fund in the world• Riverstone is committing a significant amount of capital to support and expand Pattern's business• Pattern will be the sole wind energy platform for Riverstone in North America	
<p>Growth Projected Strong & Steady</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 520 MW in operation or under construction within first 9 months• 4 GW of wind projects in development• Annual growth of 300 – 400 MW• 5 large-scale transmission projects in development	



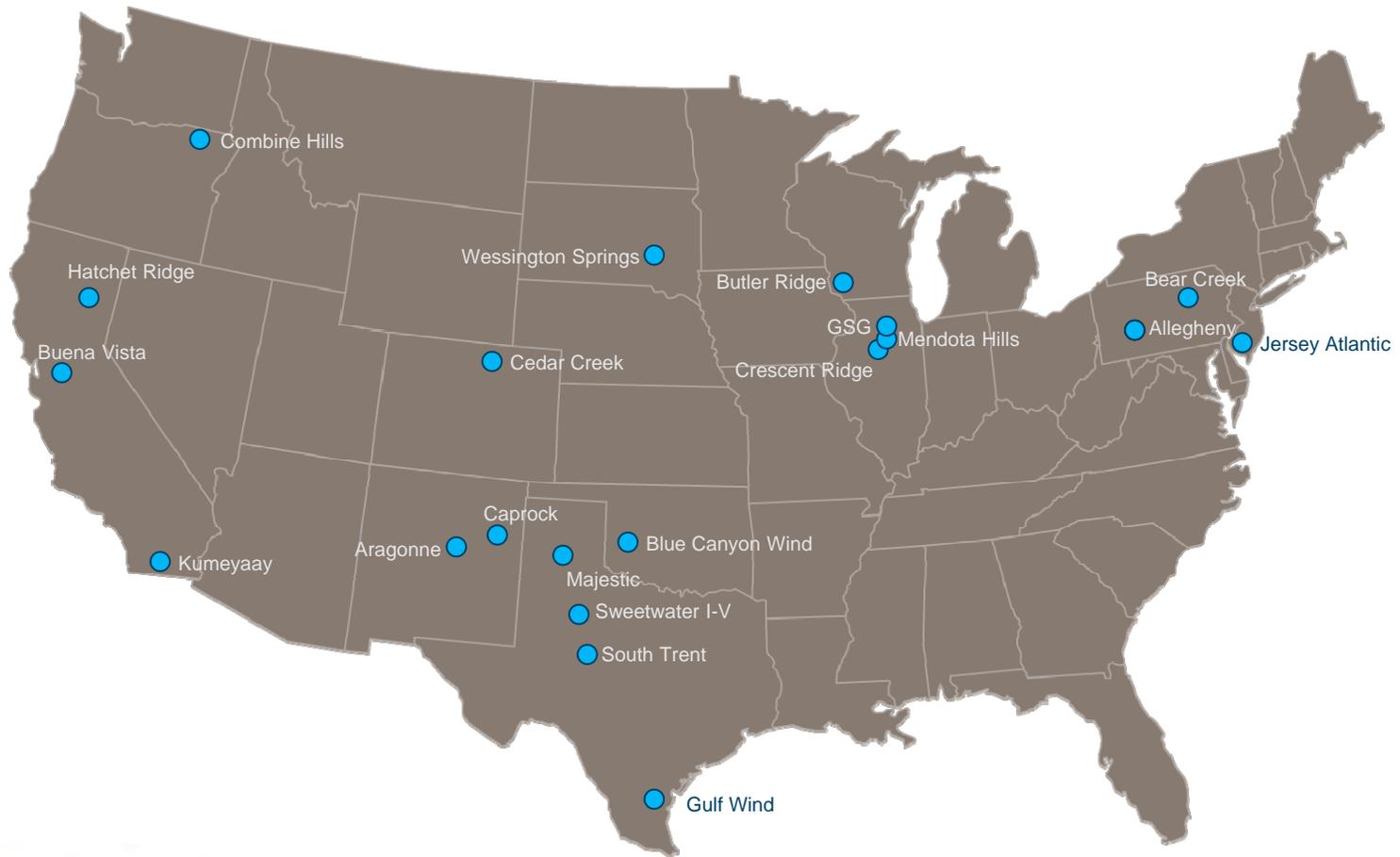
Pattern Energy

Financially strong, long-term developer, owner and operator of energy assets

- One of the most experienced and best-capitalized development companies in the U.S. renewable energy and transmission industry
- 100-person team of dedicated professionals with proven track record of developing, constructing, financing, and placing into operation 2,000 MW of wind power
- Expertise & experience at all project stages: resource analysis, site development, finance, construction and operation
- Dedicated to delivering the highest values for our partners and the communities where we work
- Strong commitment to promoting environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility



Projects the Pattern Team Brought To Operation





Wind Project Overview

Overview of Wind Energy Development Process

- Find a site with a commercially viable wind resource
- Study the transmission line capacity
- Define the boundaries of prospect area
- Determine who owns the land
- Contact the landowners and obtain land rights
- Design the potential wind farm layout
- Monitor the wind
- Perform environmental analyses
- Obtain the necessary permits and approvals
- Obtain grid interconnection rights
- Enter into a contract to sell the electricity (PPA)
- Begin construction



Wind Energy Project Overview

- Up to \$1 billion investment in Imperial County
- 550 MW wind energy generation project
- Power equivalent: approximately 300,000 California homes
- Constructed in 2 phases for a total construction period of 18 – 24 months
- Up to 300 jobs during construction
- Up to 20 permanent jobs during operations
- Millions of dollars in property taxes each year
- 15,000-acre project area
- Surface area affected during operations is typically less than 3% of total project area



Proposed Wind Turbines

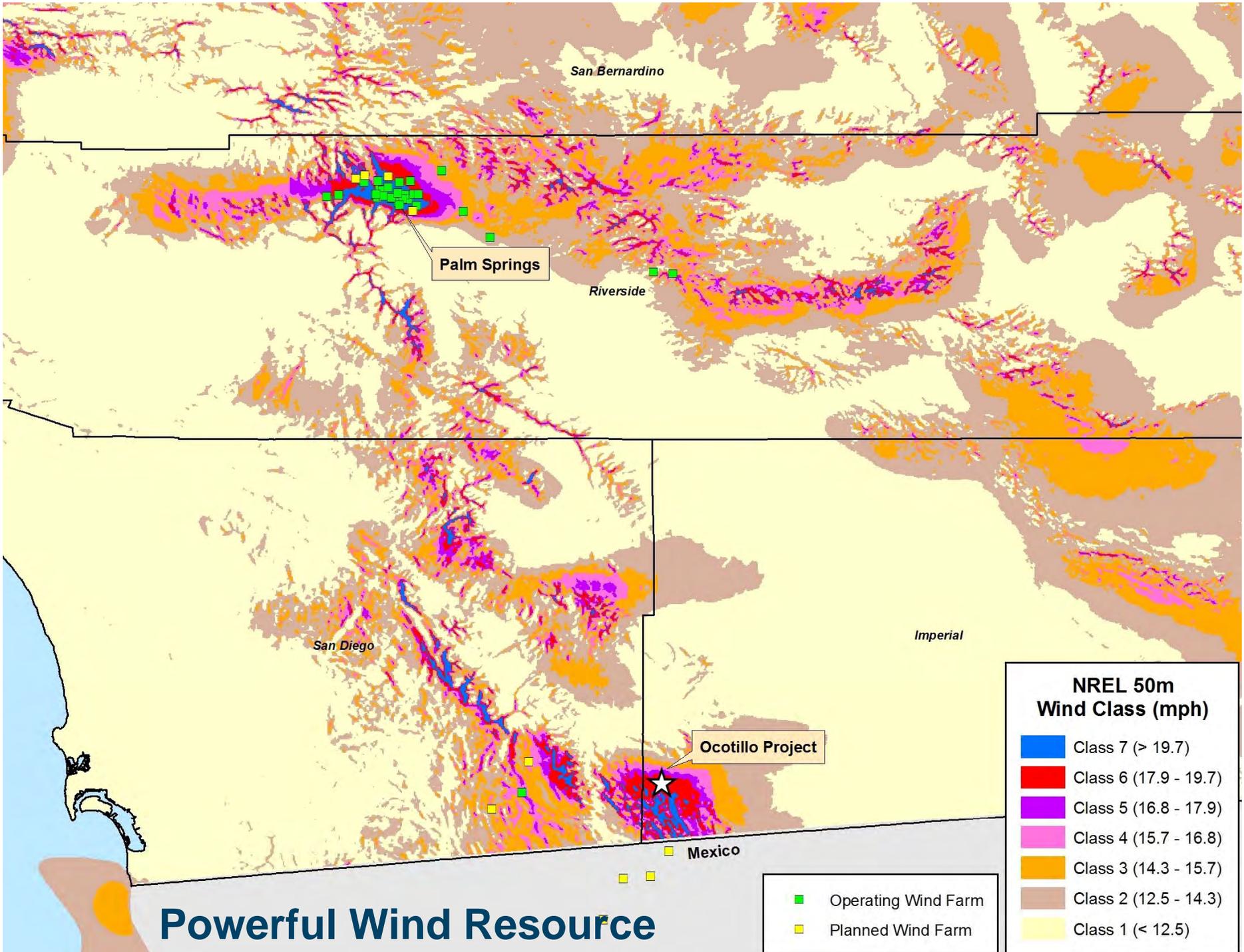
- Turbine Model: Siemens SWT-2.3-101
- Number of Turbines: 193
- Rotor speed: 6 – 16 rpm
- Hub height: 80 m or 263 ft
- Blade length: 50.5 m or 165.6 ft
- Cut-in speed: 4 m/s or 9 mph
- Cut-out speed: 25 m/s or 56 mph

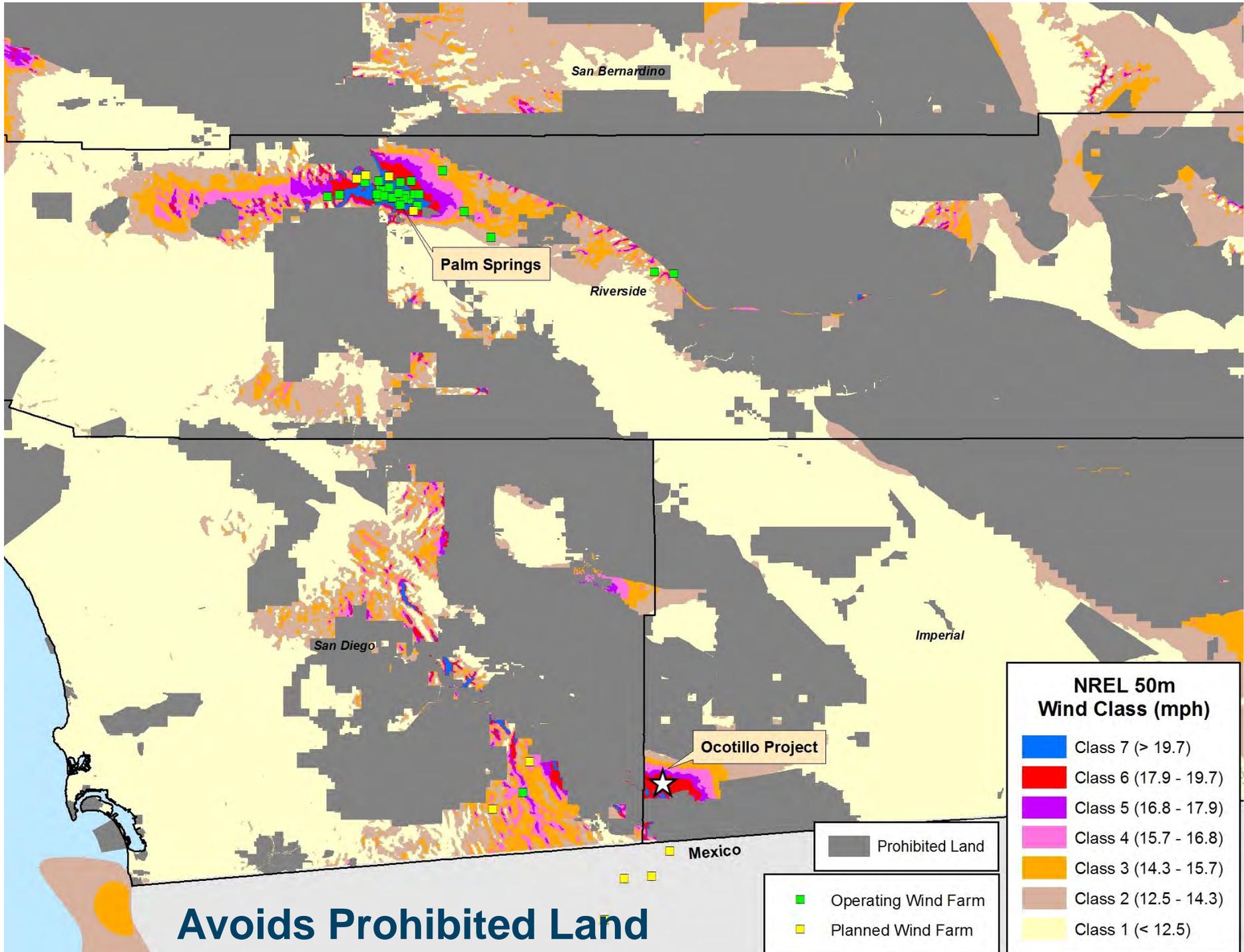


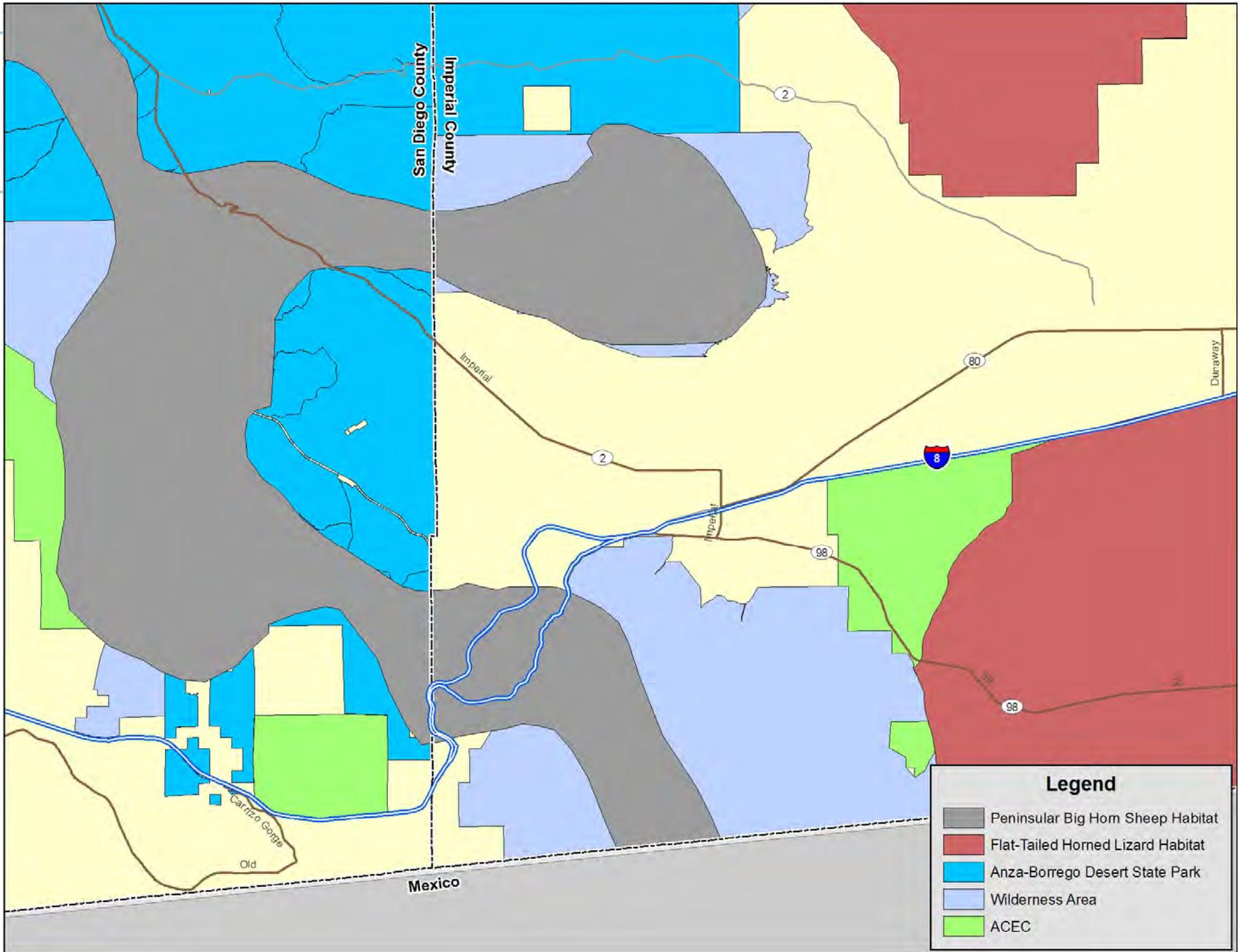
Wind Energy Project Purpose and Need

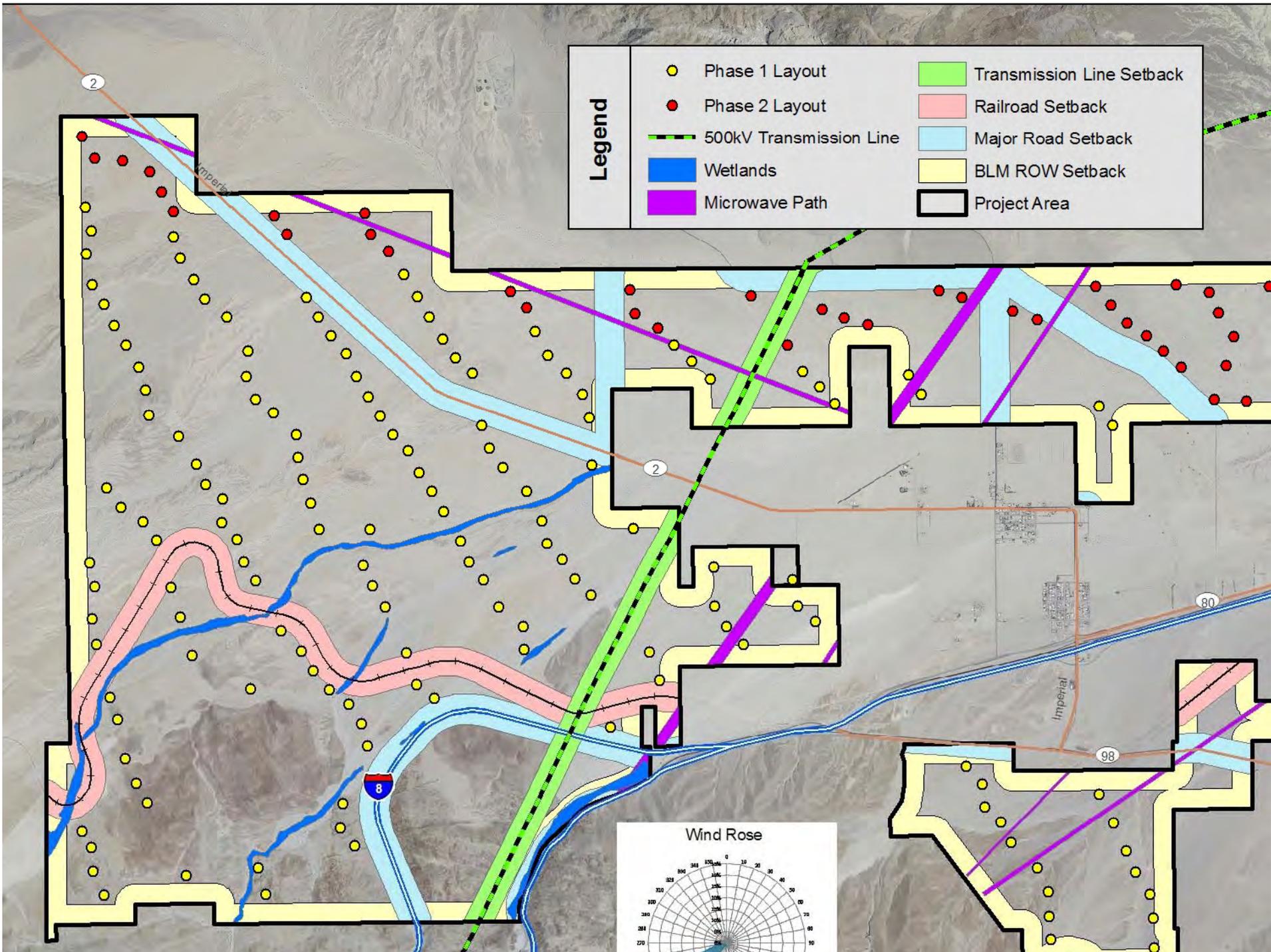
- Help California reach renewable energy and air quality goals,
- Provide an inexhaustible resource,
- Reduce reliance on imported fuel,
- Diversify California's generation sources,
- Stimulate the local and regional economy,
- Strengthen the tax base, helping to improve county services, including schools, police and fire departments,
- Produce energy with stable production costs, offering a hedge against other energy sources with volatile fuel markets.













Wind Project Environmental and Economic Benefits

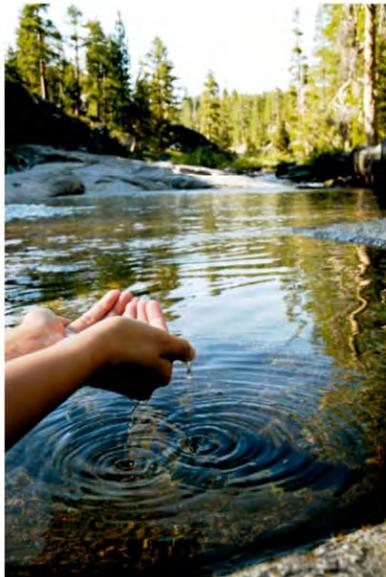
Environmental Benefits of 550 MW Wind Project

Conserved Water

304,626,722 gallons / yr*

*can supply 9,273 people/day

*freshwater savings can supply 1,118,022 people each day when compared to water usage of thermoelectric generation



Coal Preserved

112,741 tons/year

Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduced

710,270 tons/year

113,643 cars/year equivalent



Natural Gas

7,873,294 million cubic feet / year



Sources: Based on information from the Energy Information Administration, National Energy Technology Laboratory, and U.S. Geological Survey. Coal and natural gas preserved and carbon dioxide emissions reduced are based on SDG&E 2008 fuel mix of 54% natural gas and 12% coal. Conserved water based off U.S. average fuel mix, source: American Wind Energy Association. Based on USGS estimation of 80-100 gallons/day per capita water consumption, US Geological Survey, "Water Q&A: Water use at home," <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/qahome.html>. Freshwater savings are based on 2005 Freshwater Consumption and Withdrawal Average for all Thermoelectric Generation. National Energy Technology Laboratory, "Estimating Freshwater Needs to Meet Future Thermoelectric Generation Requirements", DOE/NETL- 2006/1235 (www.netl.doe.gov).

Economic Benefits from 550 MW Wind Project

- Creates job opportunities for local residents
 - Approximately 230 peak job positions supported during construction period for Phase 1 and 69 peak jobs for Phase II.
 - Up to 20 full time permanent jobs during operations, with 12 temporary contractors for 12 weeks each year
- Supports local economy by:
 - Purchasing goods and services during construction and operation
 - Significantly increasing revenue for all service businesses, i.e. local restaurants and hotels during construction and operation
- Significantly contributes to tax base annually



Example of Economic Impact from Construction

Pattern's Hatchet Ridge Wind project increased business for local subcontractors:

- Hat Creek Construction built roads and excavated turbine sites
- Hoy & Sons excavated roads, graded turbine sites
- Sharrah Dunlap Sawyer as surveyor
- Brown & Mills conducted inspections and testing
- Pit River Tribe as Cultural Monitors
- Iron Workers from Redding IW Local 118 (turbine erection)
- Electricians from IBEW Local 340 (turbine wiring)
- Laborers from Local 185
- Crane operators from Local 3 Operating Engineers Union
- Manual Brothers constructed underground facilities at Carberry and Hatchet Ridge Substations using local resources
- Power, water, telecoms, sewage, security, furniture, drilling, etc. from local contractors



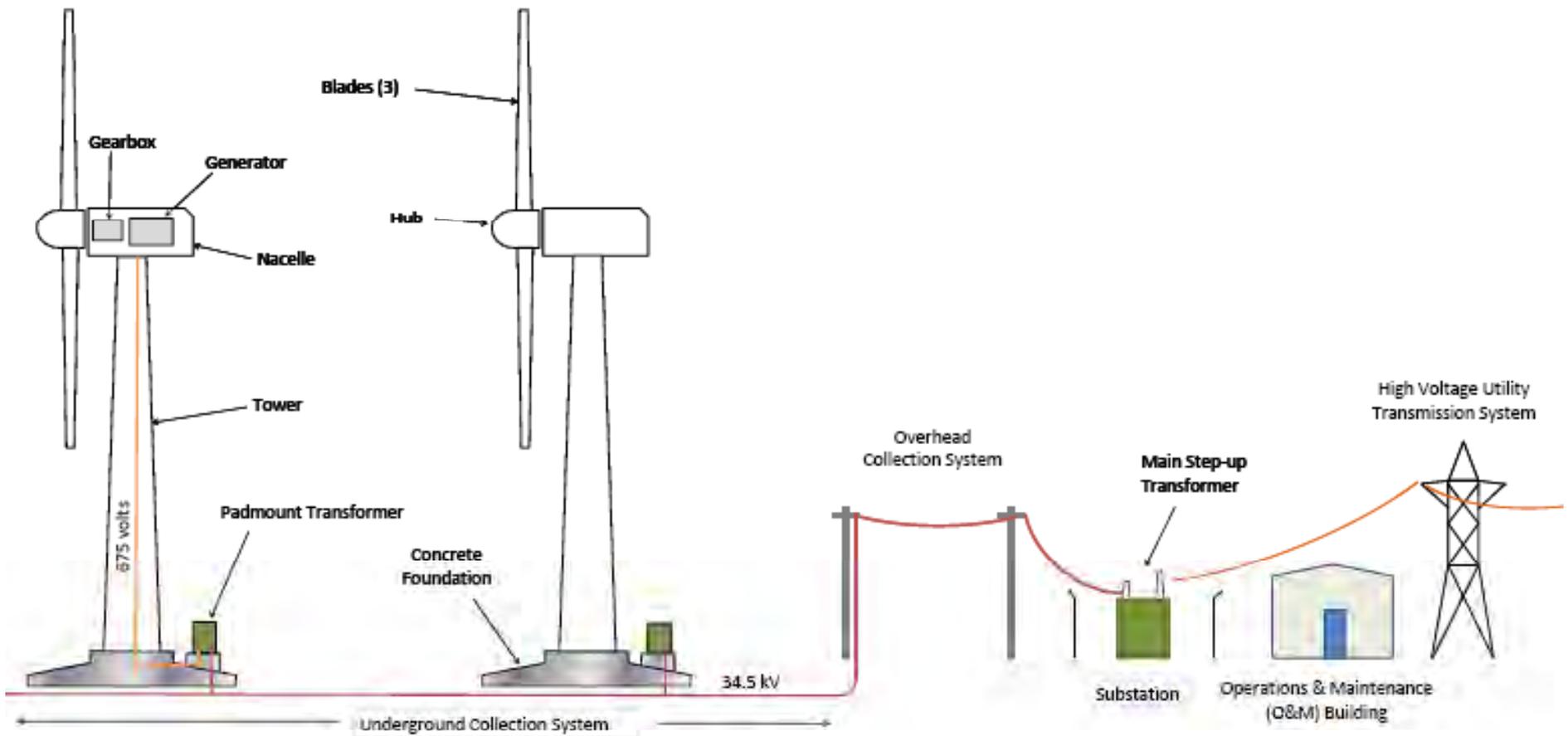


Wind Project Construction

Examples of Best Management Practices

- Traffic management plan would be prepared for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards result from increased truck traffic and traffic flow will not be adversely impacted
- Ongoing ground transportation planning would evaluate road use, minimize traffic volume, and ensure roads are maintained adequately to minimize impacts
- Project personnel and contractors would be instructed and required to adhere to speed limits to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow and to reduce wildlife collisions, disturbance, and airborne dust
- Dust abatement techniques would be used on unpaved, unvegetated surfaces to minimize airborne dust
- Project would comply with all applicable noise, health and safety regulations

Wind Project Components



Ocotillo Wind Project Phase I Construction Schedule

Start of Construction	September 2011
First Turbine Delivery to Site	June 2012
Initial Synchronization	August 2012
Full Operation	December 2012



Road Construction



Road Clearing



**Road Cleared, Graded
and Sub-base Prepared**



Completed Road

Foundation Construction

Bolt Cage and Rebar Installation



Completed Rebar



Completed Foundation



Backfilled Foundation

Turbine Installation

Rigging Rotor for Lift



Rigging Nacelle for Lift



Lifting Rotor



Erection Complete

Public Participation Opportunities

- ❖ **Submit written comments or statements**
- ❖ **Become a Formal Cooperating Agency with BLM**
- ❖ **Provide comments at public meetings**
- ❖ **Participate in workshops**
- ❖ **Provide written comments on Scoping, the DEIR/DEIS and FEIR/FEIS**



Appendix D-1

*January 5, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet
and Speaker Registration List*



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. MEETING ROSTER

PLACE Board Chambers TIME 6:00 p.m. DATE January 5, 2011

PURPOSE Ocotillo Express LLC Scoping Meeting

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO./Fax No.
Tony Gonzalez	N/A	g-tek@yahoo.com	(760) 791-3054
Andres Robles	N/A	ndyrt@6@hotmail.com	(760) 483-4107
MARK Meech	NA	jeepmeech@sbcglobal.net	619 666 1170
Michael Batsh	Tierra	MG Batsh@aol.com	858-578-9064
Wilburn Stovall	Self	janals@cox.net	619-444-2850.
Janet Stovall	Self	"	"
Bridget Nash-Chrabosc	Quechan Tribe	b.nash@quechantribe.com	760-572-2423
Rick Schmidt	Agate Inc.	rick_s@agateinc.com	602-478-0277
GABE RICO	FILANC	GRICO@FILANC.COM	(619) 994 7130
Cherrie Pelley	Ocotillo	cpelley@hughes.net	
Jim Pelley	Ocotillo		
Jeff McCormack	Forum Group	Jmccormack@usa.net	619 578 8989
Jim Minnick	ICPDS	Jimminnick@co.imperial.ca.us	760 482-4236
Michael Moore	Patterson	michael.moore@pattersonenergy.com	641 226 0448
SE. MAYES	ICB&CTC	ARK:EMAYES@GMAIL.COM	760-355-4880
Diana Casin	IVEZ	dcasin@ivez.com	760 351-7155
Bluen Auzaranda	SOSV	gallegra@man.sosv.org	760 768 5787

S:/forms_lists/meeting roster

Revised 11/10/09



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. MEETING ROSTER

PLACE Board Chambers

TIME 6:00 p.m.

DATE January 5, 2011

PURPOSE Ocotillo Express LLC Scoping Meeting

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO./Fax No.
Edie Harmon	self	desertharmon@gmail.com	
Jason Jackson	WDR	jackson@desertsecurityservices.com	760-791-5576
J.P. Menvielle	IID	jp.menvielle@iid.com	760-562-1191
Frank Salazar	Self		760-562-5035
Arnold Schoeck	self		760-337-8753
ANDY HOWE	COUNTY OF IMPERIAL	ANDYHOWE@CO.IMPERIAL.CA.US	760.482-4727
Julie Stout	ESG	Jstout@ene.com	619-676-0578
Nicholas Yost	PARRON	nicholas.yost@SNRDENTON.COM	415-852-2448
Guillermo Vallejo		g-vallejo@sbcglobal.net	
DANIEL CARDONA	USDA-RD	daniel.cardon@ca.usda.gov	760-352-4418 x107
REBECCA POLLOCK	NIELSEN CONSTRUCTION	rpollack@nielsencc.com	619-947-9117
MAX J. CASTILLO	CASTILLO CONSTR. CO	MAX@CASTILLOCONSTRUCTION.COM	760-355-1051
Tom Dubose	DDE inc.	tomdubose@sbcglobal.net	760-353-8110
DANIEL FITZGERALD	CEC	DANFITZ@CEC.CA.GOV	768-7190
Joann Flores	El Centro Chamber	Joann@elcentrochamber.com	(760) 352-3681
Joan C. Wallen	self	gzymanic@msn.com	908-342-5624
Tim Kelley	IVEDC	tim@ivedc.com	

S:/forms_lists/meeting roster

Revised 11/10/09

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet



Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 5, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 County of Imperial Board Room, 940 Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro California

Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
1. Roberto Avila	IVROP	687 ravila@ivrop.org
2. Gordon Keenoy	CONCRETE DESERT PEDI-MIX	68 CENTRO
3. Elizabeth Varin	IV Press	205 N. 5TH ST. El Centro
4. Rebecca Moreno		97 PALO VERDE AVE Ocotillo
5. PETE ZEITLER		97 PALO VERDE AVE Ocotillo
6. Ron Hull	Bramley Chamber	204 Imperial Bramley
7. ^{SORASIN} MARTIN FORTO	ARCHAEOLOGIST	—
8. RICHARD HAMILTON		251 W. IMPERIAL HWY Ocotillo
9. George Brashear	Beta Eng. CA	9990 Mesa Rim Rd. San Diego, CA 92121
10. Mike Giorgione	RBF Consulting	9445 ⁹¹⁵⁵ Clairmont Mesa Rd San Diego CA 92129

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 5, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

County of Imperial Board Room, 940 Main Street, Suite 211, El Centro California



Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
11. CARLOS LARIOS	Bureau Verity	carlos.larios@us.bureauverity.com
12. Michael Reed	County Counsel	—
13. Matt Desser	Matt Desser	mattedesser@rocketmail.com
14. Helena Quintana		helena-quintana@yahoo.com
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project
Verbal Comment List

1/5/11



1. Edie Harmon
2. Richard Hamilton
3. Tim E. Kelley
4. Cynthia Mancha
5. Bridget Nash-Chrabascz

6.

7.

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20.

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

Public Comment Card

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Comment: _____

ROBERTO AVILA IVROF

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

Appendix D-2

*January 6, 2011 Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet
and Speaker Registration Cards*



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. MEETING ROSTER

PLACE Ocotillo Community Center TIME 6:00 P.M. DATE 01/06/2011

PURPOSE OCOTILLO EXPRESS, LLC. (CUP 10-0007)

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO./Fax No.
ARLENE KWIMHIT		PO Box 53, Ocotillo	760 822 0877
Juan Caballero			
RICHARD HAMILTON		CANTONMENTIONS @ Hotmail.com	760 214 8044
James Rowland		69 Palo Alto	997-1659
PARKE EWING	OCOTILLO	EWINGDVA@AOL.COM	358-7221
JUAN ZARATE		2630 W GUNAWAY HWY	760-791-7310
Andrew Renfrow	Ocotillo	PO Box 188	760 791-3525
DAVID DRAPER	OCOTILLO	PO BOX 402	858-672-1901
TERRY WEINER	DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL	PO BOX 3635 SAN DIEGO	619 342 5524
Emm Walker	Ocotillo		760-358-7004
Dorell Walker	Ocotillo		760-358-7004
Tim Leng			619-306-5007.
Bill Jackson	Ocotillo	P.O. Box 178	760-358-7121
John Jackson	Ocotillo	" "	" "
ANN PRICE	Ocotillo	CORONASmom@gmail	619-994 3917
Lee A. Buckingham	ocotillo	lbuckingham96@gmail.com	858 414-9356
JAMES CONDELLES	OCOTILLO	jim.CONDELLES@PTZEEZ.COM	858-622-3079

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPT. MEETING ROSTER

PLACE Ocotillo Community Center TIME 6:00 P.M. DATE 01/06/2011

PURPOSE OCOTILLO EXPRESS, LLC. (CUP 10-0007)

NAME	REPRESENTING	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NO./Fax No.
<u>Sherry Geballe</u>	<u></u>	<u>Sherry Geballe 1966@gmail.</u>	<u>562-296-3025</u>
<u>MARJORIE CRAWFORD</u>	<u>1160 SEIRRA AVE</u>	<u></u>	<u>760-358-7527</u>
<u>Ingrid Crickmore</u>	<u></u>	<u>ingridcrickmore@earthlink.net</u>	<u></u>
<u>MICHAEL CUFF</u>	<u></u>	<u>dez4sox@YAHOO.COM</u>	<u>7603361514</u>
<u>DAN BOYER</u>	<u>DAN BOYER WATER CO.</u>	<u></u>	<u>760 554-8881</u>
<u>Carrie Simmons</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u></u>	<u>760 337 4437</u>
<u>DR JACKSON UNDERWOOD</u>	<u>TIERRA ENVIRONMENTAL</u>	<u>DR JACKSON.UNDERWOOD@GMAIL.COM</u>	<u>619 616 1480</u>
<u>Alan Ridley</u>	<u></u>	<u>weprosper2@hotmail.com</u>	<u>(858) 883-7314</u>
<u>Danea Cuff JR.</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
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Revised 11/10/09, 052510 db

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 6, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, California



Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
1. LARRY HOGUE		3590 STETSON AVE SD 92122 Lhoguel@san.rr.com
2. Silvia Cobles		1027 Mol. tar Ocotillo CA
3. Estela Corona		1031 Mol. tar Ocotillo CA
4. Alek Lucaris		1158 Sierra Vista 92259
5. Nichole Yosi	SWR Denton	525 Warner St 26th flr San Francisco, Ca 94105
6. Barbara Hill		980 Palo Verde Ocotillo Ca 92259
7. Mark Meyer		86 PALO ALTO
8. [Signature]		82 West Imperial Hwy
9. James Vitale		1366 Shell Canyon
10. Phil Angus		6111 SIERRA VISTA RD.

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 6, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, California



Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
21. LINDA EWING		Ocotillo, CA
22. Fred Cagle	Sienc Club	Ocotillo Ca
23. Edie Harmon	Gay	Ocotillo CA.
24. Jim Wilson	Jim Wilson	Ocotillo
25. Suzanne Bitterlich	Suzanne Bitterlich	Ocotillo
26. Jack Bitterlich	Jack Bitterlich	Ocotillo
27. Carl A. Berwick	CARL BERWICK	Ocotillo
28. Betty J. Cloward		Ocotillo Ca
29. Manuel Chichola	MANUEL CHICHOLA	Ocotillo D.
30. BOB ELLIS	DESERT SURVIVORS	BERKELEY, CA

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 6, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, California



Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
11. Preston T. Arrowweed	Quechan Tribal Member	1702 ROSS RD Wintersville CA P.O. Box 160 BARD, CA, 92222
12. Steve Henderson	HoS W. Fronton	
13. Jodi Vitale		1366 Shell Canyon
14. Richard Denison		3814 Boone ST, SD, 92115
15. Joyce Denison		3814 Boone ST 92117 SAGE ROL, Ocotillo, CA 92259
16. [Signature]		14 E ARATS Rd Ocotillo
17. Chris		Fax: 619-435-25183
18. Joyce Esteban	N/A	 Mr. George Fleming 642 Ocean Ln., Apt. 14 Imperial Bch., CA 91932-1043
19. Julie Esteban		PO Box #96 Ocotillo, CA. 92259-0096
20. Eleanor [Signature]	E.W. Grant in [Signature] P. Ad. [Signature]	POB 76 Ocotillo, CA 92259

Public Meeting Sign-in Sheet

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

January 6, 2011 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Ocotillo Community Center, 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, California



Information Open to FOIA

Name	Organization (if applicable)	Address
31. Richard Dix		1108 W Imperial Hwy.
32. Cristina Piraino	ESA	9191 Towne Centre Drive, Ste 340, 92122
33. Denis Trafecanty	Protect our Communities Fdn	Po Box 305 Santa Ysabel, CA 92070
34. Philip R. MOE	Private	29 West Imp P Hw Ocotillo CA 92259
35. Jim Minnick	ICPDS.	801 main street El Centro
36. Danielle Bruce	ICPDS	810 Main Street. El Centro
37. Angeline Flavers	ICPDS	" "
38. Aubrey Mescher	Aspen EG	30423 Canwood St. St. 215 Azusa Hills, CA 91301
39. Stan YEH	" "	" "
40. Jone Davidson	" "	" "

Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Barbara Hill

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: 310
980 Verde
Ocotillo

Phone #: 760 996-0612

Email: Barbara9446@att.com



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Prestart Hinnweef

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: MICHAEL Cuff

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: OCOTILLO

Phone #: 760 336 1514

Email: dez430x@yahoo.com



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Alan Ridley

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: 1380 Montero St.
Chula Vista CA

Phone #: (858) 883-7314

Email: weprosper2@hotmail.com



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: DAN BOWEN

Agency (if applicable): DAN BOWEN WATER CO

Address: 1108 W. IMPERIAL HWY

Phone #: 760-554-8881

Email: _____



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Edie Harmon

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: PO 444
Ocotillo CA

Phone #: 619-729-7178

Email: DesertHarmon@gmail.com



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: JACK

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: 73 PALO ALTO

Phone #: 619 654 0524

Email: _____



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: TERRY WEINER

Agency (if applicable): DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL

Address: P.O. BOX 3635
SAN DIEGO, CA 92163

Phone #: 619 342-5524

Email: terryweiner@SIBGLOBAL.NET



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Dr. Fred Cagle

Agency (if applicable): Imperial Visions Fd

Address: P.O. Box 205
Ocotillo, Ca

Phone #: 619 246 9079

Email: lorcalon@me.com



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: Ingrid Crickmore

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: 1290 Hopkins #37
Berkeley, CA 94702

Phone #: _____

Email: ingridcrickmore@earthlink.net



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: TONY SALAZAR

Agency (if applicable): SAVE OCOTILLO

Address: 5421 COTTAGE AV
SAN DIEGO CA 92120

Phone #: 619 -286-2577

Email: _____



Microphone Ticket

Date: 1/6/2011
Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Hwy
Ocotillo, California 92259

Name: JE LEITZ

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: 97 PALO
VERDE

Phone #: _____

Email: _____



Appendix E

*Summary of Verbal Public Comments from
Scoping Meeting on January 5, 2011, El Centro,
California*

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Scoping Meeting 1-5-11

Verbal Comment Summary Transcript

Meeting Location: Imperial County Board Room
940 Main Street, Suite 211
El Centro, California 92243

Audio length: 00:19:21

Verbal Speakers

- Edie Harmon 00:16:00
- Richard Hamilton 00:08:00
- Tim Kelley 00:10:20
- Cynthia Mancha 00:13:33
- Bridget Nash-Chrabasz 00:14:25
- Roberto Avila 00:16:46
- Rebecca Pollock 00:17:48

Name: Edie Harmon

Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 00:16:00

Comment Summary

1. Attended a meeting for the Tule Wind project and recalled hearing Jeffery Childers say that wind energy is unreliable and that you would have to build a gas-fired power plant of equal size because wind doesn't always blow.
2. Does pattern have a Power Purchase Agreement? If so, with whom?
3. The energy would not be used locally it would be transmitted to San Diego, remote for the source of use.
4. Public health impacts associated with large scale wind energy development. There have been cases in the US, Canada, and Europe where people had to abandon their homes due to adverse health effects attributed to wind development. Would Pattern be willing to buy all the homes in Ocotillo if this were to happen?

5. There was a conference in Canada last fall that dealt with health effects caused by large scale wind development, such as flicker and sleeplessness. Some studies show that homes need to be 5 miles away from the turbans other studies say five miles. Existing homes and approved lots lie within proximity to the proposed project.
6. Fully protected species, golden eagles, have been sighted in on power polls in the No Mirage area. USFWS have documented a nesting pair of golden eagles within 2 1/2 miles of the site.
7. Based on observations made by individuals that reside in the area, there are also a large number of birds-of-prey species in the project area. There is a large number of owl species. Where and how were the biological surveys conducted? Where surveys conducted to actually look for the species in question or were they conducted base on some sort of transect and protocol that would not necessarily put the biologist at the right place at the right time to observe sensitive species.
8. Article in Canada discussed how owl populations are crashing because the owls have be eating rodents that have ingested rodenticides, warfarin.
9. The Jacumba Mountains have one of the largest owl roosting areas she has ever seen.
10. Only one person in the community will make money off of the project because one of the turbans is located on private property. She does not see how the project would be a particular benefit to the Ocotillo and No Mirage communities. The (Ocotillo) community would be essentially surrounded by the project.
11. The project would extend from the Coyote Mountain Wilderness to the Jucumba Mountain Wilderness and upto the Anza Borrego State line, which happens to be some of the best undisturbed biological resources in Imperial County an area that is not torn-up by roads. The project would not only construct the turbines, but it would also have to construct roads throughout the area. The project would disturb additional land to bring large construction equipment (semis) onsite, and may disturb existing washes.
12. There are many people in the Ocotillo and No Mirage area that do not drive after dark and have requested that there be a public meeting during the day time hours at the old Ocotillo community center.

Name: Richard Hamilton

251 West Imperial Highway
County of Imperial, CA

Audio Start Time: 00:08:00

Comment Summary

1. Owner of the land that the one private turbine is going to go on.

2. I don't want any of the turbines built because when I purchased his property in 1981 it was a beautiful valley. I didn't want the railroad constructed or the first set of power lines that came through because they changed the nature of the area. I don't want the turbines constructed for the same reason. The changes are going to be dramatic and hard for everyone to take because we have a beautiful view of the valley. However, I have children and grandchildren that will benefit from the development. I'm not going to be selfish enough at my age to restrict this opportunity for Ocotillo to become a landmark area in Southern California for power generation. Is it going to ruin the view? Of course. Is it going to ruin it for future generations? Of course. My only request is for Pattern to mitigate, as much as possible, the visual impact of the towers. If that is some type of a painting scheme that matches into whatever, I have no idea. Now, they are going to be very apparent if they are white. The (transmission) towers that SDG&E constructed, that I have to look at every day, are galvanized. I suspect that the second set will be galvanized. The best we can do is mitigate the visual impact of the towers.

Name: Tim Kelley

1024 State Street, Suite B

Audio Start Time: 00:10:20

Comment Summary

1. Representing the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Goal is to implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan of the region, which was supported by County, IID and the cities of Imperial County. They promote companies to come to Imperial County and make investments here. Pattern is one of those companies. One of the things we do not do is bring in industries that would not be compatible with existing industries. We want to protect agriculture and were very involved in promoting renewable energy. The Summit Blue Report shows Imperial County to be unique. Imperial County is the only place where you can generate geothermal, wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, etc. The opportunities for wind for wind in Imperial County, although this site has great opportunities for wind the rest of the County does not. We do welcome Pattern Energy. We have been meeting with Pattern, identifying challenges that may come about. We appreciate this opportunity for the public to voice their concerns.

Name: Cynthia Mancha

1002 E. Main Street
El Centro, CA

Audio Start Time: 00:13:33

Comment Summary

1. Representing EW Corporation
2. I'm here to give the perspective from the private sector. EW Corporation is a local steel fabricator and machine shop. We support renewable energy projects that stimulate the local economy

through the purchase of goods and services during the construction phase as well as throughout the life of the project. Throughout the last year, EW Corporation was able to employ over 100 skilled workers with activities or activities directly through renewable energy. We look forward to continued renewable energy projects in Imperial County and job creation.

Name: Bridget Nash-Chrabascz

Audio Start Time: 00:14:25

Comment Summary

1. Looking at this fact sheet, I have a question here about the target construction start date of September 2011. I realize that this is a target date, but I get a little bit nervous when I see projects coming in with only 9 months for (the NEPA process). 90 day for DEIS, 45 days for Scoping, time for consultants to put together EIS, time for meaningful consultation doesn't add up to 9 months.
2. Particularly concerned with adequate time for consultation with the tribes. This happens to be a sensitive area biologically as well as culturally. As BLM is well aware, it can take years.
3. What happens if the start date is pushed back to December or later? How was this date determined?
4. In Campo, the blades that are on the met towers (wind turbines) are toxic. That if they fall down you can't touch them. Will the materials used for this particular project be toxic? If so, what will be done about that?

Name: Roberto Avila

El Centro

Audio Start Time: 00:16:46

Comment Summary

1. Representing Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
2. Been involved with workforce development for over 20 years. I've seen alternative energy projects, as an opportunity to provide our youth with goals in mind as far as new technology coming in, career paths for them and that kind of development. Obviously, you need to take into account the concerns of the residents and community. But, I see this as being beneficial, coming into the new century. I would like to see this supported once everything is weighed.

Name: Rebecca Pollock

El Centro

Audio Start Time: 17:48:00

Comment Summary

1. Representing Nelson Construction
2. How with the BLM and Pattern communicate with us (the community) throughout the stages of this project?

Appendix F

*Summary of Verbal Public Comments from
Scoping Meeting on January 6, 2011, El Centro,
California*

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Scoping Meeting 1-6-11

Verbal Comment Summary Transcripts

Meeting Location: County of Imperial Ocotillo Community Center
266 West Imperial Highway
Ocotillo, California 92259

Audio length: 02:30:08

Verbal Speakers

- Arrow-weed Preston 01:08:57
- Barbara Hill 01:16:01
- Alan Ridley 1:21:52
- Michael Cuff 1:24:40
- Edie Harmon 01:31:50
- Dan Boten 01:40:56
- Terry Weiner 01:45:14
- Jack (last name unknown) 01:52:37
- Fred Keagal 01:58:45
- Ingrid Crickmore 02:01:20
- Pete Zeitler 02:07:07
- Juan Zaritia 02:10:48
- Dennis Troficante 02:14:26
- Tim Lambs 02:21:11

Name: Arrow-Weed Preston
Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 01:08:57

Comment Summary

1. I just heard you say that nature made this area viable for this project. That's questionable because to say nature created this area for your project is to say that nature intended to destroy creatures

and creatures that fly, so that you can light homes. Is this a process of elimination of life in the desert? There is also evidence of a people that lived in those areas long ago. Did nature intend for those areas to be destroyed too? Those areas are sacred to us, the Quechan and the Kumeyaay. And those areas glorify nature. And I don't know how nature would go and destroy what glorifies nature. You have miss used the name of nature because that is the creation and the creator. That's what we are talking about. And you have miss used that here, and I resent that. And my people will resent what you put in there. And you have admitted that you don't care if you destroy them. By that statement that you made, that nature is viable for the wind project, you are saying that, that's wrong to say that. You might as well have said that god almighty said it's okay to do this. You might as well bring up the bible, and say let's rewrite the bible to say it's okay to destroy nature and other evidence that glorifies nature or the creation. You might as well put that in there too because that very bible is what you swear by to do the right things. Also we go by that nature, all the things that are left out, all the things that we know through our songs, through our story. We are a part of the ecology. We don't mind people who live here and destroy the ecology as long as you can live in harmony with it. There's no way for harmony, no substitution when you destroy nature. I listened to all these things you done how you gathered everybody here. That was sacrilege what you said here, and I think that's very wrong. You have never gone to my tribe to talk to them personally. Face to face because you are supposed to have a government to government. You have never gone over there. Tell them nature says we can destroy all of your artifacts and we can destroy all of the creatures that you hold to be very sacred because you are talking about creatures that are very important to the creation story red tail hawks (etcetera),.

2. That area is just right for big horn sheep because it's cooler. You're going to destroy his habitat before he gets there. Because the desert is getting hotter and hotter.
3. Ocotillo isn't getting any of the electricity or the jobs.

Name: Barbara Hill
980 Palo Verde in No Mirage.

Audio Start Time: 01:16:01

Comment Summary

1. Concerns are in the EIR on the construction area. She has worked in construction for over 20 years in deserts, Indio, and Palm Springs and she knows the damage construction does. They put down chemicals and they are no good. Construction workers don't use out-houses that are provided. When you disturb this desert, and we get winds, we get dust. Is the planning commission going to keep this dust down to the level that they have on construction, 4 feet from the vehicle? No, its not, it's almost impossible. The wind blows but there are other areas and you are saying we have high winds. So do Coachella and Salten Sea and the winds blow just as hard there as they do here? I am also concerned about the traffic that will create. Our little roads can't handle a lot and you are saying that this job will bring 100-300 jobs out here. I know you say carpooling but where are you going to park all the cars. There is no room for the cars. The plants will be disturbed and destroyed. You say that you will plant it but do you know how long it takes

for plants out here to grow and to reestablish itself? It takes 3-10 years. Ocotillo's it take 25-50 years to get these plants up. They are very slow growing. The smoke trees and even the sage brush trees and you are just going to mow them down. We have spotted eagles, redtail hawks and huge owls that will leave. She rescues birds that come into the area. Blue footed ducks get blown around. Big horn sheep, deer, foxes will be disturbed as well. You will be destroying an awful lot. The compaction machine will destroy the sand and the desert is fragile and by putting in this big equipment, it will destroy the desert.

Name: Alan Ridley

Audio Start Time: 1:21:52

Comment Summary

1. I live in Chula Vista and work at Cuyamaca College. Mention that it's very beneficial for us to avoid mercury and they say pregnant women shouldn't eat fish with mercury. Where does it come from? It comes from coal-fired power plants.
2. There is an architect in New Mexico that says that there is a simple solution for the global climate change. It is no more coal-fired power plants. Now in California has terminated contracts for these types of power plants. They still get some power from some plants that use this type of power plant. One of the advantages of wind is that you won't have mercury in your fish, food, or your diet.

Name: Michael Cuff

134 Via de la Coyote

Audio Start Time: 1:24:40

Comment Summary

1. Third time living in this town. I am worried about the FEMA wind map that doesn't match up with the slide presented. Up at the top of the hill where the other turbans are, FEMA has this labeled as a high wind area. But we live in a shadow where the wind blows over the top and then it drops down to plaster city. So what we have the thermal effect. He has a concern about the turban efficiency of 33% but there is study showing 22%. Federal government may be involved on the tax dollars going to this.
2. Border patrol is out here every day because they are in high smuggling zone and he is concerned about their safety with the transmission lines that will be out there. Concerned about military aircraft that fly lower to the ground over the project area and that is the normal flight traffic.
3. Concern about the end of life of the turban. If they are only going to be here until 2042, that is not much time, then why are they going to be here in the first place? The next generation will be here and is it monetarily feasible in Ocotillo for them to be here. Why should he put up solar panels if he is going to have turbans in his back yard?

4. The big horned sheep transferring from north to south and back and they are a part of the Ocotillo area. Also there was a question about noise and if the wind turbines make noise. They are being told no. But when you have a rotating propeller, you are going to have some frequency differences, so how is this going to affect our wildlife? They hear and sense things much differently than we do.
5. Hazardous materials and hazardous waste. You know about the aqua fir. It's federally protected, and there are only 3 in the United States, Ocotillo, Campo and Hawaii. So if there is a potential for hazardous material to end up in the aqua fir then we need to know and the potential is there. I have a picture of when a turbine tore apart, I am an ex-naval engineer and I am familiar with those things and hazardous materials. So I want to know what the plan is to capture things if that is to happen.
6. I don't understand why it needs to be generated here especially when we are in the shadow and I am not sure that the monitoring towers are providing you with accurate data because it is only half the distance. You have those only going up 200 feet, why not 400 feet or is that because of the acous and the flight pattern?

Name: Edie Harmon
Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 01:31:50

Comment Summary

1. Lived here for more than 33 years. Was at the meeting last night and will be repeating those points. Mr. Childers and I were at the Boulevard Fire Station public meeting and we listened to SDGE about the wind energy in the mountains and that the wind energy is so unreliable because the wind doesn't blow all the time and that if you are developing a system based on wind energy you will have to build a gas-fired power plant that will produce an equal or greater generating capacity for the times when the wind is not blowing. There is a reason why Sempra Energy put an L&G pipeline on the Mexican side of the border. There is a reason why there are proposed gas-fired power plants on the Mexican side of the border. It's not just wind energy, there are other issues there. Is Aspen (consultant for the county) just doing work for the county or is it doing the EIS? Is BLM doing the environmental review or is Aspen going to be responsible for everything. Based on her decades of looking at EIRs and EIS, she has yet to see a biological review done for any EIR or EIS that was adequately done and that didn't have any significant problems with protocol, frequency, visits and what they were looking for. Were they just doing the minimum? Things are in bloom now, and you have to know when all these things are happening. You have to be responding at the right time for these plants. You can't do it on schedule, you have to know what's in bloom and when and where. She was asked last night about a field guide that would know where all the plants are. The Jepson manual might, but she has been the Coyote Mountains and have found plants out there that are not listed in there because botanists weren't there where they were in bloom.

2. She is being told that the information she is seeing on the public health impact that live close to turbans in Canada and the US are not real. She is going to decide which studies are credible and acceptable for her health. She doesn't want to be convinced of a study that a paid applicant has told her and she is willing to look at and listen to the stories of people that have been sick and their doctors. Some people have abandoned their homes. Some studies are saying to be a minimum of 2 kilometers away and others are saying to be even further away to prevent issues with the heart and other medical issues.
3. Traffic-to haul 99.9 acre feet of water when they were stopping the export of water from this area, it was going out in 5-7 gallon tank trucks. And the idea of hauling this water from Pine Valley is going to have a tremendous impact. It is not energy neutral at all and need to look at the environmental impacts on that. The Plan of Development has some difference in what is in writing and what they heard tonight. There were turbans off the I8 freeway by Acorn casino, and one of them blew up and then all of them started losing blades, they want to know what caused this failure. They were told it's confidential. People need to know if these turbans can have a problem. The blades have yet to be removed from the sight and they are being told that they can't because there is hazardous material in the blades.

Name: Dan Boten

Audio Start Time: 01:40:56

Comment Summary

1. I own the water company off of Imperial Highway. Everyone in this room likes this freedom. Our country is broke and in debt. Everyone in this area needs the extra income that this project will bring in. I own a home improvement business and the thing that keeps me going is keeping peoples electric bills down. If we don't start doing renewable energy we will have more problems and this might help get this country back on its feet. What's our other choice, drilling for oil? No. I am for wind. Where else are we going to put this, over in china? My kids and your kids, kids will need income and energy. I don't understand why everyone in this room is against this. My one concern is the use of water. The aqua fir here is precious and if any bad water gets in there I would hate to see it destroyed. That is my only concern.

Name: Terry Weiner
306 Front Street

Audio Start Time: 01:45:14

Comment Summary

1. Works as the Imperial County Projects and Conservation Coordinator for the Desert Protective Council. Scoping comments: my mind is boggled on how to phrase the scoping issue of the total destruction of 15000 acres of land. 3% footprint or not, how do we analyze the impacts to lots of recreational qualities on the land, impacts to visitors to Anza Borrego state park, impacts to view shack, impacts to herders to big horn sheep and others, impacts to lizards and birds. There are so

many studies on impacts to birds from windmills and new ones come out all the time so I hope you are going to look into these findings. You mentioned the saving of water and carbon emissions as compared with natural gas or coal fire plants. We need to analyze the comparison of producing 500 megawatts of electricity from wind towers to impacts of rooftop solars and where the energy is going to go. There are studies that show this information. Maybe that is the alternative that should be addressed. When you scrap desert soil, you are destroying the natural plant communities. Everything that is on the ground will be gone, Native American artifacts, plants; all the beauty will be gone. We have an industrialization of a community, from what I understand, they value the desert life, dark skies and the recreation in the area. You have the economic impact of taxes of the hotel and restaurants. There are no hotels here and there are some places that can be considered restaurants but they can't handle that much business. What about the impacts to the noise and dust and fumes from the trucks that is going to go on for how many years. The desert plant habitat is carbon too by destroying you are going to be releasing carbon and that is not energy efficient either. We would like to see the release of the alternatives before you release the draft EIS so we know what the alternatives are. There are cumulative impacts. It's not just this project to our desert from the scrapping of the sunrise power ring, to the Tully wind project. This project is going to add to the cumulative project.

Name: Jack (Last name unknown)
Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 01:52:37

Comment Summary

1. In the EIR I would like to know how the imperial county fire department will handle a potential fire that happens with these blades because they have seen where fire departments have not even been able to attack them. I do know that the blades are toxic when they catch on fire and they are made out of materials that when ignited will blow across the desert and cause problems and further burning.
2. Each one of these turbans motor contains oil to keep them cool. At times these things start leaking and catch fire sometimes the soil will catch on fire and send out a plume of black smoke. If that thing starts leaking, what will happen when it leaks, who is responsible for it and to ensure it does not get into our aqua fir.
3. The comment about wind energy and it being free, yet in the state of Montana they did a study with the electric coal-ops. Although wind energy is cool and its free but it is not apart from a footprint. If wind doesn't blow it doesn't generate electricity. If the people are on that line, some one will need to kick up the electricity. If they aren't on line it would take too long to fire up a coal plant that these windmills are suppose to produce. The other alternative that was mentioned was natural gas; yes this could fill the gap. So to believe that windmills are not a footprint in our environment is erroneous. These windmills are not full proof. Our backup is in Mexico
4. I have not seen a seismographic study on the towers. If we have another earthquake like we did last year, these things would have come tumbling down. This needed to be shown in the

environmental impact. It seems like EIS are about plants and animals but nothing about the people, this needs to be addressed. Everybody wants energy but not in my back yard. I am not that person.

5. Mention about site studies from Canada, Washington and Oregon on health conditions with individuals regarding this 2 kilometer. I would like to see this addressed.

Name: Fred Keagal
Ocotillo

Audio Start Time: 01:58:45

Comment Summary

1. I am a PHDPA. I am worried about the cumulative impacts. This is a nonattainment area for PN2.5-PN10. When you look at all the projects that are being approved in the area, you are looking at an enormous number of acres being cleared or devastated. I was on the phone today with the center of excellence for coccidioidomycosis at the University of Arizona, there are 63,000 coccidioidomycosis cases that have shown up and have cost approximately \$66 million in hospitalization last year costs alone. This is caused by disturbing the surface area of the sediment and causing large wind blowing. The problem with this disease is that it occurs in batches so you don't know where it will show up. When you look at the effects of this area, it's a real concern. Particularly looking at cardiovascular disease and PN2.5 and for pulmonary disease for PN10. That is not being addressed at this point and it needs to be addressed in this EIR and from the stand point of all projects in this area due to the air quality because you are affecting everyone down wind from this. Another concern is with Bats. Bats are a real problem with the generation of wind. There are so many of these solar system projects being proposed throughout the southwest, I wonder where is all the power going to go. We need to look at the cumulative is in the southwest on this.

Name: Ingrid Crickmore

Audio Start Time: 02:01:20

Comment Summary

1. I am a tourist of Imperial County for 20 years. I love to hike in the desert and I have a lot of concerns about the solar and wind in the desert. It appears to be like a gold rush and I wondering how this is all really going to pan out. To me it seems like it is already obsolete as what the project is described as and when it finally gets built it will be obsolete and it will leave the desert in a wreck. From what I understand, countries like Germany that have been solar for some time now, they aren't in the desert and they have bad weather, so they are doing most all rooftop solar and they have more energy coming from that they do all these desert projects put together. For wind, it only delivers 4% of what the capacity is. They are putting up these huge structures and destroy prime beautiful habitat that we won't have left anymore. The wind has a really bad record of what it delivers. It isn't worth it to waste that mountainside. Why should the BLM be

hosting this? The BLM is supposed to be conserving the land not adding industrial to it. A view scape is not immaterial. We don't even know what will really be destroyed; we might not be able to survive if we do destroy all of this. Half of these projects aren't even tested, then they are brought out and put up, wreck the desert, and thinking that oh maybe it will work. Then it doesn't and then it goes a mess and it's just left behind in the desert into a wasteland.

Name: Pete Zeitler
97 Palo Verde Road

Audio Start Time: 02:07:07

Comment Summary

1. I just wanted to go on record saying that I am against it. Currently our house faces west onto the mountains and a day doesn't go by that we don't go out on our patio and look out on the mountains to watch the sunset. Now we are going to look out onto 280 windmills. Aesthetically it is an impact. Wondering whether Pattern Energy is a non-profit organization and it's being spun off as an environmental project. If I was a company, why would I invest a billion dollars and not make any money off of it. They say it's going to feed 300,000 homes so they must be making money. What is the benefit in ocotillo? There wasn't an armed ranger at the meeting but there was a gentleman at the meeting in Imperial Valley that had a sidearm and I would appreciate it if you would not have armed officers in attendance at the meetings. It seems like this procedure has been rushed through. You have had monitors out there for some time and then all of sudden we are told about this given very little time. It's as if this being done behind our backs.

Name: Juan Zaritia
2630 West Avenue

Audio Start Time: 02:10:48

Comment Summary

1. I have a sheet of paper here about a meeting that was held January 2nd. My concern is that I live 17 miles from here and between Donnaway which is the beginning of another project which encompasses 9000 acres, and to the south there are another couple of solar projects that are being presented and probably go through this process. And then this project which encompasses 15,000 acres and that is a lot of land that is going to be disturbed. Here recently, myself and friends of mine are having to go to the medical doctor because we have a continued cough. The air and the winds are kicking up continuously at 50mph. Again we need to know that the afternoon winds are going to have an effect on the community downwind. Also, the seismic effect. Everyday we get 1.5-2.3 seismic activity in Ocotillo. I would like to see some statistics and investigation on testing being done and your evaluation on that.

Name: Dennis Troficante

Santa Ysabel

Audio Start Time: 02:14:26

Comment Summary

1. I have solar on my roof and I live in Santa Ysabel. We generate 150% of the energy we use and it goes back to the grid. You have to be tied to the grid in order to get the rebates. I am the president of a non-profit group called protect our communities foundation. We have fought successfully having the sunrise power plant run through the desert state park and fighting it to beat it down. Big wind and big solar, do not belong in the desert. Why do we want to build massive billion dollar project and spend 2 billion dollar transmission line to San Diego and really they want to take it to LA. Sempra wants to get fossil fuel power to LA. That's where the market is. They are saying that taking line to Alpine and then up to sub station in San Felipe. That substation was going to have 5 lines coming out going to LA. Why should we as rate payers be paying for these billions of dollars of transmission line? They make there money on the construction they don't care about if it goes to San Diego. They have a guaranteed 11-12% rate of return. We can create the same energy buy putting solar not on the roof tops but you can put it on the parking lots and trench it in. Schools are doing it, QUALCOMM, Kyocera is. Why run the all this into San Diego when you can do it right there. You guys in ocotillo don't need it; you have enough power out here. I would like to incorporate all people previous comments so that I don't have to repeat myself. So we are going to continue to fight.

Name: Tim Lambs
No Mirage

Audio Start Time: 02:21:11

Comment Summary

1. A very close friend of mine, an engineer is doing engineering at Nitson Karbiwatsinger, on the new wind blades and yes there is toxic material in them. Word definition when you are talking about impact, people in this room do not know the definition of impact and my concern is that if anyone understands the impact this will have on our community.
2. Second word association I have is a ticket that I have in my hand from the BLM on January 29, 2009 for riding in a wilderness area. The day I got this ticket, I took pictures of the wilderness area, grounds and the paths that are out there. Not only to find a border patrol agent dragging the very same road. So my concern is the definition of wilderness to people in this room and if they don't understand the definition of the words such as impact and wilderness, how are we suppose to trust them to make decisions for our community.
3. County mailed out a flyer that mentioned out the two meetings and an EC meeting that is scheduled for the 16th. We have an informational meeting on the 13th, next Thursday at 1:30 with a presentation for all to attend. 940 Main Street upstairs.

4. Can we get copies of the slides that you're presented and the charts? We will probably get something up on the website. What wasn't addressed was the USGS map for the earthquakes. They are putting seismic graphs everywhere. I want an updated map put up. And I would like to know how much we have sunk, our ground level. We have gone down and I would like that in the EIR.
5. Luncheon on Jan 19th, where Pattern would host to invite members of the community at the community center.

Appendix G

Comments Received During Scoping Period

Cristina Piraino

From: Armando Villa [armandovilla@co.imperial.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2010 08:24 AM
To: Angelina Havens
Subject: FW: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

Please respond...

Armando G. Villa

Director of Planning &
Development Services
County of Imperial
(760) 482-4236
www.icpds.com

-----Original Message-----

From: George Blender [<mailto:sam-clemens@cox.net>]
Sent: Saturday, December 25, 2010 10:26 AM
To: planninginfo@co.imperial.ca.us; caocotillo@blm.gov
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

Please forward the name(s) and address(es) of the company (companies) proposing this project. Nowhere, on anything from BLM or Imperial County Planning & Development is a single company named. I think you should at least tell us what company or companies are applying for permission.

Thanks

George Blender

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
e-mail: ds_nahc@pacbell.net



December 27, 2010

RECEIVED

DEC 29 2010

Ms. Angelina Havens, Planner III

Imperial County Planning Division

801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243-2875

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RE: SCH#2010121055; Joint NEPA/EQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EI to connect to the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink 500kV Line; located on 15,000-acres in the Ocotillo Community Planning Area of Imperial County, California

Dear Ms. Havens:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) is the state 'trustee agency' pursuant to Public Resources Code §21070 for the protection and preservation of California's Native American Cultural Resources. (Also see *Environmental Protection Information Center v. Johnson (1985) 170 Cal App. 3rd 604*). The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA - CA Public Resources Code §21000-21177, amendment effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the California Code of Regulations §15064.5(b)(c)(f) CEQA guidelines). Section 15382 of the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ... objects of historic or aesthetic significance. The lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. State law also addresses Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The Native American Heritage Commission did perform a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search in the NAHC SLF Inventory, established by the Legislature pursuant to Public Resources Code §5097.94(a) and Native American Cultural Resources were identified, including Native American burial sites within one-half mile of the 15,000-acre Area of Potential Effect (APE). Also, it is important to understand that the absence of archaeological, Native American cultural resources in an area does not indicate that they are not present, or will be present once ground-breaking activity begins. The NAHC recommends early consultation with Native American tribes in your area as the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries once a project is underway and to learn of any sensitive cultural areas.

Enclosed a list with the names of the culturally affiliated tribes and interested Native American individuals that the NAHC recommends as 'consulting parties,' for this purpose, that may have knowledge of the religious and cultural significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). A Native American Tribe or Tribal Elder may be the only source of information about a cultural resource.. Also, the NAHC recommends that a Native American Monitor or Native American culturally knowledgeable person be employed

whenever a professional archaeologist is employed during the 'Initial Study' and in other phases of the environmental planning processes.

Furthermore the NAHC recommends that you contact the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) of the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), for information on recorded archaeological data. This information is available at the OHP Office in Sacramento (916) 445-7000.

Consultation with tribes and interested Native American tribes and interested Native American individuals, as consulting parties, on the attached NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-43351) and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 [f] *et seq.*), 36 CFR Part 800.3, .4 & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ; 42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013), as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including *cultural landscapes*. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e).

Lead agencies should consider avoidance, as defined in Section 15370 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) when significant cultural resources could be affected by a project. Also, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction and mandate the processes to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'. Discussion of these should be included in your environmental documents, as appropriate.

The authority for the SLF record search of the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory, established by the California Legislature, is California Public Resources Code §5097.94(a) and is exempt from the CA Public Records Act (c.f. California Government Code §6254.10). The results of the SLF search are confidential. However, Native Americans on the attached contact list are not prohibited from and may wish to reveal the nature of identified cultural resources/historic properties. Confidentiality of 'historic properties of religious and cultural significance' may also be protected under Section 304 of the NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior's discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C, 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APE and possibly threatened by proposed project activity.

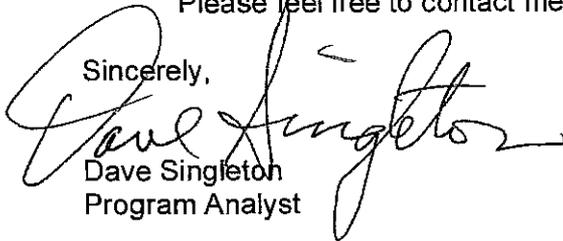
CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5(d) requires the lead agency to work with the Native Americans identified by this Commission if the initial Study identifies the presence or likely presence of Native American human remains within the APE. CEQA Guidelines provide for agreements with Native American, identified by the NAHC, to assure the appropriate and dignified treatment of Native American human remains and any associated grave liens. Although tribal consultation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; CA Public Resources Code Section 21000 – 21177) is 'advisory' rather than mandated, the NAHC does request 'lead agencies' to work with tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties,' on the list provided by the NAHC in order that cultural resources will be protected. However, the 2006 Senate Bill 1059 the state enabling legislation to the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, does mandate tribal consultation for the 'electric transmission

corridors. This is codified in the California Public Resources Code, Chapter 4.3, and §25330 to Division 15, requires consultation with California Native American tribes, and identifies both federally recognized and non-federally recognized on a list maintained by the NAHC

Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98 and Sec. §15064.5 (d) of the California Code of Regulations (CEQA Guidelines) mandate procedures to be followed, including that construction or excavation be stopped in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery until the county coroner or medical examiner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. . Note that §7052 of the Health & Safety Code states that disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 653-6251 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Attachment: List of Culturally Affiliated Native American Contacts

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Native American Contacts
Imperial County
December 27, 2010

La Posta Band of Mission Indians
Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson
PO Box 1120 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Boulevard , CA 91905
gparada@lapostacasino.
(619) 478-2113
619-478-2125

Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians
Carmen Lucas
P.O. Box 775 Diegueno -
Pine Valley , CA 91962
(619) 709-4207

Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
Leroy J. Elliott, Chairperson
PO Box 1302 Kumeyaay
Boulevard , CA 91905
ljbirdsinger@aol.com
(619) 766-4930
(619) 766-4957 Fax

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Diana L. Chihuahua, Vice Chairperson, Cultural
P.O. Box 1160 Cahuilla
Thermal , CA 92274
dianac@torresmartinez.
760) 397-0300, Ext. 1209
(760) 272-9039 - cell (Lisa)
(760) 397-8146 Fax

Campo Kumeyaay Nation
Monique LaChappa, Chairperson
36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Campo , CA 91906
(619) 478-9046
miachappa@campo-nsn.gov
(619) 478-5818 Fax

Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office
Will Micklin, Executive Director
4054 Willows Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 91901
wmicklin@leaningrock.net
(619) 445-6315 - voice
(619) 445-9126 - fax

Kumeyaay Cultural Heritage Preservation
Paul Cuero
36190 Church Road, Suite 5 Diegueno/ Kumeyaay
Campo , CA 91906
(619) 478-9046
(619) 478-9505
(619) 478-5818 Fax

Ewiiapaayp Tribal Office
Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson
4054 Willows Road Diegueno/Kumeyaay
Alpine , CA 91901
michaelg@leaningrock.net
(619) 445-6315 - voice
(619) 445-9126 - fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. Also, federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and federal NAGPRA. And 36 CFR Part 800.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans for consultation purposes with regard to cultural resources impact by the proposed SCH#2010121055; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIR/EIR; located in the Ocotillo area of western Imperial County, California.

Native American Contacts
Imperial County
December 27, 2010

Campo Kumeyaay Nation
ATTN: Fidel Hyde, EPA Supervisor
36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Kumeyaay
Campo, CA 91906
fhyde@campo-nsn.gov
(619) 478-9369
(619) 478-5818 Fax

Ah-Mut-Pipa Foundation
Preston J. Arrow-weed
P.O. Box 160
Bard, CA 92222
ahmut@earthlink.net
(928) 388-9456
Quechan
Kumeyaay

Cocopah Museum/Cultural Resources Dept.
Jill McCormick, Tribal Archaeologist
County 15th & Ave. G Cocopah
Sommerton, AZ 85350
culturalres@cocopah.com
(928) 530-2291 - cell
(928) 627-2280 - fax

Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
Nick Elliott, Cultural Resources Coordinator
P.O. Box 1302 Kumeyaay
Boulevard, CA 91905
nickmepa@yahoo.com
(619) 766-4930
(619) 925-0952 - cell
(919) 766-4957

Quechan Indian Nation
Bridget Nash-Chrabasz, THPO
P.O. Box 1899 Quechan
Yuma, AZ 85366
b.nash@quechantribe.com
(928) 920-6068 - CELL
(760) 572-2423

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. Also, federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and federal NAGPRA. And 36 CFR Part 800.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans for consultation purposes with regard to cultural resources impact by the proposed SCH#2010121055; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIR/EIR; located in the Ocotillo area of western Imperial County, California.

Cristina Piraino

From: EwingDuo@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2010 03:22 PM
To: Angelina Havens
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

Angelina:

I am a resident of Ocotillo and request that the comment meeting for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project be rescheduled to a weekend. I suggest a high noon meeting on a Saturday. There are too many part time residents that will find a Thursday evening meeting very difficult to attend. This project is of very high concern to our community and everyone should have an equal opportunity to attend.

Thank you:

Parke Ewing
PO Box 84, 98 West Imperial Hwy.
Ocotillo, Ca. 92259

Cristina Piraino

From: Charlene Compson [charlene_compson@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, December 27, 2010 01:47 PM
To: Angelina Havens; Jack Terrazas; caocotillo; Planning@co.imperial.ca.us
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

To all concerned with this project:

I am writing to you to express my dislike and disappointment with all the projects being considered for Ocotillo and NoMirage areas.

Out of all the projects that have been "suggested" for Ocotillo, I am most aggravated with the WInd Towers. Are you people delusional?? I cannot believe that you feel placing 240 -400 foot tall wind turbines is a good idea in an urban setting. (Why not place them in an uninhabited area, if it has to be done at all!)

We have enjoyed the desert most of our lives, as children and adults, we have always picked up other people's trash, stayed on designated routes, respected the landscape and critters. We love our desert!!

I have heard over the past few days that there is a scheduled meeting for Thursday, January 6th @ 6pm at the Ocotillo Community Park regarding the "proposed project and how it may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts". I have not received anything about this in the mail to date, only what other disgruntled residents have told me. I am asking for you to consider re-scheduling this meeting to a time where more part-timers that live in San Diego and come down on weekends to enjoy our beautiful desert, can make this meeting. I would hope this is not why you planned it during the week, but how about a Saturday in the next couple of weeks? A Saturday where we can all get together and come to this meeting and discuss this.

It looks like you folks have already made up your minds, but you are asking the public for some suggestions on how this could be a little bit more environmentally favorable.

You know it isn't always about how much cash you guys are going to get out of this project, but it is also about the lives that these projects are affecting.

Please re-consider the date and let us know that you think a Saturday is a great idea and we will gladly pass the word onto a LARGE group of unhappy residents.

Charlene Compson
P.O.Box 284
Ocotillo, CA 92259

SEND YOUR E-MAILS PEOPLE !!

Cristina Piraino

From: John Mood [1happyalien@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 28, 2010 11:48 AM
To: cedric.perry@ca.blm.gov; Angelina Havens; Jack Terrazas; Jim Minnick; Armando Villa; Carina Alcantar; Rosa Soto
Cc: planning@co.imperial.ca.us; caocotillo@blm.gov
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

Hi, Folks!

Will you people please stop approving corporations ruining the desert!!!!

My wife & I have owned property in Imperial County since '79 & have had a trailer on it since Feb., '86, & we love it.

On the other hand, you give no evidence of enjoying the desert & its silence, its cacti, dunes, lizards, chollas (including the rare Wolf's cholla), desert lilies, subtly colored lovely alluvial fans & mountains, palms, ocotillos, insects, birds, coyotes, snakes, paloverdes, smoke trees, rabbits, the extremely rare & unusual *Pilostyles thurberi* a flowering plant growing INSIDE another flowering plant the *Psorothamnus emoryi* ("dye bush," a close relative of smoke trees), creosote bushes, roadrunners, datura blossoms, the *Euphorbia micromera* ("Sonoran sandmat") hugging the ground low with a single root & tiny flowers needing a triplet to see & more magnification to detect the complexity of its dual male & female flowers in one blossom & if one lifts up the plant it smells like a swamp (in the desert!), the stars, etc., etc., etc., etc.

If you don't love the desert, then move back to El Cajon or wherever you came from, where there are lots of lights & people & cars & noise & pollution & everything else you apparently want to introduce out here around Ocotillo with your Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, & put up a loud ugly huge dangerous invasive windmill in your own backyard. Please stay away from ours.

The planet doesn't need more electricity, it needs less humans. What is this growth fetish? & if you want more jobs, hire people to protect the desert instead of ruining it. How about that?

And here are some photos of windmills similar to what you're trying to foist on us. To be completely fair, you should make 100s of copies of this email & the attached photos & pass them out at every meeting of anyone discussing this disastrous proposal, because I am talking FACTS, not opinions.

You could also check several damning videos at the site below. Truly appalling. & this is what you want to saddle Ocotillo the poor ugly sister western portion of Imperial County with???

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm0Oe8J6qT8>

Or have I mis-represented you in this email? If so, then please vote to stop it all immediately & entirely, never to be brought up again.

John Mood





















TO: Ocotillo Express BLM FAX: 760-337-4490

FROM: Homeowner in Ocotillo for approximately 20 years FAX: 619-435-5183

DATE: 4 Jan 2011

RE: Submission of comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Draft EIR/EIS

Attached please find 5 pages of issues requested to be addressed in the EIS and EIR. Total fax including this page is 6 pages.

cc by mail and/or internet:

caocotillo@blm.gov

Cedric Perry, Project Manager, California Desert District (CDO), BLM, 22835
Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553

cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov

jackterrazas@co.imperial.ca.us

angelinahavens@co.imperial.ca.us

— Angelina Havens (Planner III), Imperial County Planning & Development Services
Dept., 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243

Rep. Bob Filner, 110I Airport Road Suite D, Imperial CA 92251

w/enclosures

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2011

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

ISSUES REQUESTED TO BE ADDRESSED
IN OCOTILLO EXPRESS EIS AND EIR

AIR QUALITY

What impact will the road construction, trenching and dirt displacement have on the air quality in Ocotillo and its environs?

Will the enormous turbines positioned on the towers emit toxic or noxious substances, such as oil, hydraulic fluids or other materials into the air?

Do the blades constitute a hazard to air quality in the event they suffer a failure of any type?

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

What impact will denuding of thousands of acres of desert land have on the wildlife that depend on desert vegetation and related insects and other species for food?

Will the plants that are scraped from the desert lands return and flourish as before?

Will the animals, insects and birds that are displaced by the construction return and flourish as before?

What impact will the construction have on the Golden Eagles in the area?

What impact will the construction in the area have on the flat tailed horned toad?

Will the construction and/ or operation of the wind mills harm the Golden Eagle population in the area?

What number of birds and species will annually be killed by the turbine blades?

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2011

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RECREATION

What restrictions on public use of the 15,000 acres will be imposed during construction?

What restrictions on public use of the 15,000 acres will be imposed following completion of construction?

In the event of damage or vandalism to the wind mills, is closing the 15,000 acres to public access of any kind contemplated or legally possible?

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Are there any significant or meaningful sites, relics or antiquities related to Native American, Spanish or Mexican cultures?

WATER

Water is a very critical resource in the Ocotillo area. We depend on the aquifer for our water. Therefore a very thorough analysis of water usage during construction and afterwards must be made. Particularly with regard to impact on the aquifer in terms of loss of water and also any resulting loss of water purity or quality.

Further, since the proposed project will sit within a flood plain, it is essential to know:

What impact if any, the completed project will have on the volume of run off, erosion of soils and increased danger from flash floods?

What is the impact, if any, on recharging the aquifer that supplies water to Ocotillo?

What impact will the addition of many miles of compacted roads, and hundreds of steel and concrete support pads, have on the amount of water that percolates into the Ocotillo aquifer?

Will it be reduced? If so, how will it be restored both during construction and afterwards?

Since portions of the project are being built in the flood plain and require permits, will homeowners now be able to get building permits in the flood plain? What standards are being imposed on the project to obtain permits to build in the flood plain?

NOISE

What increase in ambient noise levels will occur to nearby residences and camping areas as a result of the construction and/or operation of a wind farm of this magnitude?

SOCIOECONOMICS

Will there be a negative impact to the residents of Ocotillo?

Will the area become blighted as a result of massive wind mills operating in the immediate vicinity?

Will property values diminish?

Will the social structure, of what is essentially a retirement and weekend community, be detrimentally affected by an industrial-sized energy complex being located in the immediate vicinity?

TRAFFIC

What is the nature and scope of the traffic impact from transporting construction equipment, wind turbines, blades and towers, steel, concrete and other building materials and construction personnel to the site?

Will traffic noise increase?

Are there safety issues for residents?

Will air quality be impacted?

Will roads be damaged?

VISUAL IMPACT

What will be the visual impact of hundreds of wind turbines, reaching to the sky, taller than the Statue of Liberty, with a blade radius larger than a Boeing 747 airplane?

A cost/benefit analysis should be done to compare the loss of impressive mountain and desert vistas against the gain of what percentage of electrical power for the Southern California region. This analysis should take into consideration the **historical reality** of energy production by wind turbines, not just **the theoretical production**.

Are there binding contracts with Pattern Energy or any other entity to whom permits are issued for this project with SDG&E or IID to provide Southern California including Imperial County with energy from this project? If so, what are the binding amounts of energy and for how long a period of time?

If the project is abandoned at any time, are their contractual obligations for Pattern Energy or any other entity to whom permits are issued for this project to remove all materials including turbines, blades and roads?

NATIONAL SECURITY

The Imperial Valley is an important part of our national security as the home of El Centro NAF. In close proximity to the proposed project site is a military aircraft bombing range.

Also this part of Imperial Valley is regularly used by military aircraft going between the Marine Corps Air Facility in Yuma, Arizona and the one at Miramar Air Base.

A study should be done as to what, if any, impact this wind farm may have on radar being used during training flights, and on air traffic control radar in the area.

WIND STUDIES

What independent wind studies have been reviewed to verify the real energy production from this project? Wind is a factor for the military and farmers who crop dust in the Imperial Valley. There should be comparative studies to validate the claims of consistent wind availability to produce sufficient energy production to justify the project.

NOTICES

The Notice of Intent to Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, Imperial County, CA states under the heading "Supplementary Information" that the energy project would be located on BLM administered lands and a small portion on lands under the jurisdiction of Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California" as contained in the Federal Register: Dec. 13, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 238).

The map accompanying the notice for the public meetings on Jan. 5 and Jan 6, 2011 does not appear to comply with that designation. The majority of the project is primarily to the north and east of the town. The closest project boundary based on the scale accompanying the map appears to be approximately 1 to 2 miles from residences on the west of the town.

Is the notice correct? Have the project boundaries changed since the publication in the Federal Register? If so, is this legal?

Ocotillo Express Wind Facility

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Environmental Review to Begin



December 13, 2010 - A Federal Register Notice for scoping for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and potential California Desert Conservation Act Plan Amendment for Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project on 15,000 acres of desert between the town of Ocotillo and Anza Borrego Desert State Park appeared today.

January 21, 2011 is the comment deadline. Please contact the project manager and request a public scoping hearing in the impacted community of Ocotillo.

Bureau of Land Management e-mails to send comments:

caocotillo@blm.gov

Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov

The project lies between the 15,000 acre Tule Wind project to the west in the McCain Valley National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area in Boulevard in Eastern San Diego County, and the 6,500 acre Imperial Valley Solar project to the east in Imperial County. It also lies between the Coyote Mountain Wilderness and Jacumba Wilderness on both sides of State Route-2 and Interstate-8. Just southwest of the Ocotillo Express location is Sempra's proposed cross-border 1,250 MW Energia Sierra Juarez wind project.

Turbines are proposed in Baja adjacent to the border, the Jacumba Wilderness and bighorn sheep habitat. Comments closed on November 1 for the Department of Energy Presidential Permit Application for the 500 kV cross-border gen-tie line that will connect to SDG&E's proposed ECO Substation: www.esjprojecteis.org.

Ocotillo Express relies on the Sunrise Powerlink, that is still in state and federal court. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger cut the ribbon at SDG&E's premature Sunrise Powerlink groundbreaking, where over 200 protestors were present to urge better alternatives to this massive transmission line.

Cumulative impacts are significant when added to Sunrise Powerlink, Imperial Valley Solar, Tule Wind, Energia Sierra Juarez, and more. Bighorn sheep and Golden Eagles have been observed in the last year in Ocotillo, Mountain Springs, In-Ko-Pah, Jacumba Wilderness, Boulevard, and the Sierra Juarez. Critical habitat and corridors will be fragmented.



Federal Register: December 13, 2010 (Volume 75, Number 238)
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, Imperial County, CA

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office and Imperial County, California, intend to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) along with a proposed amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980, as amended). This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the Draft EIS/EIR and possible CDCA Plan amendment. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 12, 2011. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings and site visits will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>. In order to be included in the Draft

EIR/EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIR/EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the Pattern Energy Group Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project Draft EIR/EIS by any of the following methods:

Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>.

E-mail: caocotillo@blm.gov.

Fax: (760) 337-4490.

Mail: Cedric Perry, Project Manager, California Desert District (CDD), BLM, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the CDD or the BLM's California State Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or to have your name added to the project mailing list, contact Cedric Perry, BLM Project Manager, telephone (951) 697-5388; address 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553; e-mail Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Ocotillo Express, LLC has submitted an application for a right-of-way authorization to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission, an approximate 15,000-acre, 550 megawatt (MW) wind energy project including a substation, administration, operations and maintenance facilities, transmission, and temporary construction lay down areas. The proposed wind energy project would be located on BLM administered lands and a small portion on lands under the jurisdiction of Imperial County, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California. The proposed action consists of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of wind turbine generators and associated facilities necessary to successfully generate up to 550 MW of electricity. The project would be constructed in 2 phases: Phase I is anticipated to total approximately 299 MW, and Phase II is about 251 MW. A recently approved high-voltage transmission line known as the Sunrise Powerlink crosses the Ocotillo Wind Energy Project site and will facilitate interconnection of the proposed project and transmission of its renewable energy output to Southern California.

The BLM will be the lead agency for NEPA compliance and Imperial County will act as the lead agency under CEQA for the project. The BLM has invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be a cooperating Federal agency in the preparation of the EIR/EIS because the proposed project may require a section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act. The BLM and Corps agree that establishing a cooperating agency relationship will create a more streamlined and coordinated approach in developing the Ocotillo EIR/EIS and they will be developing a Memorandum of Understanding for this purpose.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and will guide the process of developing the EIR/EIS. At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues: air quality, biological resources, recreation, cultural resources, water resources, geological resources, land use, noise, paleontological resources, land with wilderness characteristics, public health, socioeconomics, soils, traffic and transportation, visual resources, and other issues. Authorization of this proposal would require an amendment of the CDCA Plan. By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans. The BLM will integrate the land use planning process with the NEPA process for this project. The BLM will use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C.

470(f)) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office, 1661 South 4th Street, El Centro, California 92243, during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

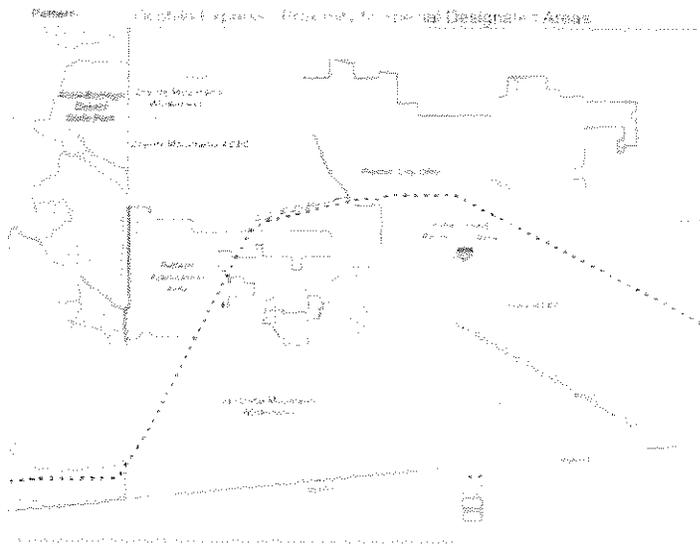
Thomas Pogacnik,
Deputy State Director, Natural Resources.



^Part of the hills near the proposed wind project location, as seen from the site of the proposed [Imperial Valley Solar Project](#) to the east.

February 23, 2010 - Southern Colorado Desert, California

Wind Farm Proposed on Boundary of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

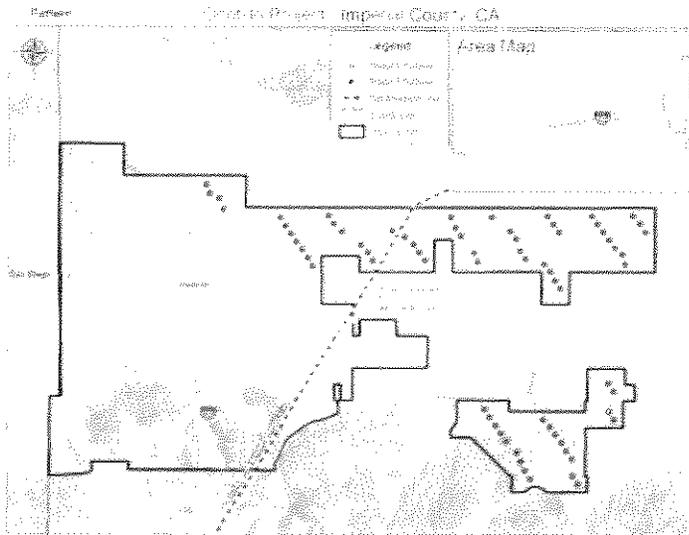


Pattern Energy, through Ocotillo Express LLC (OE LLC), proposes to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a 561 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility on approximately 14,980 acres in the Ocotillo Express wind project area, with 244 wind turbines in the Imperial Valley desert, Imperial County in southern California near the border of Mexico. The turbines would be about 400 feet tall.

If approved the project would be in operation by the end of 2012. The electricity would flow to [Sunrise Powerlink](#), San Diego Gas and Electric Co.'s controversial transmission line from the Imperial Valley to San Diego.

Wally Leimgruber, District 5 county supervisor, said the Ocotillo Express Wind Project would advance the county's renewable energy industry.

The Sunrise Powerlink has been attacked for claiming it would carry renewable electricity, while actually connecting to many fossil fuel power plants south of the border. Early proposals would have driven the giant transmission line through Anza-Borrego State Park.



"The project scope will include a network of 16 foot wide roads that will provide access to each turbine location and to the project's O&M building."

"During the course of construction, access roads will have an additional temporary disturbance of 20 feet to facilitate the travel of large tracked cranes. These disturbed areas will be graded and compacted for use and then decompacted and stabilized at the conclusion of the project. In addition to the crane travel paths, the underground collection system will also parallel the access road network further widening the disturbed area" (page 6 of the draft Plan of Development obtained by Basin and Range Watch).

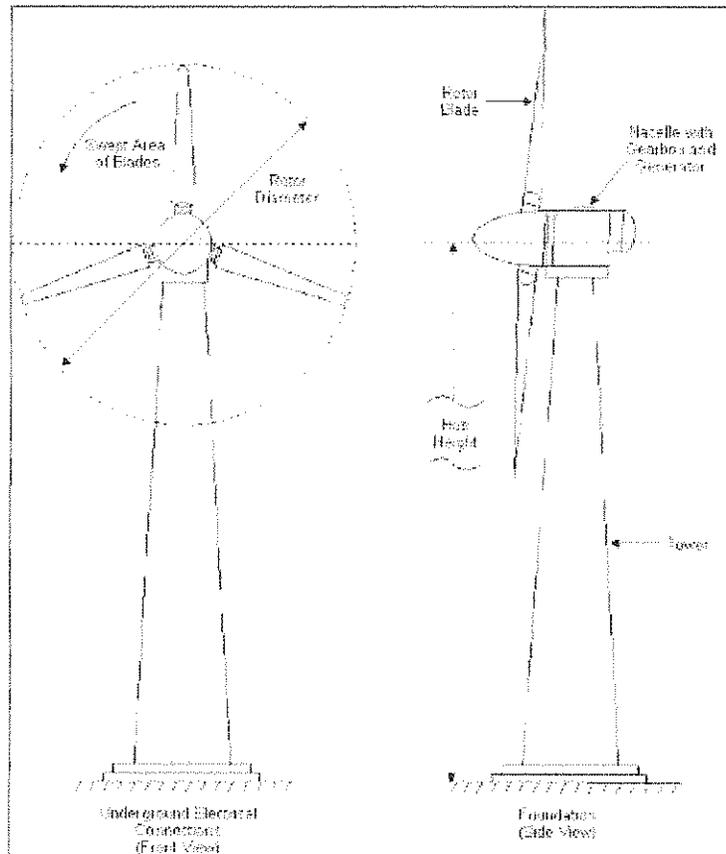
"A total of about 20,000 gallons of water per turbine will be needed for batching concrete. Based on the maximum of 244 turbines, a total of 5,000,000 gallons of water will be needed for turbines. In addition, approximately 15,000,000 gallons of water are expected to be required for road maintenance and dust suppression. In total, approximately 20,000,000 gallons (61.4 acre feet) of water will be needed for the project during construction. All water would be delivered from the selected source, by truck to the Batch Plant and project area. Up to 3500 vehicle trips would be required for water delivery. Temporary water storage tanks would be installed support these water needs" (page 7 POD).

Gravel and concrete aggregate would come from up to three, 15-acre locations within or near the project area.... The materials will be trucked to the batching plant and placed into stockpiles. Cement will be delivered on trucks from a source to be identified and stored in two to five silos on site. Approximately 510,000 pounds of sand, 800,000 pounds of gravel and 240,000 pounds of cement will be needed for each turbine site. Based on a maximum of 244 turbines installed, 124,500,000 pounds of sand, 195,200,000 pounds of gravel and 58,560,000 pounds of cement will be utilized. Additional sand, gravel and cement will be required for construction of the substation, switchyard and O&M facilities (page 20, POD).

Ocotillo lies near Jacumba Mountains Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness. The area is biologically rich, with Flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), and Ironwood forests. The Flat-tailed horned lizard is due for a decision this November on whether it should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

From local resident Edie Harmon, February 23, 2010: *"The area around Ocotillo has an incredible glow of all shades of greens, with creosote, verbena, encelia, cheesebush,*

burroweed, datura, and countless small annuals up and in bloom now. Buds on cacti are abundant and look as if they will also soon be blooming. Definitely not a barren wasteland for those who are not blind and choose to open their eyes. Sure beats looking at and listening to freeway traffic for me! Guess that beauty is in the eyes and ears of the beholder. The proposed Wind Zero site almost looks golf-course green where it flooded during January and September rains, all depending on where one is standing and looking."



The turbines would be 2.3 MW Siemens at 126.5 m total height, or 1.8 MW Vestas at 125 m.

Download the [Plan of Development](#).

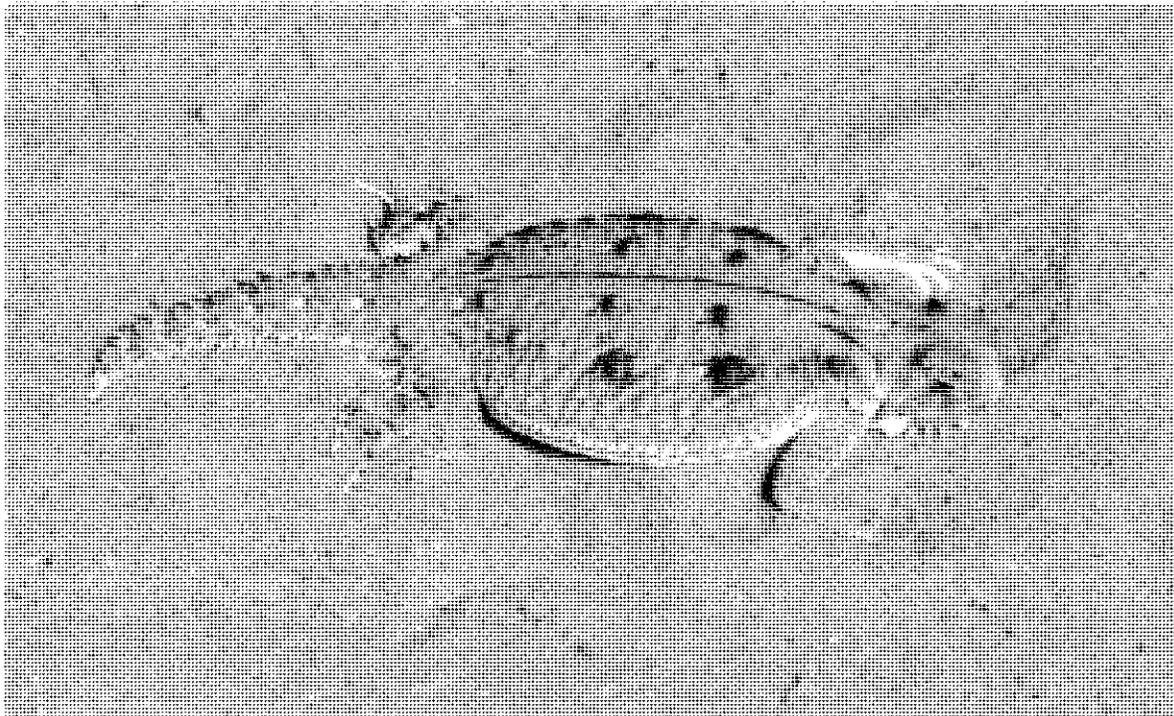
Pattern Energy also is pushing a large wind farm next to Great Basin National Park near Ely, Nevada, about a mile from a cave that shelters more than one million Brazilian free-tailed bats (our story on this project >>[here](#)).

Story in [AnzaBorrego.net](#)

ivpressonline >>[here](#).

PermoCo Engineering and Management >>[here](#).

Maps and diagrams from the POD.



^Flat-tailed horned lizard (Copyright Laura Cunningham 2010).

More on this soon.

See also the Tule Wind Energy Project in McCain Valley, eastern San Diego County >>[BLM website](#).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION [San Diego Gas & Electric East County Substation Project](#)

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<< Sunrise Powerlink Ground Breaking Ceremony in McCain Valley | The Anza Borrego Desert at Night >>

Ocotillo Express Wind Farm Moves Closer to Fruition

By Administrator

16. December 2010 22:29

There has been an unprecedented assault on our deserts and backcountry in the name of renewable energy. While the Anza Borrego Desert State Park was spared the bulldozer's blade back in 2008, many so called "green" projects have been popping up all over California.

Although these remote solar and wind projects may seem environmentally friendly on the surface, there is a dark side that seems to be ignored by the media.

In order to be financially viable, large scale solar and wind projects require thousands of acres of public lands to be scraped clean in order to make room for the dishes or towers. These are areas that have important biological and possibly cultural significance. For example, the area proposed for the Ocotillo Express Wind Farm is critical desert habitat for Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and is also home to the endangered flat-tailed horned lizard.



While the utility companies, politicians and corporations look upon these areas as an expendable resource once these areas are developed they are forever gone. Do we really need to go "green" by paving over untouched wilderness? Utility companies such as SDG&E would have you believe yes, but they are merely maximizing profits by building up a huge infrastructure of transmission lines and sub-stations. The true environmentally friendly alternative is to generate the power where it is being used and covering our homes and

businesses with photo-voltaic panels.

Unfortunately as I write this, the Ocotillo Express Wind Farm has now moved to the environmental review stage and looks to be fast-tracked through the approval process. I urge you to take a few minutes to email the BLM offices and tell them this area should not be used for a 15,000 acre wind farm. There are better ways to deliver clean energy to the people of San Diego without destroying our desert ecosystems

"Some people look out in the deserts and just see empty space. I see a gold mine there for clean energy." - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Bureau of Land Management e-mails to send comments:

caocotillo@blm.gov

Cedric_Perry@ca.blm.gov

Comments need to be received before January 12, 2011

Thanks to the Basin and Range Watch for following this issue.

Bob

Currently rated 5.0 by 3 people

Tags: Ocotillo Express Wind Farm, Ocotillo, Sunrise Powerlink

Sunrise Powerlink

0 Comments

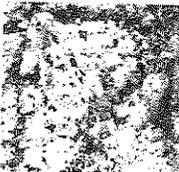
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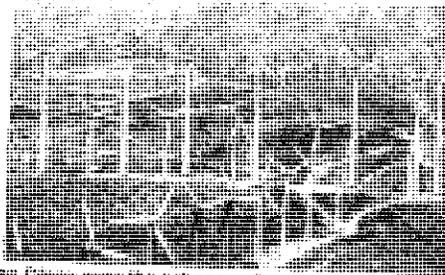
Should Ocotillo lose 15,000 acres to concrete and steel ?

By Surfiponto

19 February 2010 04:32

In the small desert town of Ocotillo, CA the winds may be changing.

Pattern Energy, a San Francisco based energy company is proposing to turn 15,000 acres of public lands bordering the Anza Borrego Desert State Park into a 561 megawatt wind farm with 240 wind turbines.



Unfortunately for the small town of Ocotillo and the Imperial Valley, little would be gained as the power would be funneled to San Diego over the infamous Sunrise Powerlink.

John Calaway, Pattern Energy director of wind development states that the area would benefit from 400 construction jobs during the two year construction period of the Ocotillo Express Wind Farm.

Let me get this straight, Pattern Energy is "promising" 2 years of construction jobs and in return residents and visitors alike get to stare at 240 four hundred foot tall wind towers for the rest of their lives? I don't know about you but I think Pattern Energy is getting the better end of that deal.



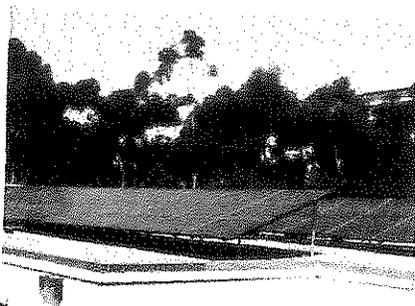
If you do the research you will find that communities from California to Maine have been fighting industrial wind farms for years. Concerns over noise levels, destruction of views and effects on wildlife have prompted communities nationwide to oppose projects such as these.

Once again our public lands are under attack from corporations looking to fast track these projects with little public feedback. The race for alternative energy should not come at the expense of the environment. Why are we tearing up our fragile deserts in the name of green energy when instead we should be covering our homes, businesses and parking garages with solar panels ?

Stay tuned for more updates.....

Bob B.

Ocotillo Express Wind Farm Draft Plan of Development (1.51 mb)



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Noise & Health Effects of Large Wind Turbines

Victims: [Go here to add your experience to the record](#)

Several physicians from around the world -- e.g., Amanda Harry in England, Robert McMurtry in Ontario, Robyn Phipps in New Zealand -- have recorded a common set of ill health effects among people living near industrial-scale wind turbines. The symptoms began when local turbines began to turn, and they are relieved when the victims leave the area. Many families have had to abandon their homes as unlivable.

The symptoms include:

- sleep disturbance
- headache
- ringing or buzzing in the ears (tinnitus)
- ear pressure
- dizziness, vertigo
- nausea
- visual blurring
- racing heartbeat (tachycardia)
- irritability
- problems with concentration and memory
- panic episodes with sensations of internal pulsation or quivering which arise while awake or asleep

Dr. Nina Pierpont of New York has called it "wind turbine syndrome" and determined that its primary cause is the effect of low-frequency wind turbine noise on the organs of the inner ear. [Click here for her book and other information on the subject.](#) Dr. Pierpont's work has led her to recommend that large wind turbines not be sited closer than 2 kilometers (1-1/4 miles) from a home -- see [below](#) for link to petition for 2-km setbacks.

Shadow flicker -- where the sun behind turbine blades creates a strobing effect on the ground -- may also be intrusive and harmful. Many people are also concerned about stray voltage, or ground current, caused by the hundreds of thousands of feet of buried electric cable in a typical wind power facility.

Finally, an increase in noise is itself disruptive and can cause sleep loss and stress, especially in rural areas where there is an expectation of quiet. The World Health Organization [notes](#) that "Measurable effects of noise on sleep begin at LAeq levels of about 30 dB. ... When noise is continuous, the equivalent sound pressure level should not exceed 30 dB(A) indoors, if negative effects on sleep are to be avoided. For noise with a large proportion of low-frequency sound [dB(C)] a still lower guideline value is recommended."

Acousticians Rick James and George Kamperman have extensively studied wind turbine noise: [click here to read their](#)

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... [I]t will be
the equivalent of
a water company
only supplying
tap water when
it's raining.

—Saiful Islam, U.K.

[more quotes]

siting guidelines. In brief, they recommend a limit at the property line of 35 dBA or 5 dBA above the preconstruction ambient level, whichever is lower, and a limit of 50 dBC or 20 dBC above the preconstruction ambient dBA level, whichever is lower, for low-frequency noise.

In Ontario, the Society for Wind Vigilance provides information about adverse health effects and wind turbines, including annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, and physiological effects: [click here](#).

For all of the items about wind turbine noise in the National Wind Watch Resource Library, [click here](#).

[Read and sign this petition \(click\) calling for a 2-kilometer setback of large wind turbines from homes.](#)

Print version

..

(noise inside entry vestibule at midnight, 3 1.5-MW GE turbines 1500 feet downwind, Bliss, N.Y.)

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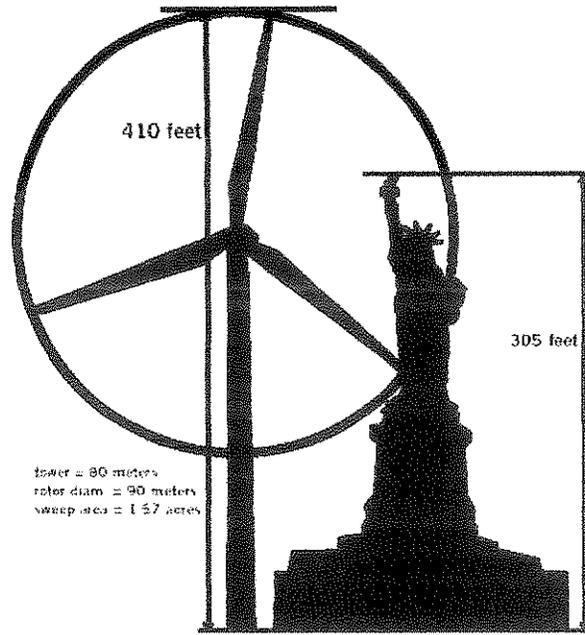
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410' turbine next to Statue of Liberty

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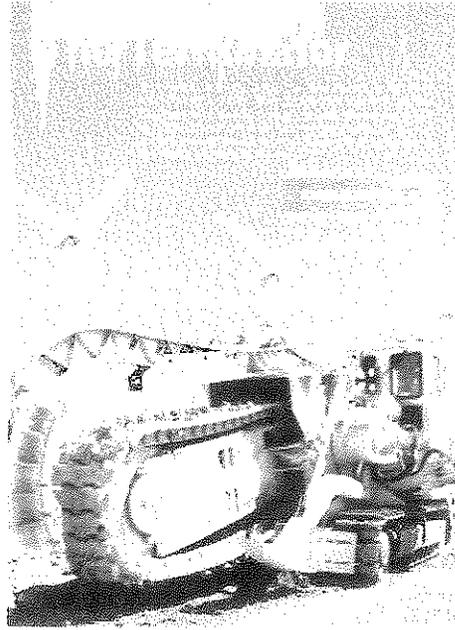
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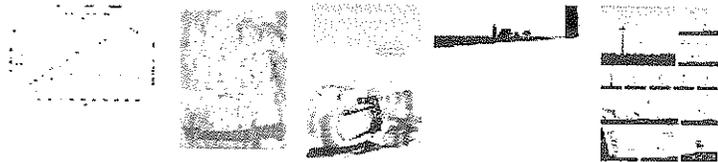


The Terminator

Advertisement for the Tesmec 1475 trench digger ("a 100 MW wind project could hav of trenches containing 450,000 feet of underground cables" -- North American Wind

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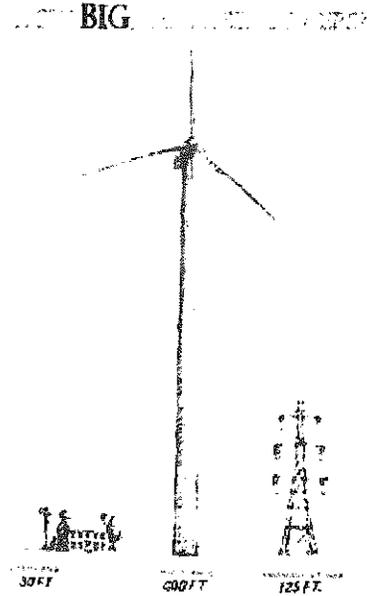
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400' turbine next to 2-story house and high-voltage transmission py

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Robert Dallezotte

PO Box 390
Ocotillo, CA 92259
Tel. 619.571.1718
Fax 619.448.7755
mailto:bob@xinutech.com

January 4, 2010

To: CA State Rep.: Bob Filner (sending this directly to his email at house.gov)

BLM: caocotillo@blm.gov

cedrick_perry@blm.gov

County Supervisor: jackterrazas@co.imperial.ca.gov

Imperial Planning: angelinahavens@co.imperial.ca.us

jimminnick@imperialcounty.net

Subject: Ocotillo Wind Express Project

To all,

My name is Robert Dallezotte and I have eight parcels in Ocotillo Unit #1 and Unit #2. The total acreage is 135 acres. In 2005/2006 I installed a brand new manufactured house and 2,800 square foot garage on one of lots. I have questions and concerns about this Ocotillo Wind Express Project.

I will not be able to attend the meeting on 5 or 6 January 2011, so I am sending this letter to be recorded and reviewed.

- Our residence was specifically situated to highlight the view of the beautiful Coyote Mountains to the North. **The installation of the windmills will significantly affect the value of all our properties.**
- I am questioning how safe these windmills are since they are to be installed so close to our properties. **Can the responsible parties guarantee the safety of the citizens of Ocotillo?** I have specific concerns because I own a 70 acre parcel adjacent to the windmill site. The APN number is 033-250-27. I have been reading about health concerns when these windmills are so close.
- These windmills will significantly reduce the availability of the off-highway riding in the area and the views of the mountains will be ruined.

Proposed solution: Do not install the windmills. The town is going to be surrounded by these monstrosities. **If these are to be installed, I request that they are not installed near the town and do not block the beautiful view of the Coyote mountains.**

The proposed location of these windmills will engulf our community and is a slap in the face to the residents of Ocotillo. There is plenty of land out S2 away from the town to put these windmills if they do go forward with this project. I am very unhappy with Jack Terrazas's stance on this issue, as he is supposed to represent our town and is doing nothing to help our community on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert Dallezotte

Cristina Piraino

From: Charlene Compson [charlene_compson@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 09:40 AM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov; cedric_Perry; Angelina Havens; evarin@ivpressonline.com; dsteffen@ivpressonline.com; ktaylor@ivpressonline.com; Jim Minnick; Armando Villa; Carina Alcantar
Subject: PROPOSED Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project
Attachments: AR-M455N_20110104_101612.pdf

FOR MEETINGS REGARDING WIND FARM

I am writing in regard to the wind towers that are proposed for around the town of Ocotillo, CA in Western Imperial County.

I am a resident of Ocotillo and I am in no way in favor of this project, nor of the way this and other projects are being forced upon the residents of Ocotillo and NoMirage.

It is my understanding there will be a meeting this Thursday, January 6th, 2011 @ 6 pm at the Ocotillo Community Park for input on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). I will be unable to attend but want this e-mail to be part of your consideration, as if I was standing in front of all those concerned.

There are questions and concerns that I would like to have addressed:

Why was this site chosen? The site is so close to houses and completely surrounds the town. The beautiful view of Coyotes Mountain will be gone. The quiet we have all come accustomed to will no longer exist. The destruction of the land to build these towers and all the new, wide access roads for all the machinery and trucks would be immense. BLM has made it very clear, for years, that off-roaders are to stay on existing trails and now BLM is saying it is alright to bulldoze whatever land the project needs? What's that all about? After access roads are made the dust level will increase every time the wind blows, which will cause an unhealthy air quality. What will happen to local paved roads within the area. These roads already are in total disrepair and all this additional new traffic will destroy what is left.

A lot of the proposed towers are in the FEMA flood plane. According to the Imperial County Planning Dept. no construction can occur for the locals but new rules for big companies?

There have been large amounts of earthquakes http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/centeqsus/Maps/special/California_Nevada_eqs.php in this area. We are near many fault lines. How will these wind towers react during earthquakes? I understand the blades are considered hazardous material and will have to be disposed of properly when they fail, and they will fail and need to be replaced. Golden Acorn towers are always replacing theirs and the old blades are still lying on the ground waiting to be disposed of properly, a year later. Who is responsible for the maintenance of these towers for their duration?

What water source will be used during construction? The town of Ocotillo already has one major place, USGS Plaster City, using HUGE amounts of Ocotillo's aquifer. Ocotillo's aquifer is delicate and should not be

abused. The residents count on this water source for their existence.

It is our understanding that there are Golden Eagles in this area that could possibly be killed by the blades, as well as bats and many other birds. Many snakes, lizards and bunnies also will be killed or displaced because of all the construction and destruction in the area. This is totally unacceptable.

I do not feel that all aspects of this project have been addressed. The communities of Ocotillo and NoMirage may be small in numbers, but the people that live here need to be treated with respect. A lot of residents have moved to Ocotillo to get away from city life and want to enjoy the peace and quiet and the panoramic view this area has to offer. Residents will not be the only ones affected by this project. People traveling on Interstate 8 East and Westbound will see the damage this project has caused. Visitors to Anza-Borrego State Park will have to drive right through the affected area.

This appears to be a large project that is being pushed through only because it is a "Green Energy" without thought of the people. What is GREEN about causing destruction to the environment and wildlife? Something's amiss with this project.

Thank you for reading this and using it in your consideration with the environmental issues. Hopefully they will be viewed with an open mind and decisions will not be made because of monetary gains, peer pressure, or deadlines.....only true facts.

Sincerely,

Bill & Charlene Compson
P.O.Box 284
Ocotillo, CA

(See attached file: AR-M455N_20110104_101612.pdf)

Imperial County
Planning & Development Services Department

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT EIS/EIR FOR OCOTILLO EXPRESS WIND ENERGY PROJECT
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIS/EIR SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project, as described below. Public scoping meetings for the proposed EIR will be held by the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2nd Floor, County Administration Center located at 940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 and Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ocotillo Community Park located at 266 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, CA 92259. Comments regarding the scope of the EIR will be accepted at this meeting. An Environmental Evaluation Committee Meeting will be held on January 6, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. where the project will be presented as an informational item. Also, a National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared to address the Applicant's request for grant of right of way through BLM lands.

SUBJECT: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project EIS/EIR

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL: To Be Determined.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed wind energy facility site is located on BLM-administered lands and private land within the unincorporated area of the County of Imperial, in the vicinity of the unincorporated community of Ocotillo. A portion of the Imperial Highway runs through the proposed project site in a northwest to east direction, as well as the Interstate 8, which crosses a portion of the southern area of the proposed project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is the development of a wind energy facility on approximately 15,000 acres of open space and undeveloped range land. The proposed project would include wind turbine generators, operations and maintenance building, project substation, meteorological stations, underground electrical collector system, access roads, and fencing. The electric generating facility would connect to the new SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line scheduled for completion in June 2012.

URBAN AREA PLAN: Ocotillo-Nomirage Community Area Plan

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT: District 2, Supervisor Jack Terrazas

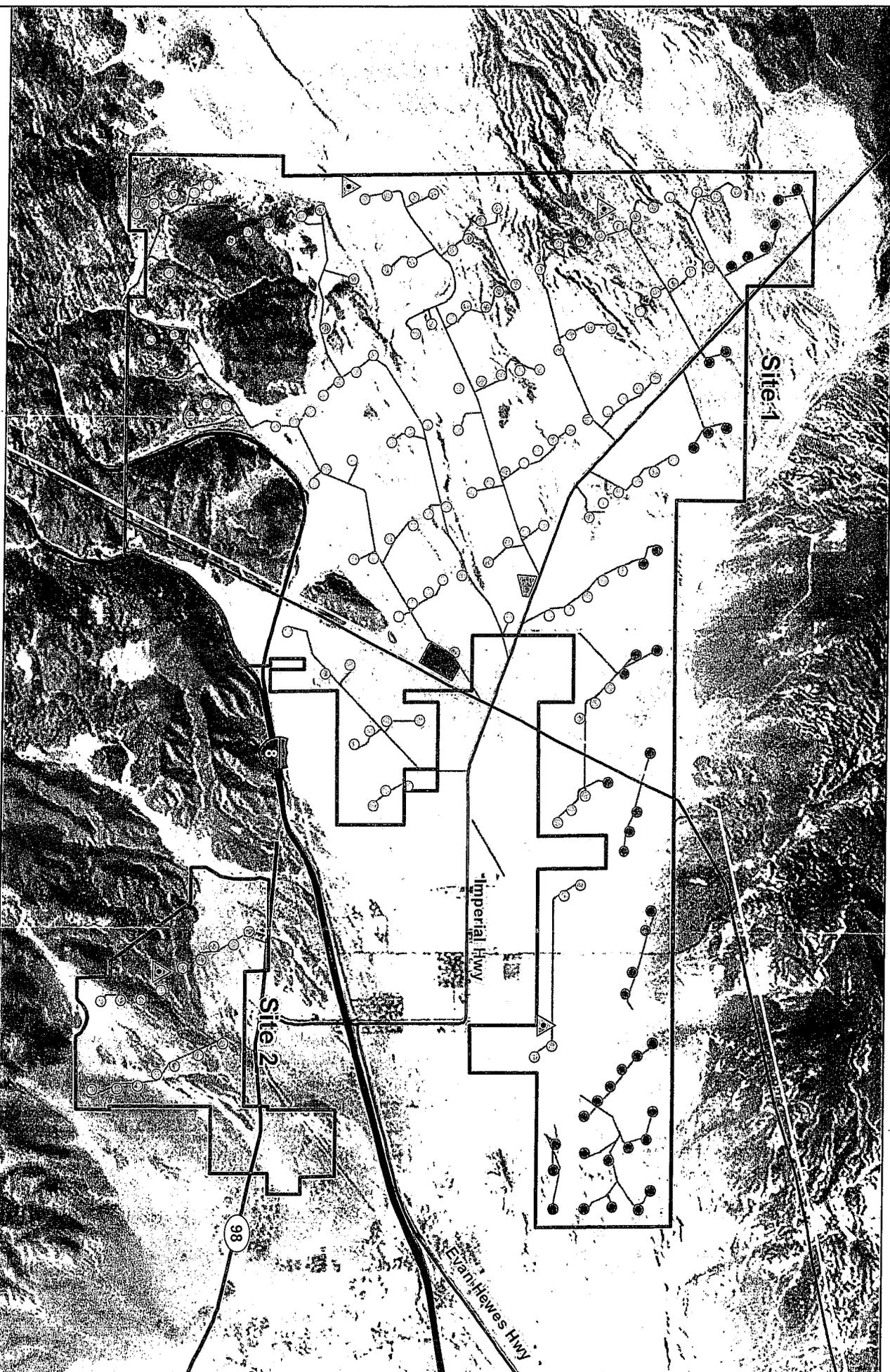
ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS: The EIS/EIR will analyze potential impacts associated with the following: Air Resources; Climate Change; Cultural Resources; Cumulative Impacts; Environmental Justice; Lands and Realty; Mineral Resources; Multiple Use Classes; Noise; Paleontological Resources; Public Health and Safety; Recreation; Social and Economic Issues; Soil Resources; Special Designations; Transportation and Public Access; Vegetation Resources; Visual Resources; Water Resources; Wildland Fire Ecology; and Wildlife Resources.

COMMENTS REQUESTED: The Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department would like to know your ideas about the effects the proposed project might have on the environment and your suggestions as to mitigation or ways the proposed project may be revised to reduce or avoid any significant environmental impacts. Your comments will guide the scope and content of environmental issues to be examined in the EIS/EIR. Your comments may be submitted in writing to: Angelina Havens, Planner III, Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243. Available project information may be reviewed at this location.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW PERIOD: December 21, 2010, through January 25, 2011.

Si usted requiere esta informacion en espanol, por favor de llamar al (760) 482-4236.

12/27/10



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

- Access Roads
- Phase 1 Turbines
- Phase 2 Turbines
- ▲ MET Towers
- O&M Laydown/Facility Area
- Project Substation
- Private Land
- Batch Plant
- Sunrise Powerlink
- Existing Transmission Line
- Project Site Boundary

Figure 2
Site Plan

Cristina Piraino

From: Mark Meech [jeepmeech@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 04, 2011 04:16 PM
To: Angelina Havens
Subject: Ocotillo Express
Attachments: Ocotillo Express Questions and Concerns January 2011.doc

Angelina,

I have attached a document with questions and concerns. Please respond

Thanks Mark

PS Say hi to Roger and Tommy for me!

Ocotillo Express Questions and Concerns January 2011

I am a resident of Ocotillo California and have many concerns about this proposed project. I am for any type of green power we as Americans can develop. However this project has several concerning issues that have been identified in some articles as well as some of my personal concerns as a voting, tax paying citizen of Imperial County California. I would like to start by defining the meaning of the word “conservation”.

World English Dictionary

conservation (kɒnsəˈveɪʃən) 

—*n*

1. the act or an instance of conserving or keeping from change, loss, injury, etc
2.
 - a. protection, preservation, and careful management of natural resources and of the environment
 - b. (*as modifier*): *a conservation area*

I believe that this should be the first concern that many in private industry are driven by billions of dollars to be made from this project while the residents of Ocotillo gain nothing.

Property values will be negated to almost nothing. Tax dollars lost by the county once the properties have been reassessed after the project. Nobody will want to develop, invest in, or live near this area.

Quality of life living near these wind turbines will be affected with the view of the mountains. Exposure to the massive amounts of noise from the turbines, construction, high frequencies noise, dust and related dust spores that could lead to cases of Valley Fever.

Wildlife concerns. Golden Eagles that are seen in and near Ocotillo. I believe that these are protected by the federal government. Desert Tortoise, also a federally protected species. Peninsular Big Horn Sheep also protected by the government. Flat tailed horned lizard also protected. All will have disruption and changes to their environment.

Economic concerns. There will be almost no jobs created locally. The average age is early 50's and most have moved here for reasons of their own and would not work for this project. There is not a skilled labor force in the town of Ocotillo. The contractor for the construction of this proposed project will bring in the crews and sub contractors that specialized in this very dangerous construction project. What positions will be open for local employment? How many?

Water concerns. Our local water supply with the Ocotillo Mutual Water Company as well as the Coyote Mutual Water Company have always had concerns as diminishing water resources. How should that be addressed. The amount of water they propose is times more than our annual residential usage. Where would this proposed project get water for the batch plants and concrete construction? Will they deplete our water resources?

FEMA Flood zone. FEMA a federal agencies has stopped any and all development on private property in the flood plain yet there they are proposing wind generators in that FEMA flood plain. How can this happen?

Recreational issue. Who will want to investigate a wind farm? We have many campers, hikers, nature exploring individuals, cyclist, wildflower viewers, ORV users of public land for which they support keeping areas open via Green Sticker fees. All of these people generate income for the local vendors in Ocotillo. Who is looking out for the conservation of this area for all of these folks?

Cultural issues. Not even known at this point what impact that will have. DeAnza made his historical exploration of this area bringing the east to the west. All major historical facts and Indian artifacts. We see evidence of past Indian activity all around this area. Who is going to conserve this for future generations? What is the positioned of the Indians on this proposed project?

This proposed project will encompass almost 300 degrees of the town of Ocotillo. There are better options more suitable for Pattern Energy and SDG&E. Move this project south of Highway 98 along the US/Mexican border. Move it to Mexico to off set the "dirty" power plant that SDG&E built in Mexico to avoid US emission regulations to get cheaper power they could charge more for. We know there is many more wind generators proposed for Mexico. Move all of them there. Move them to the Davies Valley area that is not visible and accessible today, if they are not going to have an effect on the environment that would be the best area for this proposed project.

Is there a signed contract with the two parties for this project? Pattern Energy and SDG&E

Will the County of Imperial require the changes for S2? Turn out lanes? Curbs? Gutters for rain run off? Side walk for all of the area within the proposed project area?

Will FEMA revise or require changes to the flood plain? Construction regulations in the flood plain will change?

What findings did the "Desert Advisory Council" have to approve this proposed development of public land and it's location in a Conservation area?

When out in this area I see many areas closed for "Sensitive Wilderness area" Is it not a sensitive area? Have we all been lied to just to take more land away from us?

What about Environmental Justice? Protect those who are in this area that can not protect them selves for big industry.

Truck traffic and diesel exhaust fumes. It will take 4 to 6 trucks per wind generator for the delivery and many more to service them during the life time of the project. The blades must be maintained because of stress the crack and have been known to fly apart during storms. I have been told that the blades at some point become hazardous waste and nothing can be done with them. More waste for the desert area.

Septic concerns. How will they deal with septic needs? How can they get permitted for septic in such a sensitive area?

Wind Generators reliability. It has been proven world wide that wind generation is not a reliable source of renewable energy. It will never follow demand and in most cases needs a separate power plant to keep the grid fed. It has been proven that the reduction of other fuel supplied grids show little to no reduction in fuels used to produce power with the addition of wind generators in the grid.

This is not just some dried up remote desert area with little to no effect on so many issues. I know that with enough money and power all of these concerns will be answered. But who will they look to and say "who let them to this to a Conservation Area" There are too many other locations in Imperial County to locate such a project with no effect on humans. Please protect us and our environment it can not possibly be "green" with so much negative impact of just the few items I have noted. I would love to get 15000 acres of preserve land to develop with almost no cost when I stand to make billions at the cost of the land.

Do the right things stop this proposed project before it moves any farther and protect this area for future generations as you are required to do in a "Conservation Area"

Regards Mark Meech

Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: Edie Haunor Date: _____

Address: PO-444 Ocotillo CA 92259

Comment: Dust generated by construction + stored up by use of dirt roads will reduce photosynthetic productivity of native vegetation - esp. during periods of drought. Reducing photosynthetic productivity will have adverse impacts on forage quality for all animal life + up food chain -

Address impacts of heavy trucking traffic to roads thru Ocotillo to roads to wind turbines -
Roads through residential areas are inappropriate routes for such heavy traffic -

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy Both

Jan 5th 2011

To whom it may concern,

We've been a part time resident of Ocotillo for 5 years now, but have been camping in the area for 30 plus year. I'm now a board member of the Coyote Valley Water Company and am very active in the community. I was one of several residents who put together a local meeting on Jan 2nd to decide what the local concerns are for the proposed Wind project. Many residents with much better skills for expressing themselves than I have submitted letters, and lists to all the entities involved in the final decision on this project. I've read most of them and agree with most points. My purpose in this letter is basically to 2nd all those concerns and questions rather than repeat them. Please take the time to check into everyone's concerns.

Thank you for your time

James & Rebecca Wilson
1193 Sage Brush
Ocotillo, CA 92259

E-mail Jwilson 5111@cox.net
Cell Phone 619-249-6668

Concerns/Suggestions/Clarifications from the meeting held by the Ocotillo Community (and surrounding areas), held January 2, 2011.

- Approximately 35 miles of new road? Yet residents and general public must stay on BLM designated roads.
- Disruption of existing soil, causing possible Valley Fever exposure?
- Residents cannot obtain building permits for property improvements in Flood Plane areas, yet some Windmills appear to be on Flood Plane designated land.
- Aquifer depletion (Federally designated as Sole Source Water Supply)?
- Will the Batch Plants water consumption come from wells (the Aquifer) or the Colorado River Canal?
- Research has suggested a two mile setback of windmills from the nearest resident.
- Will there be access to the area for off road use?
- Will there be a fence around the windmills? If so, individually or all inclusive?
- Potential decrease in property values? Who makes it up? (Lost revenue to County.)
- There have been sightings of Golden Eagles in the area.
- Indian navigation sites in area.
- Why do this in an area designated as, "Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, CA Desert Conservation Area?"
- Confirmed sightings of the Desert Tortoise. Disturbance of the Desert Tortoise habitat?
- Confirmed sightings of the Peninsula Bighorn Sheep. Disturbance of the Peninsula Bighorn Sheep habitat?
- Destroyed views.
- How do the residents of Ocotillo/ Nomirage / Imperial County/ and surrounding areas, benefit from this project?
- An updated Windmill map is needed.
- What is the value of the BLM lease?
- Are there signed contracts between BLM/Pattern Energy/Sempra Energy/IID? If so, what EXACTLY are they and what is the progression (flow chart) of the contracts?
- How much are the private companies going to profit from our land?
- What benefits will the BLM get?
- How are the rotors controlled during high winds?
- These windmills will impact our quality of life... if not, then prove it.
- **Medical Concerns that need answers:** Effects of low/high frequency noise, wind turbine syndrome, shadow flicker, headaches, sleeplessness, microwave/magnetic field exposure, other medical studies from Canada, Wisconsin, Washington State, and Oregon.

Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: Martin Jorgensen Date: 1-5-11

Address: 1124 3RD ST. RAMONA, CALIF. 92065

Comment: THE NEEDS FOR ENERGY GENERATION & TRANSMISSION
SHOULD BE BALANCED WITH RECREATION AND THE CONCERNS
OF RESIDENTS, HISTORIANS, ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND NATIVE
AMERICAN BANDS AND TRIBES. THE FACT THAT OUR
GOVERNMENT (AND PEOPLE) HAVE CREATED AN ENERGY
CRISIS DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE MARGINALIZATION OF
OTHER USER GROUPS AND THE AVOIDANCE OF POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED FOR THE REVIEW OF
PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE. "FAST TRACKING" PROJECTS
LIKE THIS ONE VIOLATES LAWS AND THE PUBLIC
OPINION.

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: Bill Jackson Date: 1-6-2011

Address: 121 Via De Coyote

Comment: What is in it for us?

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

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- Approximately 35 miles of new road? Yet residents and general public must stay on BLM designated roads.
- Disruption of existing soil, causing possible Valley Fever exposure?
- Residents cannot obtain building permits for property improvements in Flood Plane areas, yet some Windmills appear to be on Flood Plane designated land.
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- There have been sightings of Golden Eagles in the area.
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- Why do this in an area designated as, "Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, CA Desert Conservation Area?"
- Confirmed sightings of the Desert Tortoise. Disturbance of the Desert Tortoise habitat?
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- How do the residents of Ocotillo/ Nomirage / Imperial County/ and surrounding areas, benefit from this project?
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- How much are the private companies going to profit from our land?
- What benefits will the BLM get?
- How are the rotors controlled during high winds?
- These windmills will impact our quality of life... if not, then prove it.
- **Medical Concerns that need answers:** Effects of low/high frequency noise, wind turbine syndrome, shadow flicker, headaches, sleeplessness, microwave/magnetic field exposure, other medical studies from Canada, Wisconsin, Washington State, and Oregon.
- Who is responsible or contracting for the drilling on the North side of Sugar Loaf Mountain? It appears to be a water well!
- How often are the blades replaced on the generators? And are the damaged blades considered hazardous waste? If so, how is the damaged blade material contained and not blown throughout our community?

- There have been large amounts of earthquakes in this area. We are near many fault lines. How will these wind towers react during earthquakes?

Things to remember when writing and submitting letters:

1. Put all questions for the January 6th meeting in writing; one copy for the Planning Department, one for the BLM and one for yourself
2. Ask any & all questions.
3. Request an alternate meeting date, i.e.; a Saturday in early afternoon.
4. This "EIR" (Environmental Impact Report) is a preliminary report.
5. All questions submitted should be answered.
6. We should have an opportunity to review report when finished.
7. Send letters and questions to the contact information handed out at the 1/02/11 meeting.

Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: Wilburn E. Stovall Date: Jan 8, 2011

Address: 615 La Sombra Dr, El Cajon, CA 92020

Comment: The meeting was informative. I learned a great deal about the proposed project.

As I listened to the presentation I began to see we were being "sold a bill of goods" and that the project was "a done deal" because it would bring more money to the developer, county, and others that there was no option but build it destroying a fragile eco-system and people's lives.

I went to the meeting with an open mind about the project but left opposing it because of the ^{amount of} irreparable harm such a large project would do to the environment, habitat, and humans in the area.

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer:

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

How to Comment:

Hardcopy: Use the form on the other side of this sheet. Please fold and staple this form and mail to the address below

Email: caocotillo@blm.gov Make sure subject line reads "Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project"

Comments must be postmarked/mailed by January 21, 2011

- Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at Bureau of Land Management, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. **If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you MUST check this box.** Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
 10 JAN 11 PM 10 L



**Bureau of Land Management
 c/o Cedric Perry, Project Manager
 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
 Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

RECEIVED
 BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
 MAIL ROOM
 11 JAN 11 PM 12:03
 CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
 MORENO VALLEY, CA

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

52553+5046





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

JAN 11 2011

Cedric Perry, Project Manager
California Desert District (CDD), BLM
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
MAIL ROOM
CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
MORENO VALLEY, CA

11 JAN 14 PM 1:47

Dear Mr. Perry:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the December 13, 2010 Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project in Imperial County, California. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA supports increasing the development of renewable energy resources, as recommended in the National Energy Policy Act of 2005. Using renewable energy resources such as wind power can help the nation meet its energy requirements while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We are pleased to see that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to be a cooperating Federal agency in the preparation of the EIR/EIS. EPA believes that early analyses of key resource areas, such as jurisdictional waters of the United States, should be completed as early as possible to determine the project's viability and avoid potential project delays.

To assist in the scoping process for this project, we have identified several issues for your attention in the preparation of the EIS. We are most concerned about the following issues: impacts to water resources, biological resources, habitat, and air quality, as well as the cumulative impacts to these resources. We recommend analysis of additional alternatives as early as possible in the environmental review process to identify and achieve solutions that minimize adverse environmental impacts, protect ecosystems and human health, and meet energy demand.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this NOI and are available to discuss our comments. Please send two hard copies of the Draft EIS and two CD ROM copies to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. Office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 942-3545 or at mcperson.ann@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann McPherson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann McPherson
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosures: EPA's Detailed Comments

US EPA DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE OCOTILLO EXPRESS WIND ENERGY PROJECT, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 11, 2011

Project Description

Pattern Energy, through Ocotillo Express LLC (OE LLC) has requested a right-of-way (ROW) (CACA-51522) to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a 550 megawatt (MW) wind energy project with an interconnection to the approved Sunrise Powerlink (SPL) high-voltage transmission line, which will cross the proposed project's site. The proposed action will include wind turbine generators (WTG), an electrical collection system, an electrical substation, access roads, an operation and maintenance (O&M) building and temporary construction lay down areas. The project site is approximately five miles west of Ocotillo, Imperial County, California and includes approximately 15,000 acres on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and 26 acres of private land under the jurisdiction of Imperial County.

The project may include up to 193 wind turbine generators, ranging in size from 2.3, 3.0, to 3.4 MW and will be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 is anticipated to total approximately 299 MW; Phase 2 is expected to include 251 MWs and will be constructed following the completion of Phase 1. The project life is expected to be at least 20 years, but may be extended up to 40 years by using re-powered and improved turbine technology.

Statement of Purpose and Need

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should clearly identify the underlying purpose and need to which BLM is responding in proposing the alternatives (40 CFR 1502.13). The *purpose* of the proposed action is typically the specific objectives of the activity, while the *need* for the proposed action may be to eliminate a broader underlying problem or take advantage of an opportunity.

Recommendation:

The purpose and need should be a clear, objective statement of the rationale for the proposed project. The DEIS should discuss the proposed project in the context of the larger energy market that this project would serve; identify potential purchasers of the power produced; and discuss how the project will assist the state in meeting its renewable energy portfolio standards and goals.

Alternatives Analysis

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires evaluation of reasonable alternatives, including those that may not be within the jurisdiction of the lead agency (40 CFR Section 1502.14(c)). A robust range of alternatives will include options for avoiding significant environmental impacts. The DEIS should provide a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which are not evaluated in detail. Reasonable alternatives should include, but are not necessarily limited to, alternative sites, capacities, and technologies as well

as alternatives that identify environmentally sensitive areas or areas with potential use conflicts. The alternatives analysis should describe the approach used to identify environmentally sensitive areas and describe the process that was used to designate them in terms of sensitivity (low, medium, and high).

The environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives should be presented in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). The potential environmental impacts of each alternative should be quantified to the greatest extent possible (e.g., acres of wetlands impacted, tons per year of emissions produced, etc.).

Recommendations:

The DEIS should describe how each alternative was developed, how it addresses each project objective, and how it would be implemented. The alternatives analysis should include a discussion of locations, including on-site alternatives that demonstrate a reduction of. The DEIS should describe the benefits associated with the proposed technology.

The DEIS should clearly describe the rationale used to determine whether impacts of an alternative are significant or not. Thresholds of significance should be determined by considering the context and intensity of an action and its effects (40 CFR 1508.27).

EPA recommends that the DEIS identify and analyze an environmentally preferable alternative. Options such as reducing the footprint of the proposed project within the project area or relocating sections/components of the project to other areas, including private land, to reduce environmental impacts should be examined.

The DEIS should discuss each alternative's potential to impact air traffic and safety in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Water Resources

Clean Water Act Section 404

The project applicant should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to determine if the proposed project requires a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands and other *special aquatic sites*. The DEIS should describe all WOUS that could be affected by the project alternatives, and include maps that clearly identify all waters within the project area. The discussion should include acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters. In addition, EPA suggests that BLM include a jurisdictional delineation for all WOUS, including ephemeral drainages, in accordance with the 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* and the December 2006 *Arid West Region Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region*. A jurisdictional delineation will confirm the presence of WOUS in

the project area and help determine impact avoidance or if state and federal permits would be required for activities that affect WOUS.

If a permit is required, EPA will review the project for compliance with *Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials* (40 CFR 230), promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA ("404(b)(1) Guidelines"). Pursuant to 40CFR 230, any permitted discharge into WOUS must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) available to achieve the project purpose. The DEIS should include an evaluation of the project alternatives in this context in order to demonstrate the project's compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. If, under the proposed project, dredged or fill material would be discharged into WOUS, the DEIS should discuss alternatives to avoid those discharges.

The DEIS should describe the original (natural) drainage patterns in the project locale, as well as the drainage patterns of the area during project operations, and identify whether any components of the proposed project are within a 50 or 100-year floodplain. We also recommend the DEIS include information on the functions and locations of WOUS and their direct relationship to waters downstream.

Recommendations:

The applicant should coordinate with the Corps to obtain a jurisdictional delineation and confirm the presence of WOUS, in order to determine whether or not a CWA Section 404 permit is needed. If a permit is needed, the DEIS should demonstrate the project's compliance with the CWA 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

The DEIS should describe the geographic extent of any WOUS at the project site, as well as drainage patterns at the project location.

The DEIS should discuss the steps taken to avoid and minimize impacts to WOUS. To the extent any aquatic features that could be affected by the project are determined not to constitute waters of the United States, EPA recommends that the DEIS characterize the functions of such features and discuss potential mitigation.

Include information on the functions and locations of ephemeral washes in the project area because of the important hydrologic and biogeochemical role these washes play in direct relationship to higher-order waters downstream.

Water Supplies

Public drinking water supplies and/or their source areas often exist in many watersheds. Source water is water from streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers that is used as a supply of drinking water. Source water areas are delineated and mapped by the state for each federally-regulated public water system. The 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) require federal agencies to protect sources of drinking water for communities. Therefore, EPA recommends that the EIS identify:

- a) source water protection areas within the project area;
- b) activities that could potentially affect source water areas;
- c) potential contaminants that may result from the proposed project; and
- d) measures that would be taken to protect the source water protection areas.

Large turbines require substantial foundations and associated structural and geotechnical engineering considerations. The substantial amount of concrete typically used in foundations for large wind turbines requires a large amount of cement, sand, and aggregate. A typical 1.5 MW WTG can require up to 6500 gallons of water for each turbine foundation mixture. The applicant's Plan of Development (POD) states that a total of about 1,000 gallons of water per turbine will be needed for batching concrete. Based on the maximum of 193 turbines, a total of 2,316,000 gallons of water will be needed for turbines. In addition, approximately 30,240,000 gallons of water are expected to be required for road maintenance and dust suppression. In total, approximately 32,556,000 gallons (99.9 acre feet) of water will be needed for the project during construction

Recommendations:

The DEIS should describe the availability of a water supply for construction and operation of the proposed Project and fully evaluate the environmental impacts associated with using the selected water supply.

The DEIS should describe whether a temporary batch plant will be installed on site for the needed concrete, estimate the quantity of water required for the concrete mixture and describe the source of this water and potential effects on other water users and natural resources in the project area.

Clean Water Act Section 303(d)

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires States to develop a list of impaired waters that do not meet water quality standards, establish priority rankings, and develop action plans, called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), to improve water quality.

Recommendation:

The DEIS should provide information on CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters in the project area, if any, and efforts to develop and revise TMDLs. The DEIS should describe existing restoration and enhancement efforts for those waters, how the proposed project will coordinate with on-going protection efforts, and any mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid further degradation of impaired waters.

Biological Resources, Habitat and Wildlife

During construction of the proposed project, vegetation would be cleared and soils moved during the construction of roads, wind turbine foundations, substation, switchyard, and

other facilities. The DEIS should describe the current quality and capacity of habitat and its use by wildlife in the proposed project area, especially bats and avian populations. The DEIS should describe the critical habitat for the species; identify any impacts the proposed project will have on the species and their critical habitats; and how the proposed project will meet all requirements under the Endangered Species Act, including consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

Wind energy generation projects have the potential to disrupt important wildlife species habitat, resulting in mortality of migratory species such as birds and bats due to collisions with rotors. The EIS should consider whether migratory birds are likely to use the project area and avoid, if possible: 1) areas supporting a high density of wintering or migratory birds, 2) areas with high level of raptor activity, and 3) breeding, wintering or migrating populations of less abundant species which may be sensitive to increased mortality as a result of collision.

A comprehensive monitoring program should be designed to evaluate impacts on bats and avian species. We suggest that the BLM conduct pre-construction baseline surveys to evaluate the site for its importance to bats and avian species, as well as post-construction surveys to determine the extent of mortalities and to determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist during the appropriate time of year. BLM actions should promote the recovery of declining populations of species. Collision risk depends on a range of factors related to species, numbers and behavior, weather conditions, topography, and lighting. The DEIS should identify and describe specific turbine types and their operating characteristics and consider turbine design standards that minimize adverse impacts to wildlife, particularly birds and bats. Consideration should be given to reducing the perching and nesting opportunities, which may help reduce potential collisions.

The DEIS should identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species that might occur within the project area. The DEIS should identify and quantify which species might be directly or indirectly affected by each alternative. The California Condor is listed as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act and is also fully protected pursuant to Fish and Game Code, Section 3511. All raptor and owl species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The golden eagle and bald eagle also receive protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). The MBTA, however, has no provision for allowing unauthorized take. In September 2009, the FWS finalized permit regulations¹ under the BGEPA for the take of bald and golden eagles on a limited basis, provided that the take is compatible with preservation of the eagle and cannot be practicably avoided. The final rule states that if advanced conservation practices (ACPs) can be developed to significantly reduce take, the operator of a wind-power facility may qualify for a programmatic take permit. Most permits under the new regulations would authorize *disturbance*, rather than take.

¹ See Eagle Permits, 50 CFR parts 13 and 22, issued Sept. 11, 2009. See internet address: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/BaldEagle/Final%20Disturbance%20Rule%209%20Sept%202009.pdf>

Recommendations:

Design a comprehensive monitoring program to evaluate impacts on bats and avian species, and discuss design and management measures to minimize adverse impacts to wildlife and native and rare plants.

Identify specific measures to reduce impacts to eagles and clarify how the proposed project will comply with the MBTA and BGEPA.

Discuss the applicability of the recently finalized FWS permit regulations (50 CFR parts 13 and 22) to the proposed project. Elaborate on process and/or likelihood of obtaining a permit via these regulations.

Commit to additional data collection/analysis to identify areas that are important to bald and golden eagles to ensure proper siting and avoid take of these species.

If alternatives cannot be developed that avoid the take of eagles, develop an operational monitoring and adaptive management plan to address this issue.

Determine if the proposed project is within the existing or historical ranges of the California condor and consult with FWS and CDFG early in the process.

Surrounding Special Land Use Designations

The region that surrounds the Ocotillo Express Wind project site contains specially designated areas which are managed for the protection of specific sensitive resources or habitats. The project site is located north of the Jacumba Wilderness, south of the Coyote Mountains Wilderness, west of the Yuha Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and adjacent to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's eastern boundary. Each of these designated areas contains unique habitats for sensitive species and biological resources such as Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Flat-tailed Horned Lizard, Barefoot Banded Gecko, and other endemic desert species. In addition, these areas provide habitat corridors for wildlife movement and genetic lineage between populations. Habitat fragmentation and impediments to wildlife movements are among the greatest threats to desert communities and species, and maximizing habitat connectivity is essential to climate change adaptation².

In addition, the specially designated areas surrounding the project site are noted for their remoteness and lack of human impact. These characteristics are valued by those who seek solitude and a remote wilderness experience.

Recommendations:

The DEIS should describe the potential for habitat fragmentation and obstructions for wildlife movement.

² Recommendations of Independent Science Advisors for the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, DRECP Independent Science Advisors, October, 2010,

Implementation of Adaptive Management Techniques for Mitigation Measures

Adaptive management is an iterative process that requires selecting and implementing management actions, monitoring, comparing results with management and project objectives, and using feedback to make future management decisions. The process recognizes the importance of continually improving management techniques through flexibility and adaptation instead of adhering rigidly to a standard set of management actions. Although adaptive management is not a new concept, it may be relatively new in its application to specific projects. The effectiveness of adaptive management monitoring depends on a variety of factors including:

- a) The ability to establish clear monitoring objectives;
- b) Agreement on the impact thresholds being monitored;
- c) The existence of a baseline or the ability to develop a baseline for the resources being monitored;
- d) The ability to see the effects within an appropriate time frame after the action is taken;
- e) The technical capabilities of the procedures and equipment used to identify and measure changes in the affected resources and the ability to analyze the changes;
- f) The resources needed to perform the monitoring and respond to the results.

Recommendation:

EPA recommends that BLM consider adopting a formal adaptive management plan to evaluate and monitor impacted resources and ensure the successful implementation of mitigation measures. EPA recommends that BLM review the specific discussion on Adaptive Management in the NEPA Task Force Report to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on *Modernizing NEPA*.

Climate Change

Scientific evidence supports the concern that continued increases in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities will contribute to climate change. Global warming is caused by emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases. Global warming can affect weather patterns, sea level, ocean acidification, chemical reaction rates, and precipitation rates, resulting in climate change. Reports also indicate that deserts may store as much carbon as temperate forests.

Recommendations:

The DEIS should consider how climate change could potentially influence the proposed project, specifically within sensitive areas, and assess how the projected impacts could be exacerbated by climate change.

The DEIS should consider the cumulative impacts associated with multiple large-scale wind and solar projects proposed in the desert southwest and clarify how existing and/or proposed resources will be affected by climate change.

The DEIS should quantify and disclose the anticipated climate change *benefits* of wind energy. We suggest quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from different types of generating facilities including solar, geothermal, natural gas, coal-burning, and nuclear and compiling and comparing these values.

Air Quality

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District is the primary agency responsible for planning, implementing, and enforcing federal and State air quality standards in Imperial County. Imperial County was designated nonattainment for the 2006 PM_{2.5} standard in October 2009. The DEIS should provide a detailed discussion of ambient air conditions (baseline or existing conditions), National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), criteria pollutant nonattainment areas, and potential air quality impacts of the proposed project (including cumulative and indirect impacts). Such an evaluation is necessary to assure compliance with State and Federal air quality regulations, and to disclose the potential impacts from temporary or cumulative degradation of air quality.

The DEIS should describe and estimate air emissions from the proposed facility, including potential construction and maintenance activities, as well as proposed mitigation measures to minimize those emissions. EPA recommends an evaluation of the following measures to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants (air toxics).

Recommendations:

- Imperial County was designated nonattainment for the 2006 PM_{2.5} standard in October 2009. The air quality analysis should take into account this designation.
- *Existing Conditions* – The DEIS should provide a detailed discussion of ambient air conditions, NAAQS, and criteria pollutant nonattainment areas in all areas considered for wind development.
- *Quantify Emissions* – The DEIS should estimate emissions of criteria pollutants from the proposed project and discuss the timeframe for release of these emissions over the lifespan of the project. The DEIS should describe and estimate emissions from potential construction activities, as well as proposed mitigation measures to minimize these emissions.
- *Specify Emission Sources* – The DEIS should specify the emission sources by pollutant from mobile sources, stationary sources, and ground disturbance. This source specific information should be used to identify appropriate mitigation measures and areas in need of the greatest attention.
- *Equipment Emissions Mitigation Plan (EEMP)* – The DEIS should identify the need for an EEMP. An EEMP will identify actions to reduce diesel particulate, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and NO_x associated with construction activities. We recommend that the EEMP require that all construction-related engines:

The DEIS should address wildlife movement impacts associated with the proposal and present mitigating measures to maintain wildlife movement especially where wildlife movement already occurs.

The DEIS should describe possible environmental impacts the project may have on the surrounding special designated areas.

The DEIS should describe the proposed projects effects on the surrounding lands designated with wilderness characteristics.

Recreational Use

BLM is entrusted with the multiple-use management of natural resources on public land, and that public land must be managed for outdoor recreation and natural, scenic, scientific, and historical values. The proposed project is located 1.5 miles southwest of the Plaster City Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Open Area, a popular off road day use and primitive camping area. The development of wind resources could restrict or reduce the opportunities for recreational use, including OHVs, and may include access areas that have been previously designated as open for recreational use.

Recommendation:

EPA recommends that there be full disclosure of the impacts to recreational users in the project area. The DEIS should clarify what general measures will be incorporated to ensure that OHV and other recreational users are not injured due to hazards associated with WTGs, piping, and transmission lines. It would be reasonable to assume that OHV users do not always stay on designated trails or may not know which trails are in fact designated. Some precautions regarding safety should be implemented.

Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112, *Invasive Species* (February 3, 1999), mandates that federal agencies take actions to prevent the introduction of invasive species, provide for their control, and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species cause. Executive Order 13112 also calls for the restoration of native plants and tree species. If the proposed project will entail new landscaping, the DEIS should describe how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112.

Recommendation:

The DEIS should include an invasive plant management plan to monitor and control noxious weeds.

Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

There are a number of renewable energy projects that are proposed in the region that surround the Ocotillo Express Wind Project. Some of them include the Iberdrola Tule Wind project, the Sempra Energia Sierra Juarez Transmission Line project, the San Diego Gas &

Electric (SDG&E) Ocotillo Sol Solar project, and the Imperial Valley Solar project. The cumulative impacts analysis should provide the context for understanding the magnitude of the impacts of the alternatives by analyzing the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects or actions and then considering those cumulative impacts in their entirety (CEQ's Forty Questions, #18). The DEIS should clearly identify the resources that may be cumulatively impacted, the time over which impacts are going to occur, and the geographic area that will be impacted by the proposed project. The DEIS should focus on resources of concern – those resources that are “at risk” and/or are significantly impacted by the proposed project, before mitigation. In the introduction to the *Cumulative Impacts Section*, identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why. For each resource analyzed, the DEIS should:

- Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of species habitat lost to date.
- Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts. For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or in stasis.
- Identify all on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area that may contribute to cumulative impacts.
- Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of impacts from reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends.
- Assess the cumulative impacts contribution of the proposed alternatives to the long-term health of the resource, and provide a specific measure for the projected impact from the proposed alternatives.
- Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.
- Identify opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts, including working with other entities.

As an indirect result of providing additional power, it can be anticipated that this project will allow for development and population growth to occur in those areas that receive the generated electricity.

Recommendations:

The DEIS should describe the reasonably foreseeable future land use and associated impacts that will result from the additional power supply. The document should provide an estimate of the amount of growth, its likely location, and the biological and environmental resources at risk.

The DEIS should consider the direct and indirect effects of the inter-connecting transmission line for the proposed project, as well as the cumulative effects associated with the transmission needs of other reasonably foreseeable projects.

- are tuned to the engine manufacturer's specification in accordance with an appropriate time frame;
 - do not idle for more than five minutes (unless, in the case of certain drilling engines, it is necessary for the operating scope);
 - are not tampered with in order to increase engine horsepower;
 - include particulate traps, oxidation catalysts and other suitable control devices on all construction equipment used at the project site;
 - use diesel fuel having a sulfur content of 15 parts per million or less, or other suitable alternative diesel fuel, unless such fuel cannot be reasonably procured in the market area; and
 - include control devices to reduce air emissions. The determination of which equipment is suitable for control devices should be made by an independent Licensed Mechanical Engineer. Equipment suitable for control devices may include drilling equipment, generators, compressors, graders, bulldozers, and dump trucks.
- *Fugitive Dust Control Plan* - The DEIS should identify the need for *Fugitive Dust Control Plan*. We recommend that it include these general recommendations:
 - Stabilize open storage piles and by covering and/or applying water or chemical/organic dust palliative where appropriate. This applies to both inactive and active sites, during workdays, weekends, holidays, and windy conditions.
 - Install wind fencing and phase grading operations where appropriate, and operate water trucks for stabilization of surfaces under windy conditions; and
 - When hauling material and operating non-earthmoving equipment, prevent spillage and limit speeds to 15 miles per hour (mph). Limit speed of earth-moving equipment to 10 mph.
 - The DEIS should contain an analysis of emissions from on site concrete production, including estimated mitigated annual emissions.

Noise Impacts

The DEIS should include an assessment of noise levels from the wind turbines. Decibel levels of the turbines should be evaluated as should the effects of noise levels on a variety of species, as well as effects on property values, residences, and recreational use.

Visual Impacts

Careful attention should be given to how a wind turbine array is set against the landscape. Steps should be taken to minimize the visual impacts and make the wind turbines less obtrusive.

Coordination with Tribal Governments

Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (November 6, 2000), was issued in order to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications, and to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes.

Recommendation:

The DEIS should describe the process and outcome of government-to-government consultation between BLM and each of the tribal governments within the project area, issues that were raised (if any), and how those issues were addressed in the selection of the proposed alternative.

National Historic Preservation Act and Executive Order 13007

Consultation for tribal cultural resources is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are properties that are included in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or that meet the criteria for the National Register. Section 106 of the NHPA requires a federal agency, upon determining that activities under its control could affect historic properties, consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO). Under NEPA, any impacts to tribal, cultural, or other treaty resources must be discussed and mitigated. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that Federal agencies consider the effects of their actions on cultural resources, following regulation in 36 CFR 800.

Executive Order 13007, *Indian Sacred Sites* (May 24, 1996), requires federal land managing agencies to accommodate access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian Religious practitioners, and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. It is important to note that a sacred site may not meet the National Register criteria for a historic property and that, conversely, a historic property may not meet the criteria for a sacred site.

Recommendation:

The DEIS should address the existence of Indian sacred sites in the project area. It should address Executive Order 13007, distinguish it from Section 106 of the NHPA, and discuss how BLM will avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites, if they exist. The DEIS should provide a summary of all coordination with Tribes and with the SHPO/THPO, including identification of NRHP eligible sites, and development of a Cultural Resource Management Plan.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (February 11, 1994), directs federal agencies to

identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations, allowing those populations a meaningful opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Guidance³ by CEQ clarifies the terms low-income and minority population (which includes American Indians) and describes the factors to consider when evaluating disproportionately high and adverse human health effects.

Recommendation:

The DEIS should include an evaluation of environmental justice populations within the geographic scope of the project. If such populations exist, the DEIS should address the potential for disproportionate adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations, and the approaches used to foster public participation by these populations. Assessment of the project's impact on minority and low-income populations should reflect coordination with those affected populations.

Hazardous Materials/Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste

The DEIS should address potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of hazardous waste from construction and operation of the proposed project. The document should identify projected hazardous waste types and volumes, and expected storage, disposal, and management plans. It should address the applicability of state and federal hazardous waste requirements. Appropriate mitigation should be evaluated, including measures to minimize the generation of hazardous waste (i.e., hazardous waste minimization). Alternate industrial processes using less toxic materials should be evaluated as mitigation. This potentially reduces the volume or toxicity of hazardous materials requiring management and disposal as hazardous waste.

Wind Turbine Production and Recycling

WTG production can address the full product life cycle, from raw material sourcing through end of life collection and reuse or recycling. Wind turbine companies can minimize their environmental impacts during raw material extraction and minimize the amount of rare materials used in the product. Collection and recycling can be facilitated through buy-back programs or collection and recycling guarantees. Some companies provide recycling programs that pay all packaging, transportation, and recycling costs.

Recommendation:

EPA recommends that the proponent strive to address the full product life cycle by sourcing wind turbine components from a company that: 1) minimizes environmental impacts during raw material extraction; 2) manufactures wind turbines in a zero waste facility; and 3) provides future disassembly for material recovery for reuse and recycling.

³Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act, Appendix A (Guidance for Federal Agencies on Key Terms in Executive Order 12898), CEQ, December 10, 1997.

Project Decommissioning

On the average a lifespan of a wind park is 20-30 years. The life of the proposed wind project should be taken into consideration regarding decommissioning and reclamation.

Recommendation:

EPA recommends that the DEIS identify bonding or financial assurance strategies for decommissioning and reclamation.

Coordination with Land Use Planning Activities

The DEIS should discuss how the proposed action would support or conflict with the objectives of federal, state, tribal or local land use plans, policies and controls in the project area. The term "land use plans" includes all types of formally adopted documents for land use planning, conservation, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Proposed plans not yet developed should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form (CEQ's Forty Questions, #23b).

Cristina Piraino

From: barbara hill [barbara9446@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 04:33 PM
To: Angelina Havens
Subject: Scoping Questions

January 11, 2011

Angelina Havens AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

Jim Minnick JimMinnick@co.imperial.ca.us

Armando Villa ArmandoVilla@co.imperial.ca.us

BLM Project Manager Cedric Perry caocotillo@blm.gov.

Gentlemen;

Scoping question;

BLM, we are asking you to pull out of this project. This lands our National Treasure to all of us. It is not beneficial to the desert or the people of Ocotillo or Nomirage not to mention the total destruction of our desert wilderness area. You are to protect the desert and the national wilderness not to totally destroy it.

We would like USGS reports on the levelavations of the ground and ground movement in this area. Frankly we do not believe what the EIR reprehensive has to say there reports have been wrong they are bias to the people that are paying them. USGS is setting up sigmografe & monitors all over this area, due to the quake on April 7, 2010. Also, the new fault line that was discovered. We would like their input in this matter of earth quakes. Not the data of 10 years ago what EIR representative has done in the past?

This map that you have showed us on the wind in this area is wrong. Your maps only show what you want us to see. There are many other places you can put these wind turbines. Not within ½ or 1 miles from a residential area. You will be destroying a wilderness area. The Bull dozing, Blade, Compactor, Tucks, Pickup Trucks, Water Trucks, Water Pulls, Cranes, Cars, Fuel Trucks, Roller, Compactor, Skip loader, Loader, Tire Trucks, Mechanics' Tucks, Dump Truck, Cement Trucks, Semi-Truck & trailer weighing up to 80,000 lbs. Plus all the other equipment that is necessary the run a material plant. This pristine area would never be the same nor would it ever recover. The toxic material in the blades themselves is of great concerned. The blades are still lying on the ground up on the hill where they left them. The toxic waste is going in the ground up there as we wright this letter. The leaking fuel, oil, hydraulic oil, gasoline, and other contaminates from motor vehicle are hazardous waste material. How will you protect the desert floor when leaking contaminates from the equipment Gentlemen; and equipment does leak and spill all the time; even when they are not running. You also have air pollution.

We were up on the hill 1/11/11, the blades from the turbines are still lying on the ground. Why? They are toxic and hazardous material going in the ground and air, they have been laying there for over 6 months to a year now what kind of damage have they done to the environments. Why have they been left there?

Noise from the fans themselves leaves me with great concern. The low frequency modulation of the vibration on the people of Ocotillo and Nomirage frankly worries me a great deal. The flicker of the light also as great concern. They are known to bring on epilepsy. There has not been enough studying about the entire health hazard from this wind turbines. We would like more studying done before you put these things up around us.

Natives' wildlife is in immediate danger of being killed and breeding habit will be disrupted. Not to mention the displacement of animals. There are Golden Eagles nest within two miles of this project. Golden Eagles are endangered animals. We have Big Horn sheep that will be endangered. They come down to the desert floor for shade, water, and food plus protection from predators' they are an endangered species. Our desert bats, The Owls that are here. The desert Tortoises that cannot get out of the way of heavy equipment. The birds that get blowed off their flight pattern that I personally have rehabilitated and put them back in the wild; all the time working with the fish and game department. Let's us not forget the Snakes, and the Lizards, Gecko, the Iguana, the Chameleon are threatened or endangered. Not to mention the regular animals that inhabited the desert floor and mountains. If we do not speak for these animals who will; with this project you intend to totally annihilate them.

EROSION, what about the dust that this will cause about the biological affect it will have of human populations like valley fever and other diseases' like COPD , Asthma, and there are many more than we can list right now. With all the combine construction going on in the area this will cause a potential for a out break in this area of deceases.

The plants life that you will be destroying can never be restored. Some of the plant life takes generation to grow. They grow very slowly if you can get them too grown at all after you disturb the top layer of ground. The composition of the soil is altered; therefore it will not grow plants. What then?

Who benefit from this project we do not. Does El Centro with electric, no they don't. What El Centro gets are permits, how then does this help us. The El Centro Boards does not care one bit for the people of Ocotillo and Nomirage. That has been proven by past experience.

Every year we get students coming from the Collages, Grades School in San Diego, L. A. in Vans, Cars & etc. to discover the desert. Genealogical student, archaeological student, the floral fauna student, the artist student, the tours busses from Phoenix with people from all over the world to be in are desert area. And let us not forget the rock hound. At least they bring something to our commerce in this little community of Ocotillo.

What will produce the electric when the wind is not blowing? You will need to have a backup power. Right! That means gas, diesel, or natural gas power generator. Where would you put that monster in our back yard or in Mexico? This will instigate more air pollution, noise and toxic waste.

The only ones that will benefit from this project are the people who are trying to get this thing through. You will only get to use 4% of the wind generate energy. Whoopee!!!!!!!!!!!!

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This map that you have showed us on the wind in this area is wrong. Your maps only show what you want us to see. There are many other places you can put these wind turbines. Not within ½ or 1 miles from a residential area. You will be destroying a wilderness area. The Bull dozing, Blade, Compactor, Tucks, Pickup Trucks, Water Trucks, Water Pulls, Cranes, Cars, Fuel Trucks, Roller, Compactor, Skip loader, Loader, Tire Trucks, Mechanics' Tucks, Dump Truck, Cement Trucks, Semi-Truck & trailer weighing up to 80,000 lbs. Plus all the other equipment that is necessary the run a material plant. This pristine area would never be the same nor would it ever recover. The toxic material in the blades themselves is of great concerned. The blades are still lying on the ground up on the hill where they left them. The toxic waste is going in the ground up there as we wright this letter. The leaking fuel, oil, hydraulic oil, gasoline, and other contaminates from motor vehicle are hazardous waste material. How will you protect the desert floor when leaking contaminates from the equipment Gentlemen; and equipment does leak and spill all the time; even when they are not running. You also have air pollution.

We were up on the hill 1/11/11, the blades from the turbines our still lying on the ground. Why? They are toxic and hazardous material going in the ground and air, they have been laying there for over 6 months to a year now what kind of damage have they done to the environments. Why have they been left there?

Noise from the fanes themselves leaves me with great concern. The low frequency modulation of the vibration on the people of Ocotillo and Nomirage frankly worries me a great deal. The flicker of the light also as great cornered. They are known to bring on epialiipcy. There has not been enough studying about the entire health hazard from this wind turbines. We would like more studying done before you put these things up around us.

Natives' wildlife is in immediate danger of being killed and breeding habit will be disrupted. Not to mention the displacement of animals. There are Golden Eagles nest within two miles of this project. Golden Eagles are endangered animals. We have Big Horn sheep that will be endangered. They come down to the desert floor for shade, water, and food plus protection from predators' they are an endangered species. Our desert bats, The Owls that are here. The desert Tortoises that cannot get out of the way of heavy equipment. The birds that get blown off their flight pattern that I personally have rehabilitated and put them back in the wild; all the time working with the fish and game department. Let's us not forget the Snakes, and the Lizards, Gecko, the Iguana, the Chameleon are threatened or endangered. Not to mention the regular animals that inhabited the desert floor and mountains. If we do not speak for these animals who will; with this project you intend to totally annihilate them.

EROSION, what about the dust that this will cause about the biological affect it will have of human populations like valley fever and other diseases' like COPD , Asthma, and there are many more than we can list right now. With all the combine construction going on in the area this will cause a potential for a brake out in this area of deceases.

The plants life that you will be destroying can never be restored. Some of the plant life takes generation to grow. They grow very slowly if you can get them too grown at all after you disturb the top layer of ground. The composition of the soil is altered; therefore it will not grow plants. What then?

Who benefit form this project we do not. Does El Centro with electric, no they don't. What El Centro gets are permits, how then does this help us. The El Centro Boards does not care one bit for the people of Ocotillo and Nomirage. That has been proven by past experience.

Every year we get students coming from the Collages, Grades School in San Diego, L. A. in Vans, Cars & etc. to discover the desert. Genealogical student, archaeological student, the floral fauna student, the artist student, the tours busses from Phoenix with people from all over the world to be in are desert area. And let us not forget the rock hound. At least they bring something to our commerce in this little community of Ocotillo.

What will produce the electric when the wind is not blowing? You will need to have a backup power. Right! That means gas, diesel, or natural gas power generator. Where would you put that monster in our back yard or in Mexico? This will instigate more air pollution, noise and toxic waste.

The only ones that will benefit from this project are the people who are trying to get this thing through. You will only get to use 4% of the wind generate energy. Whoopee!!!!!!!!!!!!

I would like a hard copy and a DVD sent to me of the last meeting on 1/6/11. Mailed to P.O. Box 307 Ocotillo, CA 92259.

Thank you;

Barbara J. Hill
P.O. Box 307
Ocotillo, CA. 92259
barbara9446@att.com

January 11, 2011

Angelina Havens AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

Jim Minnick JimMinnick@co.imperial.ca.us

Armando Villa ArmandoVilla@co.imperial.ca.us

BLM Project Manager Cedric Perry caocotillo@blm.gov.

Gentlemen;

Scoping question;

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Thank you;

Barbara J. Hill
P.O. Box 307
Ocotillo, CA. 92259
barbara9446@att.com

Cristina Piraino

From: Dollard, Scott [Scott.Dollard@usa.gknaerospace.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2011 08:22 AM
To: Pelley, Jim; cedric_perry@ca.blm; caocotillo@blm.gov; Jack Terrazas; Angelina Havens; Manuel.perez@asm.ca.gov
Cc: Swainston, Duane; Bloom, Tim; Dad and Bonnie; Doug; Dennis; mlloveor@charter.net; Mom and Elwyn; Russ; Will & Les; Gordon
Subject: Please help us save Ocotillo
Attachments: WTG_Flyer.pdf; OcotilloWindFarm.pdf; Ocotillo Wind 2010
[http___www.basinandrangewatch.org_OcotilloWind.pdf](http://www.basinandrangewatch.org/OcotilloWind.pdf)

This is an area for Great Family camping, off roading, hunting, Hiking, exploring and just getting away for some much needed stress relief of the city life. This is going to ruin an area on so many levels, I can't even imagine. My good Friend Jim Pelley lives in this community and needs our help. Please review the attached documents and consider taking a little time to email some of our political powers to let them know how you feel. I know we are looking for alternative power solutions but this chokes out the beauty of this very small but important community. Thanks in advance for your interest and help.
Scott Dollard

Good Morning!

I know you are having a rally this weekend at Superstition. We would love for you to consider letting the folks who are attending your event know about this terrible invasion on our community and surrounding areas. It would effect going to the Anza Borrego State Park etc. Maybe forward to your 4-wheeling email list? Any assistance we would appreciate greatly!

The community of Ocotillo is being hit hard by many projects. The worst one, so far, is the proposed wind farm! I have attached a flyer and a map of where they plan on placing these towers.

PLEASE, since it affects alot more people than just our community, bring it to their attention this weekend and encourage them to write to these people. E-mails are an easy way for them to quickly get their opinions out.

Time is very important. They are trying to move this on quickly.....

Thanks so much!!

Save our Desert!!!!

Please forward to all, we don't have much time left.

(See attached file: WTG_Flyer.pdf) (See attached file: OcotilloWindFarm.pdf)(See attached file: Ocotillo Wind 2010
[http___www.basinandrangewatch.org_OcotilloWind.pdf](http://www.basinandrangewatch.org/OcotilloWind.pdf))

[This email was generated from outside of the GKN Aerospace Engine Products USA network.]

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Ocotillo Express and Pattern Energy Project calls for 244 Wind Turbines over 400 feet tall which will consume **15,000 acres of BLM land.**

Fifteen thousand acres of BLM land, and trails gone. This area is used for *both* highway and Green Sticker vehicles. Our land is being used for private industry to make the profit. There are many potential projects like this one in Imperial Valley. Off road enthusiasts may have little or no land access.

**This area has: 1 Rare Species, 5 Threatened Species,
11 Endangered Species, and likely Indian Artifacts.**

What would BLM do to *you* if you disturbed these species?

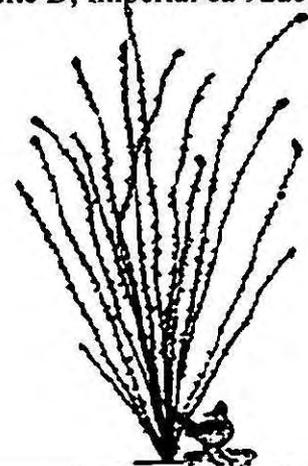
Arrest you?

We need help from everybody! Get involved! E-mail your concerns to any or all of the contacts below as soon as possible:

President Barak Obama	whitehouse.gov Use the contact tab and mark it as "Urgent"
	Address it to President Barak Obama
Cedric Perry BLM	cedric_perry@ca.blm.gov
Ocotillo BLM	caocotillo@blm.gov
County Supervisor Jack Terrazas	jackterrazas@co.imperial.ca.us
County Planning Department	angelinahavens@co.imperial.ca.us
California State Representative	Bob Filner, 1101 airport Road, Suite D, Imperial ca 92251 (760)355-8800
State Assemblyman	manuel.perez@asm.ca.gov

Thanks!

from the folks in Ocotillo!



12/27/10

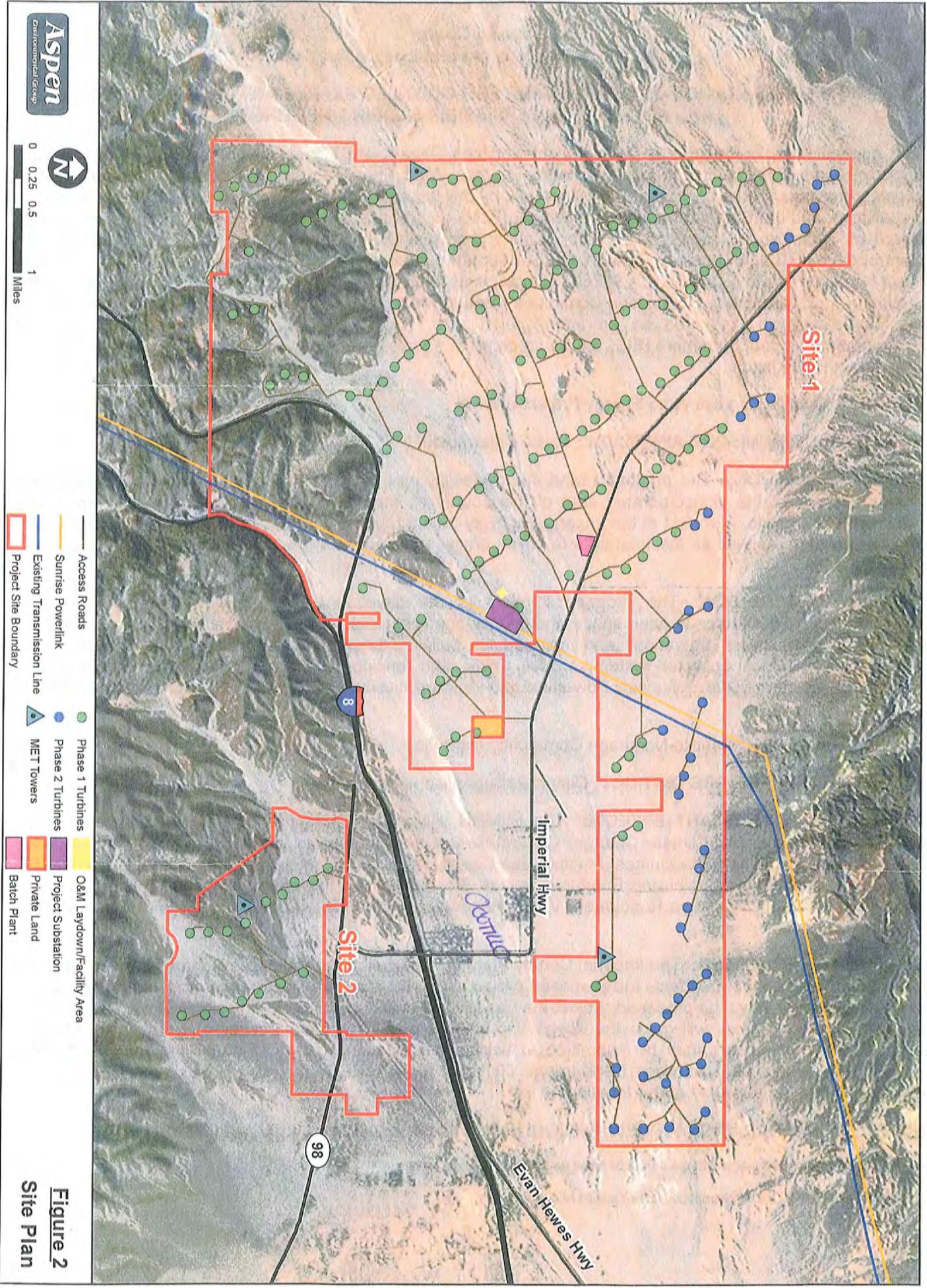
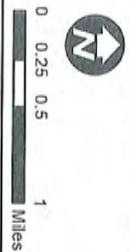


Figure 2
Site Plan

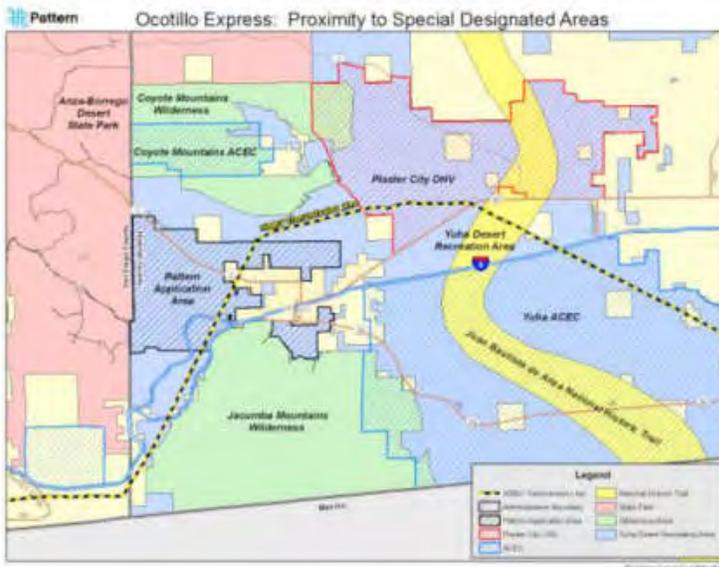
Aspen
Environmental Group



Ocotillo Express Wind Facility

February 23, 2010 - Southern Colorado Desert, California

Wind Farm Proposed on Boundary of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



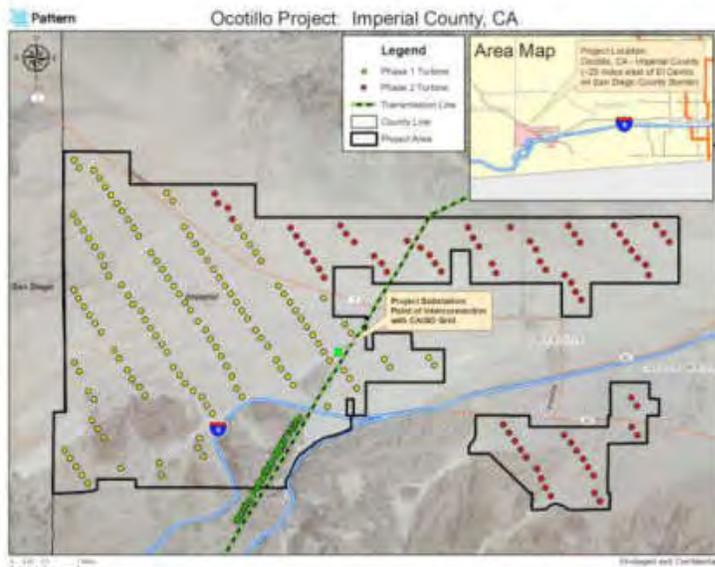
Pattern Energy, through Ocotillo Express LLC (OE LLC), proposes to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a 561 megawatt (MW) wind generation facility on approximately 14,980 acres in the Ocotillo Express wind project area, with 244 wind turbines in the Imperial Valley desert, Imperial County in southern California near the border of Mexico. The turbines would be about 400 feet tall.

Draft Plan of Development from El Centro BLM
(1.51 MB pdf) [>>download here](#)

If approved the project would be in operation by the end of 2012. The electricity would flow to [Sunrise Powerlink](#), San Diego Gas and Electric Co.'s controversial transmission line from the Imperial Valley to San Diego.

Wally Leimgruber, District 5 county supervisor, said the Ocotillo Express Wind Project would advance the county's renewable energy industry.

The Sunrise Powerlink has been attacked for claiming it would carry renewable electricity, while actually connecting to many fossil fuel power plants south of the border. Early proposals would have driven the giant transmission line through Anza-Borrego State Park.



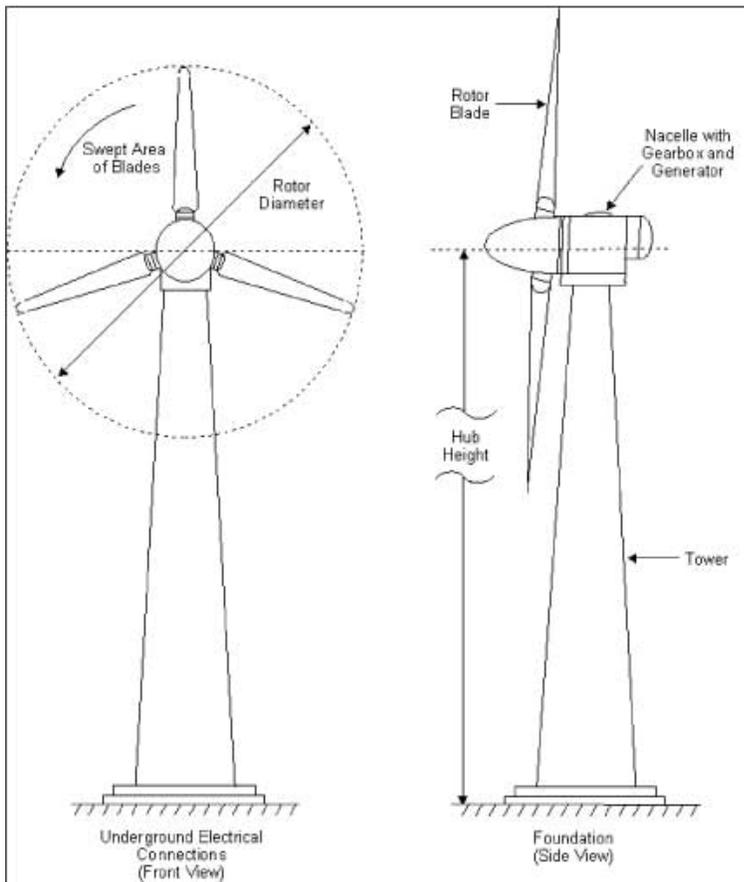
"The project scope will include a network of 16 foot wide roads that will provide access to each turbine location and to the project's O&M building."

"During the course of construction, access roads will have an additional temporary disturbance of 20 feet to facilitate the travel of large tracked cranes. These disturbed areas will be graded and compacted for use and then decompacted and stabilized at the conclusion of the project. In addition to the crane travel paths, the underground collection system will also parallel the access road network further widening the disturbed area" (page 6 of the draft Plan of Development obtained by Basin and Range Watch).

"A total of about 20,000 gallons of water per turbine will be needed for batching concrete. Based on the maximum of 244 turbines, a total of 5,000,000 gallons of water will be needed for turbines. In addition, approximately 15,000,000 gallons of water are expected to be required for road maintenance and dust suppression. In total, approximately 20,000,000 gallons (61.4 acre feet) of water will be needed for the project during construction. All water would be delivered from the selected source, by truck to the Batch Plant and project area. Up to 3500 vehicle trips would be required for water delivery. Temporary water storage tanks would be installed support these water needs" (page 7 POD).

Gravel and concrete aggregate would come from up to three, 15-acre locations within or near the project area.... The materials will be trucked to the batching plant and placed into stockpiles. Cement will be delivered on trucks from a source to be identified and stored in two to five silos on site. Approximately 510,000 pounds of sand, 800,000 pounds of gravel and 240,000 pounds of cement will be needed for each turbine site. Based on a maximum of 244 turbines installed, 124,500,000 pounds of sand, 195,200,000 pounds of gravel and 58,560,000 pounds of cement will be utilized. Additional sand, gravel and cement will be required for construction of the substation, switchyard and O&M facilities (page 20, POD).

Ocotillo lies near Jacumba Mountains Wilderness and Coyote Mountains Wilderness. The area is biologically rich, with [Flat-tailed horned lizard](#) (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), [Peninsular bighorn sheep](#) (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), and Ironwood forests. The Flat-tailed horned lizard is due for a decision this November on whether it should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.



The turbines would be 2.3 MW Siemens at 126.5 m total height, or 1.8 MW Vestas at 125 m.

Pattern Energy also is pushing a large wind farm next to Great Basin National Park near Ely, Nevada, about a mile from a cave that shelters more than one million Brazilian free-tailed bats (our story on this project [>>here](#)).

Story in [AnzaBorrego.net](#)

ivpressonilne [>>here](#).

PermoCo Engineering and Management [>>here](#).

Maps and diagrams from the POD.



^Flat-tailed horned lizard (Copyright Laura Cunningham 2010).

More on this soon.

See also the Tule Wind Energy Project in McCain Valley, eastern San Diego County [>>BLM website](#).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION [San Diego Gas & Electric East County Substation Project](#)

[HOME](#)



Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: PETE ZEITLER Date: 14 JAN 11

Address: 97 PALO VERDE OCOTILLO CA 92259

Comment: AS A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF

OCOTILLO I AM SHOCKED THAT THE BLM WOULD
EVEN CONSIDER ALLOWING PATTERN ENERGY TO
BUILD A WIND FARM ON THIS SECTION OF
DESERT. I AM CONCERNED THAT OUR TOWN'S
AQUIFER WOULD BE AFFECTED. ALSO THE
TOWN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ADVERSE DUST
CONDITIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION. THE DESERT
BIRDS, REPTILES, AND MAMMALS WOULD BE
DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES. NATIVE
AMERICAN ARTIFACTS COULD ALSO BE
DAMAGED. OUR PROPERTY VALUES WOULD
BE LOWERED AND OUR PRISTINE
SUNSET VIEWS TO THE WEST RUINED.

THESE WIND MILLS WILL ALSO BE A
HAZARD TO BORDER PATROL HELICOPTERS
AND OTHER AIRCRAFT ATTEMPTING TO LAND
AT OCOTILLO'S AIRPORT. PLEASE DENY
PATTERNS REQUEST FOR PERMIT!!

By submitting a scoping comment you will receive a copy of the EIS. Please indicate the format you would prefer.

Compact Disk (CD) or Hardcopy

How to Comment:

Hardcopy: Use the form on the other side of this sheet. Please fold and staple this form and mail to the address below

Email: caocotillo@blm.gov Make sure subject line reads "Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project"

Comments must be postmarked/mailed by January 21, 2011

- Public comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at Bureau of Land Management, 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. **If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you MUST check this box.** Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.



SAN BERNARDINO CA 924

19 JAN 2011 PM 8 2



**Bureau of Land Management
c/o Cedric Perry, Project Manager
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
19 JAN 18 PM 4:28
CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
MORENO VALLEY, CA

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

92553+9046



Public Comment Card
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project



Commentor Name: DARRELL + IMA WALKER Date: 1-15-2011

Address: PO Box 326, Ocotillo, Ca 92259

Comment: Our concerns about the proposed windmill project centers around several factors

First would be our wildlife, including Big Horn sheep, golden eagles, mule deer etc. Wildlife knows no boundaries. We have actually seen all of the above in the areas designated for windmills.

Major concern is property values falling because of the visual effect of 193 turbines. Plus, our community will be receiving absolutely NO benefits from this project.

Earthquakes? How is this to be addressed? All of the land being used is prestige desert and can never revert back to its original state. Rimming not just the visual effects of our desert, but all of the habitat within.

Erosion, dust control, damage to our county roads, water (from where) during construction and afterwards has never been satisfactorily addressed.

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SN BERNARDINO CA 92553

25 JAN 2011 PM 4 1



RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
MAIL ROOM

11 JAN 19 PM 3:44

CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
MORENO VALLEY, CA

**Bureau of Land Management
c/o Cedric Perry, Project Manager
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553**

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

92553+9046



Cristina Piraino

From: Donna Tisdale [tisdale.donna@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2011 08:05 PM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov; Angelina Havens
Cc: Donna Tisdale"
Subject: Ocotillo Express scoping comments
Attachments: Ocotillo Express scoping BAD POC ECCAC 1-17-11.pdf

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens

These scoping comments are submitted for myself, as an individual, for Backcountry Against Dumps, The Protect Our Communities Foundation, and for the East County Community Action Coalition.

Please confirm receipt of these comments and add my name and contact information to this project serve list for future notification.,

Thank you,

Donna Tisdale

619-766-4170

tisdale.donna@gmail.com

BACKCOUNTRY AGAINST DUMPS

P. O. BOX 1275, BOULEVARD, CA 91905

Cedric Perry
BLM Project Manager
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
via: caocotillo@blm.gov

January 17, 2011

Angelina Havens
Imperial County Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
via: AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens

These scoping comments are submitted for myself, as an individual, for The Protect Our Communities Foundation, and for the East County Community Action Coalition.

My apologies for not being able to attend the two public scoping hearings for the Draft EIR/EIS for the Ocotillo Express Wind energy project. Edie Harmon had planned to read our statement into the record at the January 6th hearing in Ocotillo, but she was unable to access it at the time.

We are formally requesting a 30-60 extension of the January 21 comment deadline due to the significant number of industrial-scale projects that were/ are out for public comment--many of which connect to and rely on SDG&E's Imperial Valley Substation and the controversial Sunrise Powerlink that is the subject of unresolved state and federal litigation. Our coalition just filed a second suit challenging the Forest Service approvals. As you know, the Imperial Valley Substation, and a portion of the Sunrise Powerlink is located in the culturally sensitive Yuha ACEA and FTHL Management Area, where numerous other projects are proposed. Sunrise also impacts big horn sheep, Golden Eagles and much more.

Class L (Limited Use) lands protect "natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values." The lands are supposed to be "managed to provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources, while ensuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished." The complaint indicates that each of the projects was permitted with an "amendment" to the CDCA according to the Bureau of Land Management.

La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites protection Circle recently filed against suit against the BLM over failure
According to la Cuna de Azlan's Pinon, the pressure of the ARRA "fast track" process approved by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar resulted in inadequate Environmental Impact Statements and

inadequate government to government consultation with the tribes, under Section 106 of the National Register of Historic Places.

Hopefully the tribal lawsuits have alerted the BLM and other agencies that these massive projects, proposed for culturally and environmentally sensitive areas, are not acceptable to many Native Americans or those who revere and respect an ancient culture and people who have survived and thrived in harsh environmental and political climates for so many thousands of years.

For the record, this is a partial list of our major concerns with the proposed project and the overall rush to industrialize our scenic and sensitive public lands --that should be protected--and impacted low-income rural communities:

- ✓ Allowing commercial industrial uses on lands zoned as Limited Use by scuttling that zoning meant to protect significant and sensitive resources and converting those lands and resources to large-scale destructive industrial uses.
- ✓ Lack of need for this and remote projects that require new extensive, expensive and destructive transmission infrastructure at the expense of US taxpayers, utility rate payers, public lands and critical resources.
- ✓ The intermittent and unreliable nature of wind energy that requires an average 70-90% in backup generation.
- ✓ What is the designated load follower / backup source?
- ✓ How many connections to IV Substation is too many? What is the limit?
- ✓ Industry misrepresentations of Green House Gas benefits from industrial wind energy proponents should be challenged.
- ✓ In the UK, a wind energy company lost a truth in advertising challenge, their GHG reduction claims were proven to be improperly based on out-dated data related to older more polluting power plants that had already been closed or retrofitted.
- ✓ Scale and scope of project and proximity to Anza Borrego Desert State Park, other sensitive public lands and resources,
- ✓ Adverse and cumulative impacts to the rural low-income community of Ocotillo and other residential areas.
- ✓ Adverse impacts to road quality from massive overweight construction equipment/cranes and project equipment transportation to community / public roads that have not received much if any significant repair within memory.
- ✓ Cumulative air quality impacts from traffic related to multiple industrial scale mining and energy projects on BLM lands in the area in addition to I-8 traffic impacts.
- ✓ Environmental Justice issues / disproportionate number of projects are concentrated in Western Imperial County and Eastern San Diego County. Noise and air pollution count.
- ✓ Significant cumulative impacts to a variety of resources from numerous massive wind, solar, and transmission infrastructure projects to the same geographic area, resources, and low-income rural communities. Both BLM and Imperial County should have a complete list, similar to that used in the joint PUB/BLM DEIR/EIS for Tule Wind, ECO Substation and Energia Sierra Juarez at Figure F-1 & F-2: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/dudek/ecosub/Draft_EIR/F_Cumulative.pdf
- ✓ Impacts to designated critical and occupied habitat and wildlife corridors for the endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep.
- ✓ Impacts to bird and bat populations including Golden Eagles and other raptors through direct impacts with blades, towers, transmission lines, and loss of forage and prey.

- ✓ Golden Eagles have a range of 100 miles and more. The Tule Wind DEIR/EIS top CEQA alternative is NO Project. Based on Class I impacts to Air Quality, Noise, Biological Resources, Visual Character, Fire and Fuels, and Cultural Resources.
- ✓ Impacts to Flat Tailed Horned Lizards, desert tortoises, other endangered and sensitive wildlife and unfragmented habitat.
- ✓ Impacts to a significant known concentration of Native American cultural resources, including village and camp sites, graves, ceremonial sites, Traditional Cultural Properties including Areas of Traditional Cultural Concern, Sacred Geography, and Areas of Potential Effect.
- ✓ Need for real and timely tribal consultations in full compliance with NHPA and other applicable laws and regulations
- ✓ Adverse health effects to people, pets, and wildlife from low frequency noise and infrasound , shadow flicker, and exposure to Valley Fever through newly disturbed desert soils.
- ✓ Adverse impacts to ground dwelling species from vibrations traveling through turbine shafts into the ground, construction of new roads and fragmentation of habitat.
- ✓ Conversion of public open space and recreational use (loss of use) to private commercial / industrial use in an area not zoned or compatible for such use.
- ✓ Adverse impacts to property values from loss of premium open desert views and quality of life.
- ✓ Significant impacts to Visual Resources and wilderness experience in the adjacent Jacumba Mountain Wilderness Areas, Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area, Coyote Mountain Wilderness and ACEC, Sin Number Wilderness, Carrizo Canyon Wilderness, Carrizo Gorge Wilderness, Sombrero Peak Wilderness, Limited Use Areas where travel is currently restricted to open routes and the camp sites and trails within all the areas named above.
- ✓ Impacts to historic Desert View Tower and Mountain Springs Park
- ✓ Conversion of rural visual resources/character to visually intrusive industrial energy park
- ✓ Fragmentation of large natural habitats, wildlife landscapes, and currently stable desert soils and vegetation.
- ✓ Loss of ambient quiet and remoteness from the urban environment.
- ✓ Loss of Dark Sky for scientific study and recreational use and enjoyment.
- ✓ Interference with aviation radar, homeland security activities, military aviation routes of travel.
- ✓ Interference with cell signals, radio communications, medical devices
- ✓ Air quality impacts and introduction of fire ignition sources in underserved rural area.
- ✓ Impacts to emergency Services, increased fire insurance rates, waste disposal for non-recyclable composite blades and other turbine parts that have a high rate of failure.
- ✓ Need for Property Value Protection Agreements for private property owners within a 5-mile radius of each turbine, along with pre-construction ambient sound testing with A and C weighting
- ✓ Need to prevent on-site stockpiling of discarded blades and turbine parts through permit
- ✓ Impacts to water quality and quantity, from contamination and overdraft in the federally designated Ocotillo Coyote Wells Sole Source Aquifer/ already in state of overdraft
- ✓ Turbines should be constructed with catch basins at base to prevent oil leaks from entering soil and groundwater.
- ✓ Increased soil erosion and air borne dust and pathogens.
- ✓ Need for local mitigation. Do not allow out of the area mitigation for any impacted species--like BLM allowed for Bighorn Sheep impacted by the Sunrise Powerlink.
- ✓ All environmental surveys, mitigation proposals, contracted water sources, and turbine models must be provided for public review and comment prior to project approval.

Please add my name and contact information to this project serve list for future notification. 619-766-4170; tisdale.donna@gmail.com

Sincerely,

/s/

Donna Tisdale,

BAD President,

POC Secretary,

ECCAC Member

CC: Interested Parties

January 17, 2011

State Assemblyman Manuel Pérez:

RE: Ocotillo Express Project

Dear Mr. Perez,

We are property owners in the Ocotillo/ Nomirage area and also live in San Diego. We are very concerned over the building of a huge wind farm in Ocotillo. We cannot believe this beautiful desert would be destroyed. This is such a special part of the desert, mountain views, sunsets, all the wildlife and plants would be gone forever.

Each pad of concrete would be as large as 3 home foundations or larger. All of our fragile Ocotillo trees and cactus would be mowed down, they take years to grow 1 foot. How will they replace them?

This project will ruin the natural habitat of the Bighorn Sheep, Desert Tortoise, Golden Eagles, migrating birds and many other desert creatures.

We are all concerned about the Aquifer, this is our only water supply, it could be polluted from construction equipment, concrete waste and oil from turbine generators.

There are also health concerns that need to be addressed, many medical issues have been noted from low/high frequency noise.

Phase 1 has 150 turbines indicated on Figure 2 site plan and the project description identifies phase 1 would consist of a total nameplate of 299 MW. & phase 2 251MW. Why does phase 1 only generate 299 MW of electrical energy with 150 turbines (299 : 43 =1.99 mw ea.) Are phase 2 gen. larger than phase 1, if so why can't phase 1 use the larger gen. and decrease the number of 150 to 51? what is the difference between phase 1 & phase 2 turbines?

How will site 2 be connected to site 1?

How many miles of access roads? 40 + miles? How will access roads be maintained and by who? How much further widening for underground collection system? 36+ft.

What does an electrical collection system consist of?

What are the dimensions of the electrical substation?

What are the dimensions of the operation & maintenance build, will the surrounding area be paved and fenced? Where are the borrow sites?

Will the temporary laydown and parking area be returned to existing ground contours and soil returned to existing type, density and compaction:

Why is one generating tower being placed on 26 acres of private land? Will it provide power to that property?

Why is the BLM allowing the amendment of the California Desert Conservation Plan?

1.4 Where is the location of government/special public zone?

1.6 Who will be responsible for decommissioning of wind generators and facilities: what are the procedures for decommissioning? where is the location of the local nearby water source the project would be connected to during construction?

3.1 How many view point areas will have view of these turbines?

3.8 Are the turbine blades made with carbon fiber or hazardous materials that could become air born during normal deterioration?

(F) The turbine towers located in site 2 are in the path of Homeland Security & Border patrol Air servalance which has a altitude of less than 400 ft.

The green house gas generated from construction equipment and the many trucks would be enormous.

PLEASE SAVE OUR SPECIAL DESERT, ONCE IT IS DESTROYED IT WILL NEVER RETURN TO THE BEAUTIFUL LAND WE HAVE ENJOYED FOR SO MANY YEARS. PLEASE LOCATE THIS WIND FARM IN ANOTHER AREA.

Sincerely,



Joyce and Richard Denison
3814 Boone Street
San Diego, Ca 92117

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
MAIL ROOM

11 JAN 18 PM 4:27

CALIF. DESERT STATE
MORERO VALLEY, CA

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ocotillo Express Wind Project and the cumulative effects of other related projects in this regional area.

EXCEPTIONAL !!!

That is what some of the views in this regional area have already been classified as. Other words used to rate them are superior, unique and rare. We agree with these descriptions. We think the views are also captivating, extremely beautiful and pleasant to gaze upon. We highly value them. When we camp here and go hiking or jeeping, we eagerly anticipate what the next view will hold.

Exceptional is what the nighttime view of the Milky Way and countless twinkling stars look like overhead in the dark desert sky. We look forward to observing this dazzling display through a telescope or binoculars, and think that counting "falling stars" is a great, natural form of nighttime entertainment. The boundless sky is the catalyst that causes us to meditate about the universe and our purpose in it.

We also think the animals (including the bighorn sheep), birds (including the golden eagles), and plants (especially wildflowers) that live in the area are as exceptional as the views, each in their own way. Watching a Cooper's hawk soar above us or viewing colorful fields of delicate wildflowers that soften the rugged terrain is worth every effort whenever we seek them out while we hike here, especially in remote areas where we can leave the crowds of people behind.

APPALLING !!!

That is what we think both the daytime and nighttime views will be if high-profile, man-made obstructions are allowed to be plastered all over the landscape by all of the proposed projects, along with the low-profile but massive solar projects. We think the exceptional views will become ugly eyesores, and their visual appeal will be worthless. It would quench our desire to come here anymore.

Appalling is what we think the result will be if wind turbines are built in areas birds and bats fly through. Wind turbines are giant elevated "choppers" in the air. Birds, especially raptors, and bats will have a rotating gauntlet to maneuver around that could have deadly consequences.

Appalling is what we think the result would be if a fire were to ignite from these man-made structures. They would also be obstacles that would reduce the effectiveness of firefighting, particularly aerial attacks, if fires were to ignite from any source. Everything could be burned to ashes, and at the same time it could endanger the lives of people, wildlife and vegetation living

in this area. The destruction left behind after a fire would be so repulsive and depressing to look at that you would want to turn your back to it and look the other way, never to return.

We think some people are turning their backs and looking the other way right now with our treasured public lands. Instead, they are choosing causes that are unworthy and unjustifiable that would desecrate these lands. There are NO valid excuses to turn our precious public lands into a visual junkyard while at the same time risking lives in the process. Is that what is in the best interest of the public? Is that what these public lands were set aside for in the first place? Or was it to discover and appreciate how truly SPECIAL the natural environment really is JUST AS IT IS? That is why we come here and why we have been doing so for decades, along with our children.

We try to be good stewards when we visit this regional area for recreational purposes. Our hope is that the people in charge will also be good stewards and not turn their backs and look the other way, forsaking our valuable public resources. Our desire is that these people will grasp this opportunity for preservation so that not only ourselves, but future generations, will be able to experience and enjoy ALL the wonders of the natural world in this regional area JUST AS IT IS, OR SOMETHING IRREPLACEABLE WILL BE LOST FOREVER.

There is a sign posted by the State of California on the Pepperwood Canyon Trail in McCain Valley that reads, "FEATURES PROTECTED. THIS IS YOUR HERITAGE - HELP GUARD IT." That is what we are trying to do.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Borden
Laurie A. Baker

Charles and Laurie Baker
10217 Strathmore Dr.
Santee, CA 92071

p.s.

Where we live in Santee in San Diego County, Santee Lakes Regional Park and Campground just won an award for a new, large-scale rooftop solar project that supplies half the power they use. We prefer this type of renewable energy because it is onsite, low-profile, eco-friendly and neighbor friendly. We think this is the the responsible energy alternative that is in the best interest of the public.

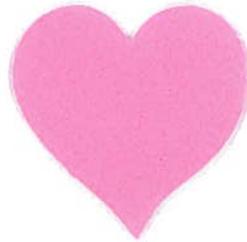
This song should be piningly sung on a clear day at
the Desert View vista point off of McCain Valley Road to the tune of
"Clementine"

Carrizo and McCain

Oh Carrizo, Oh Carrizo
Oh Carrizo and McCain
All your views are gone forever
Losing them gives me great pain!

From your mountains, to your valleys
Salton Sea and the sand dunes
All your views are just so awesome
Moving me to sing this tune!

Oh Carrizo, Oh Carrizo
Oh Carrizo and McCain
All your views are gone forever
I will never be the same!



This song should be lamentedly sung at night around an open campfire at
Cottonwood Campground to the tune of
"On Top of Old Smokey"

An Ode to Mount Tule - ee

I hiked up Mount Tule - ee
All covered with rocks
I saw big wind turbines
With blades on their tops

Those blades just kept spinning
Around and around
They ruined the nice view
And made a loud sound!

They also had red lights
That blinked off and on
And lit up the dark sky
For all the night long!

The stars I could not see
Because of the glare!
I am so down-hearted
I no longer care

I never will visit
This place any more
It is now so ugly
It makes my eyes sore!

So if you should visit
Mount Tule - ee to camp
Your eyes will hurt like mine
You'll never come back!

But God sent some lightning
And struck them all dead
Since then they've stopped spinning
Our eyes are not red!

I hope they won't build more
I really do hope!
Or else I'll keep singing
It helps me to cope!

Feel free to add more stanzas of your own!

(Hopefully, there will really be a happy ending!)



Cristina Piraino

From: Joyce Denison [denisonjd@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 11:01 AM
To: Jack Terrazas
Cc: Angelina Havens
Subject: Fw: Ocotillo Wind Project

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Joyce Denison <denisonjd@att.net>
To: caocotillo@blm.gov
Sent: Thu, January 13, 2011 9:14:48 AM
Subject: Ocotillo Wind Project

Dear Cedric Perry,

We are property owners in the Nomirage area, and have many concerns regarding the destruction of our beautiful desert.

1. We would like the geological report identifying the existing type of soil, the recommendation of footing size, reinforcement and compaction of soil based on soil density,
2. What will be done with the 1,000's of yards of waste water from the batch plant? In San Diego concrete water waste cannot go in the storm drain as it will pollute the bay. It needs to be contained and taken to a waste site.
3. What are the plans for the 100's & 1000's of yards of excavated soil?
4. What are the elevations of the pads relative to existing topo maps of the area?
5. We are concerned about the 200 strobe lights that will ruin our beautiful night skyline.
6. Every year we see many horizontal lighting strikes occur across the mtn. tops, from Mexico to laguna and chocolate mts.
7. Are all the electric lines connecting generation towers below grade, even when crossing highway 98, 8, 80 & S2?
8. What is the full capacity of the transmission line being connected to, how much actual amount of generated power will reach its intended designation.
9. Who is the owner of this project, El Centro or the BLM? Why is El Centro paying for the EIR report?
10. How will the dust be contained during construction & after project is completed? The area east of Nomirage had vegetation removed and in high winds dust was so thick it effected traffic on hwy 8.
11. How are the maintenance roads going to be built so flood water doesn't run into residential areas, such as hwy 98 into Nomirage.

12. If approved, will the permit for const. identify that the groundwater from the aquifer cannot be used.

13 Why is the BLM allowing this to happen to our fragile, delicate desert, we thought the duty of the BLM was to protect the land and wildlife from destruction and misuse. We trusted you and now your going to turn on us, please save something we love so much.

Please save our desert, Joyce and Richard Denison, 3814 Boone St. S.D. & Cholla Rd., Nomirage

Cristina Piraino

From: chris pate [mwaters1917@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 04:18 PM
To: blm; cedric perry; jack terrazas; Angelina Havens
Subject: Proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN OCOTILLO EXPRESS WIND ENERGY PROJECT EIS AND EIR

We previously submitted a list of issues through e-mail and letter. After attending the scoping sessions for the EIR/EIS for the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project (hereinafter "Project"), additional requests are hereby made to be addressed in the EIR and EIS.

FACTS:

1. Pattern Energy Group LP (hereinafter "Pattern") as presently constituted as applicant for this Project, has not completed a project of this magnitude to date. Per their Ocotillo Wind Fact Sheet/January 2011 presented at the scoping sessions, they have 520mw in operation or under construction. Upon inquiry of Mr. Hodges, this breaks down as 101mw in Shasta and 283mw in Texas. The balance is under construction or being planned.
2. The parent company Riverstone Holdings LLC has never been involved in a prior wind turbine project of any magnitude.
3. Pattern will not be the hands on builder of the project. They will contract the hands on development to a general contractor. We were told this was an organization from San Diego . However, there is no information as to that company's expertise in wind turbine projects especially one of this size. There is no information as to how many jobs from the Imperial Valley work force they would use.
4. According to Mr. Hodges of Pattern, it costs approximately \$4.5-5 million to build one wind turbine. The current capitalization of \$800 million is not sufficient to fund this project.
5. The Aspen firm is not an independent agent for purposes of preparing the information for the EIR/EIS for the county. They are the agent of the county and will be paid by the county with reimbursement by the applicant, Pattern.
6. There are now two (2) lawsuits which affect the building of the Sunrise Powerlink. **The Ocotillo project would/will not be built by Pattern if the Powerlink is not built.**
7. Using all water from off site has not been done in previous projects by Pattern. An aquifer has not been involved in prior projects.
8. The wind studies are based on towers that are half the size of the height of the actual proposed wind turbine.
9. The application as set forth in the Federal Register is to build approximately 5 miles west of Ocotillo. The site plan Figure 2 presented by Aspen and submitted with the notice of the scoping meetings shows many of the turbines and MET towers to be closer than 5 miles of homes in Ocotillo. This is based on the scale on said site plan.

ISSUES PRESENTED AND REQUESTED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR/EIS BASED ON THE FACTS:

WATER

1. Is it legal to truck in or otherwise transport water from an area over 40 miles away (Pine Valley as mentioned by Pattern) for use in a project unrelated to the territory from which the water is being removed? Can a community or water district sell water to a private for profit company? Has a contract been provided to support Pattern's claim that they will not use water from the Aquifer? If not, doesn't this present tremendous risk to the environment as substantial water is necessary for the construction of each turbine and the accompanying buildings?
2. What study has been prepared to substantiate Pattern's assertion that they will not use any water from or affect in any way the aquifer of Ocotillo? This would include but not be limited to:
 - a) pre-construction such as moving dirt and bringing in the other materials;
 - (b) during the construction which would include but not be limited to changes to the natural percolation pattern and runoff pattern of water which feeds the aquifer; and
 - (c) post construction which would include the requisite sanitation for the employees who remain and use of water in the maintenance of the turbines.
3. What protections are in place to insure that the aquifer is not affected? Is there a binding contractual obligation to prevent Pattern from affecting the aquifer or using its water?

ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND EXPERTISE OF PATTERN:

1. What contracts has Pattern entered into to insure that they have the economic means to complete the project and as equally important, service the project during its life expectancy and/or if the project were terminated early due to the Powerlink not being completed or for any other reason? This would include contractual obligations to remove any components of the project that are already constructed.
2. What is the expertise of the company that will actually do the construction? Have they been contracted and has the water issue been addressed in that contract?

WIND STUDIES

1. The air flow was described as at its peak at the top of the mountains and then decreasing as it descended into the valley. None of the information provided to date has analyzed the wind at that height. None of the information to date is based on accurate information as to how the height of the wind turbines actually will affect the bird issues, the radar issues and national security issues raised previously. How can the information support the hypothesis that these are not negative impacts on the environment?
2. In addition to wind speed, what information has been produced as to the number of days such wind remains at the speed that creates the economic viability of the project? If the days are insufficient, what additional resources must be used in order for the project to be economically viable for Pattern? Would this require the use of more water, more employees, other sources for the use of any electricity generated since electricity can not be stored?

NEGATIVE CARBON:

1. The San Diego Union editorial page had an article on the proposed wind turbine project in its January 6, 2011 edition. The article quoted information from UC Riverside professor Michael Allen that "suggests that the destruction to desert soils caused by renewable projects, and the subsequent release into the air of carbon, may actually increase greenhouse gases more than the renewable facilities would decrease them." What study has been done to see if the same negative impact would result in this project?

This is submitted by property and home owners in Ocotillo for approximately 20 years. They can be reached

through this e-mail address.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 11, DIVISION OF PLANNING

4050 TAYLOR ST, M.S. 240

SAN DIEGO, CA 92110

PHONE (619) 688-6960

FAX (619) 688-4299

TTY 711

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January 19, 2011

11-IMP-8

PM 10.01

Ocotillo Express Wind Energy

NOP - SCH #2010121055

Angelina Havens
Imperial County
Planning & Development Services
801 Main St.
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Ms. Havens:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) received a copy of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the proposed Ocotillo Express Wind Energy project (SCH #2010121055) located on Interstate 8 (I-8). Caltrans has the following comments:

Visual aspects of the project including glint and glare should be documented not to have any potential impacts to motorists driving on I-8.

The NOP identifies that the project is proposing to connect to the SDG&E Sunrise Powerlink transmission line. Any utility crossings of highways or freeways will need an encroachment permit from Caltrans. Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment_permits_manual/index.html) for guidance on utility encroachment. The following information is contained in Chapter 600, Table 6.7 (page 6-35) of the Encroachment Permit Manual. Line supports for overhead lines crossing freeways must comply with these requirements, they:

1. Should have a minimum lateral clearance of 30' from the edge of a through lane and 30' from the edge of a ramp lane, when possible.
2. Shall be located outside the right-of-way (R/W) or between the R/W line and access control line if different. Any other placement must be approved by the Division of Design, Chief.
3. Should not be permitted in medians.
4. Should not be permitted on cut or fill slopes.
5. Shall not impair sight distances.
6. Shall be compatible with access requirements.

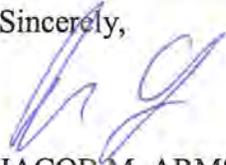
Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual for guidance on Traffic Control on freeways. The following information is contained in Appendix E (page E-42) of the Encroachment Permit Manual. For placement of aerial lines, installation or removal of overhead conductors crossing a freeway requires traffic control by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and usually occur on weekend mornings. The CHP can perform a rolling break in traffic on most highways to allow up to a five-minute clearing. These breaks are adequate for simple cable installation. Utility personnel carry the conductors across the freeway lanes and hoist them into place on the opposite side of the freeway. On larger conductor crossings such as transmission lines, 1" or greater in diameter, districts may determine that safety nets are needed to prevent transmission lines from falling on traffic during cabling installations. Temporary safety-net support poles are placed at protected locations outside shoulders and in medians. If locations for temporary supports are not available, the utility company may use K-rail and sand barrel crash cushions. After rope nets are strung during CHP traffic breaks other work is then allowed to proceed. Placement of the aerial line may be by helicopter.

Any work performed within Caltrans R/W must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies. If these materials are not included with the encroachment permit application, the applicant will be required to acquire and provide these to Caltrans before the permit application will be accepted. Identification of avoidance and/or mitigation measures will be a condition of the encroachment permit approval as well as procurement of any necessary regulatory and resource agency permits

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions on the comments Caltrans has provided, please contact Leila Ibrahim of the Development Review Branch at (619) 688-6954.

Sincerely,



JACOB M. ARMSTRONG, Chief
Development Review Branch

c: Armando G. Villa, Imperial County

9_Tony Ligutti 1-20-11.txt

From: Angelina Havens [angelinahavens@co.imperial.ca.us]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 7:23 AM
To: Jon Davidson
Subject: FW: Ocotillo express and patternh energy project

Scoping Letter

Angelina Havens
Planner III

-----Original Message-----

From: quansethut@cox.net [mailto:quansethut@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 7:48 PM
To: Angelina Havens
Subject: Ocotillo express and patternh energy project

Dear Madam: I am an Ocotillo property owner and if this project is going to involve fencing off 15,000 acres of our BLM land, I strongly object.
Sincerely,
Tony Ligutti

Cedric Perry
BLM Project Manager California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
via: caocotillo@blm.gov

Angelina Havens
Imperial County Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
via: AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

**DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments:
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552**

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens:

I would like to add to my comments on the above project. I heard an unconfirmed rumor that they are planning to truck a 100 acre feet of water from Pine Valley to build this project. If this is true I would be very concerned that Pine Valley can not sustain this water loss, not to the public or to the plants and animals. I am not sure but what taking ground water is even legal for these projects. Please provide a clear and through analysis of what is being planned for needed water resources. The Environmental Protection Agency should review these.

I heard many linemen put in very long hours after the Cedar Fire. Well intentioned after that tragedy, but could contribute to down wires that were rigged under fatigue. How would a contractor ensure that their subcontractors are obeying the same safety and other laws on sight –or out of sight? The actual people constructing the actual project are just ordinary people trying to do a job and stay employed. Nevertheless, companies in strained economic times could be in a hurry to get and complete contracts and rush a job at the expense of safety and quality. Also workers eager to keep a job could try to increase their productivity by taking drugs to keep

them awake for extended periods of time. How do you ensure subcontractors maintain fair practices without undo pressure on construction workers?

The Energy Act of 2005 details actions that should be in place by all vendors and subcontractors for these projects for drug testing and rehab of their employees. Can you elaborate these plans in the project descriptions? Please elaborate the allowable conditions for construction workers. For example, how long are they allowed to work on one shift? Do they have any limitations similar to pilots to ensure they are alert and rested?

Thank you for taking another comment letter on this project.

Sincerely,
Cynthia M. Buxton
On behalf of herself.

CoChair of the Forest Committee of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Member of POC, ECCAC/ SD River Park Foundation
Adoptive Parent of the Proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness

Imperial Beach, Ca. 91932
January 21, 2011

Cristina Piraino

From: Terry Weiner [terryweiner@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 04:56 PM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov
Cc: Angelina Havens
Subject: DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552
Attachments: DPC additional scoping comments.doc; ATT03990.htm

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens,

Please find attached as a Microsoft word document, the additional scoping comments of the Desert Protective Council to those we delivered verbally at the January 6th Ocotillo public scoping meeting. I would appreciate an email acknowledgement of receipt of these comments.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Terry Weiner
Imperial County Projects and Conservation Coordinator
Desert Protective Council
P.O. Box 3635
San Diego CA. 92163
(619) 342-5524 cell (office)
(858) 273-7801 FAX
terryweiner@sbcglobal.net
www.protectdeserts.org

-

*DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 3635
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92163*

Cedric Perry
BLM Project Manager
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Via Email: caocotillo@blm.gov

Angelina Havens
Imperial County Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
Via Email: AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

January 21 2011

**RE: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552
DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments**

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute scoping comments on the *Ocotillo Express Wind Project* on behalf of the Desert Protective Council (DPC). These comments are in addition to the comments I delivered verbally into the public record at the January 6th Ocotillo Community Center Scoping Meeting.

The DPC is a 56-year-old California Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Membership Organization. *Our mission is to safeguard for wise and reverent use by this and succeeding generations those desert areas of unique scenic, scientific, historical, spiritual or recreational value and to educate children and adults to a better understanding of the deserts.* We pursue our mission through a carefully designed and balanced program of advocacy, education, and stewardship. Although we work toward protecting all the southwest deserts, we are currently focused on the Imperial Valley of the California Desert. Our members have a stake in the protection and preservation of the desert public lands of Western Imperial County by virtue of cumulatively many years of hiking, camping, bird watching and botanizing on BLM lands of the proposed project area and in the adjacent Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The DPC has participated in prior land use public planning processes for the area, including the route designation process for Western Imperial County and the designation of adjacent wilderness.

There are local renewable energy alternatives to this project for production of 550 MW of electricity to power 300,000 homes, including the development of rooftop solar and local distributed generation. A complete assessment of costs and benefits of developing local

renewable energy projects in San Diego and other southern California cities for which this energy is destined should be included in the Draft EIS as well as a “no project” alternative. There is information readily available regarding cost/benefits of developing rooftop solar and local distributed generation. The development of renewable energy in the already built environment would protect the natural and cultural resources and preclude the need for extensive new destructive transmission infrastructure.

Scoping issues and impacts:

- *All impacts from the construction of this 15,000 acre Ocotillo Wind Express project must be considered as cumulative in conjunction with all of the impacts from the construction of the Sunrise Powerlink, Sempra’s proposed cross-border 1,250MW Energia Sierra Juarez wind project, from Imperial Valley Solar Two, and the Tule Wind Project. This includes cumulative impacts to Native American cultural resources, biological resources; impacts to local recreational opportunities and experience; to visual resources, to the local and to Imperial County air quality, impacts to the adjacent Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and to the community of Ocotillo.*
- As part of the economic analysis of this project, there needs to be a specific and detailed analysis of the adverse impacts to the local community, including loss of rural desert community character, destruction of the view shed, the loss of dark skies, loss of recreational values. The Plan of Development mentions only the economic benefits to the local and greater community from this project and that is only half of the equation.
- Loss of carbon-sequestration from the scraping of desert soil for construction roads and tower pads and loss of carbon sequestration from removal of desert plants on your calculated 1,290 acres total footprint needs to be calculated.
- In the desert, the term “temporary disturbance” from road building is an oxymoron. When the desert is scraped of its fragile plants and topsoil, the plant cover is permanently altered. There has been noteworthy lack of success in efforts to re-establish desert plant communities following disturbance with roads, trails, scraping for underground pipelines. Additionally, the destruction from scraping of 36-foot wide roads will not be limited to the roadbed, as dust from the disturbance of the soil will coat adjacent plants and inhibit plant respiration.
 - Seeds from the several increasingly widespread exotic invasive species, such as *Brassica tournefortii* and *Schismus barbatus* are able to take advantage of the newly disturbed areas and colonize quickly to the detriment of the local native plant community.
- Emissions from the truck transport to the site of the 20 million gallons of water needed during construction will create a huge burden of particulate pollution as well as other greenhouse gases in a county that is in severe non-attainment for particulate pollution and non-attainment for ozone. The emissions of trucks on their return trip away from the site must also be analyzed.

- Impacts from transport of the gravel and concrete aggregate from the three locations in or near the project must be analyzed. If gravel is mined on the site, impacts from loss of habitat must also be included.
- Although the project developer asserts that the permanent footprint of this project will be only 142 acres or 1% of the project site, the reality is that this project will effectively destroy all wildlife and plant habitat and current recreational values on 15,000 acres of currently functioning desert ecosystem.

Other scoping comment letters on this project have been submitted. Rather than repeat the lists of scoping issues that have already been addressed and entered into the public record during the scoping phase of the public process for this project, The Desert Protective Council hereby incorporates by reference the comprehensive list of scoping issues and concerns submitted by Donna Tisdale, Boulevard, California, of Back Country Against Dumps.

Please keep the Desert Protective Council on your mailing lists for all notices of meetings and documents pertaining to the Ocotillo Express Wind Project. We look forward to submitting more detailed comments upon publication of the Draft EIR/EIS for this project.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments of the Desert Protective Council.

Sincerely,

Terry Weiner
Imperial County Projects and Conservation Coordinator
Desert Protective Council
P.O. Box 3635
San Diego CA. 92163
(619) 342-5524 cell (office)
(858) 273-7801 FAX
terryweiner@sbcglobal.net
www.protectdeserts.org

Cristina Piraino

From: Cindy Buxton [iokuok2@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 10:33 AM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov; Angelina Havens
Cc: Terry Weiner; Nick Ervin; Diane Jacob; dennis traferty; donna tisdale
Subject: FW: DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552
Attachments: OcotilloExpress_comment 2.doc

Dear BLM managers of the Ocotillo Express Scoping comments:
Please find attached Microsoft Word document, entitled "Ocotillo Express_comments2" adding to my comments on behalf of myself on the scoping of the above project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Cynthia M. Buxton

If you believe in democracy, trust it in a crisis.

Cedric Perry
BLM Project Manager California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
via: caocotillo@blm.gov

Angelina Havens
Imperial County Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
via: AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us

**DEIR/EIS Scoping Comments:
Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project -- CACA 051552**

Dear Mr. Perry and Ms. Havens:

I would like to add to my comments on the above project. I heard an unconfirmed rumor that they are planning to truck a 100 acre feet of water from Pine Valley to build this project. If this is true I would be very concerned that Pine Valley can not sustain this water loss, not to the public or to the plants and animals. I am not sure but what taking ground water is even legal for these projects. Please provide a clear and through analysis of what is being planned for needed water resources. The Environmental Protection Agency should review these.

I heard many linemen put in very long hours after the Cedar Fire. Well intentioned after that tragedy, but could contribute to down wires that were rigged under fatigue. How would a contractor ensure that their subcontractors are obeying the same safety and other laws on sight –or out of sight? The actual people constructing the actual project are just ordinary people trying to do a job and stay employed. Nevertheless, companies in strained economic times could be in a hurry to get and complete contracts and rush a job at the expense of safety and quality. Also workers eager to keep a job could try to increase their productivity by taking drugs to keep

them awake for extended periods of time. How do you ensure subcontractors maintain fair practices without undo pressure on construction workers?

The Energy Act of 2005 details actions that should be in place by all vendors and subcontractors for these projects for drug testing and rehab of their employees. Can you elaborate these plans in the project descriptions? Please elaborate the allowable conditions for construction workers. For example, how long are they allowed to work on one shift? Do they have any limitations similar to pilots to ensure they are alert and rested?

Thank you for taking another comment letter on this project.

Sincerely,
Cynthia M. Buxton
On behalf of herself.

CoChair of the Forest Committee of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Member of POC, ECCAC/ SD River Park Foundation
Adoptive Parent of the Proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness

Imperial Beach, Ca. 91932
January 21, 2011

Cristina Piraino

From: Edie Harmon [desertharmon@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 01:19 PM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov; Daniel_Steward@ca.blm.gov; Angelina Havens; Jim Minnick; Jack Terrazas
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Scoping issues
Attachments: Scoping re Ocotillo Express Wind Project.pdf

Please accept these timely submitted scoping concerns for the Ocotillo Express Wind Project. There may be additional concerns submitted to the County by its January 25, 2011 deadline.

It is my understanding that comments submitted from an individual may be considered as comments from any organization of which that individual is a member, if an organization so chooses.

Thank you,

Edie Harmon

desertharmon@gmail.com

619-729-7178

Edie Harmon
P.O. Box 444, Ocotillo, CA 92259
desertharmon@gmail.com
January 21, 2011

Scoping issues for Ocotillo Express Wind Project

NOI for BLM CACA 051552
NOP for CEQA EIR

To:

caocotillo@blm.gov
[Daniel Steward@blm.gov](mailto:Daniel_Steward@blm.gov)
AngelinaHavens@co.imperial.ca.us
JimMinnick@co.imperial.ca.us
JackTerrazas@co.imperial.ca.us

Please accept these Scoping comments/questions/concerns in addition to comments made at Public Scoping meetings and submitted in writing at the Second Scoping meeting. Given the short time, they are not in any particular order. However, I have tried to organize them by some topics. There are many exhibits supporting concerns, but those will be submitted with comments on the Draft EIS/EIR in the future.

Power Purchase Agreement

1. With what utility does the project applicant have a Power Purchase Agreement? When was it signed, for what cost, and for use over what transmission line? Why was this information not disclosed at either of the two scoping meetings? The Ocotillo Express Wind Facility Plan of Development is dated October 2010, but an earlier Plan of Development was dated September 2009. So, what is the problem related to Power Purchase Agreement that in 17 months the applicant has not found any utility interested enough to sign a PPA for the periodic wind energy that might be generated at the proposed site? The POD dated Oct 2010 states that a PPA for 299 MW of capacity was being finalized (POD at p.1), why is no information available in January 2011? Where is the intended end use of the proposed wind power generated by this proposed project?
2. POD sec 2.1 refers to two separate PPAs, but fails to disclose with which utility it is seeking a PPA. Why?
3. Expected life of the project just “at least 20 years” (POD p.1) possibly up to 40 years, but “if it was decided repowering was not appropriate, then when operations cease, the project would be fully decommissioned and the site fully reclaimed. All disturbed areas will be reclaimed and restored to near existing conditions.” (POD p.1) Is this why there is no PPA, because utilities realize the speculative nature of the proposed project and the intermittent nature of winds?
4. Or is there no PPA because even this week SDG&E announced an electric power rate increase because electrical usage has declined and SDG&E needed the money?

Full Reclamation and restoration to near existing conditions ???

5. Questions related to “reclamation” and “restoration” are separately addressed. Though it is not likely that the damage done by cutting in roads for heavy machinery can be eliminated, leaving any such lands reclaimed or restored. Not in an area where we can still find foot trails of earlier human occupation thousands of years ago. Please provide details of how the area impacted by the heavy machinery on dirt roads would be reclaimed or restored. At what other locations have the proposed reclamation/restoration measures been tried and with what success or lack of success. Please include information that includes sites within a 100 year floodway, floodplain and then the established communities of native vegetation that are found on the higher grounds.
6. For the asserted reclamation and restoration there must be linear surveys along the proposed locations of roads, listing the species of both terrestrial flora and fauna and airborne fauna including birds, bats, and insects at the appropriate time intervals following rainfall and before any earth disturbing activities at appropriate times of year following significant rainfall events whenever they occur? There must be photographs along the proposed linear roadways and spurs because the site is so large that it contains a wide diversity of soil surfaces and vegetation.

“Nameplate capacity” vs efficiency

7. What is meant by the term “nameplate capacity” of up to 550 MW, vs the real efficiency and periodic nature of winds in the project vicinity.

Unreliability of intermittent energy source requires new gas fired electric plant according to SDG&E

8. Winds do not blow continuously throughout the day or during the year. Thus, according to representatives at a meeting in Jacumba it is necessary to construct a gas fired electrical generating plant of equal or greater generating capacity if the unreliable wind energy operations are to be approved.
9. This must be discussed as part of the whole of the project and considered in with cumulative impacts in addition to cumulative impacts of all the other proposed wind and solar projects proposed for public lands in SW Imperial County and SE San Diego County.

Applicant’s Purpose vs. Lack of Need for the Project

10. There is a growing need to recognize that the ever continuing electrical consumption by affluent Americans occupying urban centers along the coast cannot continue to increase as asserted in the POD at p.2 according to the applicant. The Applicant’s real need is for the applicant to make money, and all the text is lots of words providing justification for the applicant’s goal of making money. After all, what is a Limited Liability Company? Sounds like if things go well and the applicant makes money, that is fine, but if things do not go as proposed there is “limited liability” to the applicant and the liability and costs of clean up are left to the public, the taxpayers and the local impacted community.

11. There is litigation related to the now abandoned Tessera Imperial Valley Solar Project and Sunrise Powerlink, and the outcome of legal actions suggest to many that any reliance on Sunrise Powerlink is premature at best.
12. Concerns about reliance on Sunrise Powerlink are noted in a recent letter by Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Chair Carolyn Chase which noted among other things that :
 13. “SDG&E now states the purpose of the Sunrise Powerlink will be to move (fossil) energy that is displaced from the Southwest Powerlink if and when wind resources are added. However, SDG&E is mandated by the state to replace its fossil fuel power with renewables in order to conform to the 33% RPS. The strategic objective should be to substitute fossil energy with renewable energy, not build new transmission lines to move fossil power displaced by renewable energy flowing on existing lines.
 14. “SDG&E already has over 5,000 MW of high voltage transmission import capacity, including the 2,500 MW coastal pathway, 2,000 MW Southwest Powerlink, and 800 MW Mexico line at Tijuana. The peak 1-hr load ever recorded in SDG&E territory is just over 4,700 MW. Average load is around 2,500 MW. Minimum (late night) load is as low as 1,700 MW. SDG&E already has sufficient gross transmission import capacity to meet all of its load without the Sunrise Powerlink (especially considering that there already over 2,500 MW of local gas-fired and renewable generation sources).
 15. “Virtually all California utility-scale desert solar projects are now subject to injunctions (Dec. 15, 2010, against Imperial Valley Solar) or restraining orders (Dec. 27, 2010) for failure of BLM to adequately address Native American cultural resources and endangered species.
 16. “Sunrise is expected to cost \$2 billion to construct, and will cost ratepayers \$10 billion over its 40-yr book life. About \$1 billion of this total will be profits to the utilities whether a single watt-hr of energy of any type ever flows over the line.
 17. “The \$2 billion could provide 1,100 MW of distributed solar PV capacity from solar rooftop and small ground-mounted installations near existing transmission lines by 2015, with the first systems coming online in 2011. (Note: The 1,100 MW distributed PV capacity calculation is based on current prices of a composite gross capital cost of \$4/Wac for a mix of rooftop and ground-mounted PV arrays, plus existing 30% investment tax credit and accelerated depreciation.)
 18. “The bottom line is that it makes no economic or environmental sense to construct the high impact 1,000 MW Powerlink that by itself produces 0 MW of renewable energy, when for the same money we could build 1,100 MW of no impact, 100% renewable distributed solar at the point-of-use.
 19. “In fact, having the ratepayers pay \$10 billion to support the Sunrise Powerlink negatively impacts efforts of SDG&E to achieve the 33% RPS by 2020.” (Chase 2011)
20. See Bill Powers. 9-2010. “Today’s California Renewable Energy Strategy - Maximize Complexity and Expense.” Nat Gas & Electricity Journal. Pp. 19-26 for a discussion of why remote renewables projects miss the mark, and that the major interest of the Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) is in transmission because that is where the money is.

Alternatives to proposed project

21. Rather than citing a forecast of increased electricity sales (POD at 2) there must be a consideration of the need to reduce per capita electrical consumption as a means of solving the energy needs of California, especially in light of the announcement that SDG&E is increasing electric rates because electricity usage has dropped. So there as a real question about need if for anything other than corporate profits for companies and individuals who live at sites remote from the proposed project and its adverse environmental and environmental justice impacts..
22. How far could \$2 billion go to reducing CA electrical energy needs in both San Diego and Imperial Counties. The following suggestions should be considered as alternatives for reducing electricity usage, improving the quality of housing, and as means of providing local jobs where real people live and would like to work.
 - a. Electrical usage could be reduced by improving building efficiency by adding insulation,
 - b. Double pane windows that can be opened for ventilation and at times when temperatures are neither extremely hot or extremely cold. Having windows that open will reduce the need for perpetual heating or cooling and air exchanges in large commercial and industrial buildings and offices. Appropriate orientation of windows.
 - c. Insulating roofs and white roofs to reflect heat in summer
 - d. Rooftop PV for electrical generation and to shade roofs
 - e. Landscaping to maximize solar gain in winter months and minimize solar gain in hot summer months
 - f. PV over parking structure roofs and over parking lots will also reduce summer heat gain by asphalted surfaces
 - g. Energy efficient appliances to replace older less efficient large appliances
 - h. Skirting requirements to reduce airflow under mobile homes and trailers used as residences would reduce cold floors in winter and hot floors in summer
 - i. Understanding that structures not need to be hot boxes in winter and over cooled in summer, appropriate clothing for seasons in southern CA just as in the northern parts of US where people have no air conditioning and often heat homes only into the 60s in winter, choosing to wear warm clothing and bedding.

Life cycle costs and environmental impacts of mining, processing and transportation of raw materials needed for construction of all components of wind turbines

23. POD at Sec. 1.2 (p.2) fails to disclose how much CO2 and vehicle emissions would be generated by the mining, assembly and transportation of materials from source of origin to the proposed project site. Mining of raw materials can result in excessive environmental damage to both the land and water resources and degradation of air quality from processing and transportation. Mining is done with massive machinery that burns pollution fuels, and

the steel for turbine construction comes from materials likely mines a thousand or more miles from the proposed project site.

24. The NEPA/CEQA document must reveal the true costs of the proposed wind energy project from mining to ultimate disposal, and consider all the fossil fuel that would be used in the various mining, manufacturing, and transportation of materials from source to project site.
25. What is the source of iron and materials for the steel towers, where are they manufactured, and by what means transported to the intended site?
26. What is the source of gravel and aggregate for making the concrete supports. How will it be transported and what are the energy costs for each turbine. POD p. 6 refers to Fig 2.9-1 to give locations, but there is no fig 2.9-1 included. What is the location and distance of each 15 acre borrow pit and what kinds of efforts could be made to reclaim and restore an area to near original conditions from which these materials have been removed? How much fuel is to be used to transport the aggregate and/or concrete, and what type of fuel?

Roads, construction site disturbances and reclamation/restoration??

27. How would laydown , construction, staging areas and parking areas be reclaimed or restored after years of heavy compaction? Where in similar terrain, soils, vegetation has this been successfully done in places with comparable rainfall?
28. 36 ft wide dirt roads with another 20 ft area for grading and clearing in addition to a 500 ft diameter area temporary at the base of each turbine sounds like a massive amount of destruction that is unlikely to be successfully reclaimed after disturbance? Again, where has any successful reclamation/restoration for a similarly disturbed area with comparable rainfall. What will be done to reduce generation of dust, PM10 and PM 2.5 in the proposed project area. How will the downwind community and residents be protected from the additional air pollution?
29. It seems obvious from The table in POD 15-16 Sec 1.5, that Pattern energy has never completed a project of the proposed size proposed for Ocotillo Express Wind or ever completed any project of any size in habitat similar or with comparable rainfall.

Using water from Pine Valley requires CEQA review by San Diego County also !

30. What is the source of water for the concrete? At public scoping meeting a representative of Pattern Energy stated that the water would come from Pine Valley. This necessitates a groundwater study in Pine Valley and necessitates that CEQA review also include San Diego County. Pine Valley is 46 miles from Ocotillo, so each tanker truck will travel most likely about 100 miles round trip from where ever the source of water is, through the townsite of Ocotillo to each turbine site. 5,900 vehicle trips (POD 7) up and down the mountains over 4,000 ft passes to haul water for concrete. What are the vehicle emissions and fuel usage associated hauling water?
31. There is no El Centro Irrigation District (POD 7) in Imperial County. Imperial Irrigation District cannot provide water for the project because it lies outside the IID Service area and

there is no surplus water for renewable energy projects according to IID staff. The only exception to service outside the IID is water for Plaster City, and a ROW was approved in 1981 for that water use.

32. I have lived here for more than 33 years and have never heard of the El Centro Irrigation District and/or any El Centro District water well. What is this supposed to mean and why was such information accepted by BLM and/or the County?

Why destroy all vegetation and then compact soil for a 10 acre batch plant?

33. A 10 acre batch plant is enormous! I live on a parcel smaller than 10 acres, and cannot imagine any reason why BLM should ever consider destruction of 10 acres for a batch plant. Why would BLM consider this an acceptable low intensity use in a Limited Use area between two wilderness areas and in sight of the Anza Borrego State Park.
34. How do such activities comport with the text of the BLM California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980 as Amended?
35. And why three 15 acre locations for gravel and aggregate areas ?

Dynamic compaction issues (POD p 6) and inadequate efforts at restoration (POD 25)

36. The POD states that: “To meet the necessary compaction standards (determined by geotechnical studies), it may be necessary to employ dynamic compaction (process in which heavy weights are systematically and repeatedly dropped on the pad), and graders and bulldozers used to achieve the required levels and grades.” (POD 6) How would such compaction affect the ability to reclaim and/or restore the area? Simply removing the thin 3-6 inch layer of topsoil (POD :25) is unlikely to do anything to allow the reestablishment of the native vegetation whose root systems often extend to considerable depths or to the caliche layer. The native shrubby vegetation in the area likely all have root systems that extend deeper than 6 inches, so compacting the soil as described at POD 6, will likely present the return of native vegetation species composition that exists prior to the project disturbance. What, if any evidence is there that a heavily compacted soil with a thin layer of “topsoil” can recover with only seeding and fertilization as suggested in POD 25?
37. Have the techniques been used and successfully reclaimed with vegetation, rainfall and terrain such as at the proposed site, with a return to species composition pre-project? If so where, and when? What is the long term monitoring? Mine reclamation has most often failed over the long term and impacts here do not sound easy to repair.
38. What are the impacts of the dynamic compaction and road building and travel of heavy equipment on the miles of roads on borrowing species of lizards, reptiles and small mammals or ground nesting birds?

Dismantling using an air hammer to break up concrete foundations .

39. Dismantling using an air hammer to break up concrete foundations will have adverse noise

impacts on sensitive biological receptors, likely including humans. How far to the noise and vibrations of such activities extend and what are the impacts on bighorn sheep, birds, bats humans and small mammals and reptiles?

What is meant by soil stabilization and how would that be done without permanent degradation? (POD Sec 1.3.10)

40. If chemicals or fertilizers are used how would they be prevented from entering the soil and potentially reaching groundwater or from becoming airborne and entrained in dust and thereby becoming a health hazard for both people and wildlife or domestic animals?

Roads, clearing of surface areas, buried lines, and compaction impacts on wildlife and birds

41. How far will the vibrations and noise from these surface disturbing activities travel and impact wildlife and biological resources of all kinds? Many animal species have hearing far more sensitive than humans. How will construction and impacts of road use affect wildlife and birds in the project vicinity?
42. How will the noises, habitat fragmentation, exposure to increased activity impact behaviors and reproductive success of reptiles, birds and mammals that are currently found utilizing or passing through the area. How would the noise and low infrasonic frequency noises impact sensitive birds, reptiles and especially mammals? How might the wind turbine operations impact feeding behavior and ability to communicate with others of their species? Would the noise and vibrations disrupt or alter range of animals currently occupying or traveling through the area? If so, what kind of impact might that have on species and/or individual health and reproductive success?
43. What are the impacts of the destruction of so much vegetation in an area where there small range mammals and reptiles?
44. Were biological surveys done following the proposed road alignments? If not they should be done. Otherwise it is not possible to use any biological surveys of the past to determine the nature and extent of impacts of the project activities on all living organisms on the site or within the impacts footprint.
45. How would erosion and run-off be prevented as surface contours are altered to accommodate the 55 miles of new wide dirt roads for heavy equipment?
46. How will the fugitive dust generated by such a massive construction project impact the vegetation in the vicinity of roads and disturbed areas, and how far will the dust travel before deposition on vegetation. Vegetation covered with dust is of lower forage quality for everything from insects to large mammals and birds. Reduced photosynthetic activity will also likely lower seed production. This is a significant issue in an area with often very limited rainfall to wash off accumulated dust.
47. Will there be an accumulation of diesel particulates for other hazardous materials on vegetation not destroyed, but adjacent to the dirt roadways? If so this not only reduces

photosynthetic activity, but may bioaccumulate in the food chain of animals with small home ranges. in the vicinity of turbines

48. How would all the new roads in addition to the other project activities impact the patterns of travel fro the bighorn sheep as they move from the Coyote Mts Wilderness area to the Jacumba Mts wilderness? What are the potential long term consequences of such habitat modification and interference with migratory routes for bighorn sheep? Is there direct mortality expected or just reduces species viability.

Biological resources survey protocols

49. The EIS/EIR must include the details and design decisions for the survey protocols for vegetation, wildlife and birds. How were survey points or transect lines chosen? Did the protocol have provisions for expanding the survey areas to include habitat or terrain most likely to disclose the presence or abundance of given species.? What times of year, when in respect to rainfall and temperatures were surveys done. What times of day were surveys done for wildlife and birds? Were surveys stopped if conditions of temperature or wind made sightings unlikely, and were surveys resumed at times when animals were more likely to be present?
50. Please provide protocol and survey points and transects throughout the entire project area. The proposed project extends from east of Ocotillo to the Anza Borrego State Park on the west and from the Coyote Mts Wilderness on the north to the Jacumba Mountains wilderness on the south. Were surveys conducted throughout the proposed 15,000 acre project area, including close to residential areas where there are tall trees and power poles that could serve as perch sites for birds of prey. This is important as residents and others have reported seeing golden eagles on power poles in the Nomirage area. What times of day were raptor surveys done? Dis times include both times and locations where raptors were likely to be foraging for prey or resting on perch sites?
51. When, where and how were bat surveys done.

Roads, clearing of surface areas, buried lines, and compaction impacts on human health

52. Imperial County has a high incidence of both asthma and allergies. And it is an endemic area for coccidioidomycosis (Valley fever) fungal spores that can inhabit the upper inches of undisturbed desert soils. If these soils are disturbed and there is a dry/rainfall pattern , then the proposed project may pose a very serious public health threat to nearby down-wind residents and spores could be carried much further, exposing many County residents with a pathogen which can make a susceptible person extremely ill.
53. What actions would be taken to reduce potential for human exposures to cocci fungal spores? If the is an increase in the number of cases of Valley fever, will the project applicant pay the full treatment costs for any and all diagnosed with Valley fever after the start of any construction activities? Will the applicant pay for appropriate confirmatory laboratory testing of those exhibiting clinical symptoms if this CDC mandatory reportable infectious disease?

Construction and operational impacts

54. Describe the construction and operational impacts on biological resources including listed species and human health impacts on nearby and down-wind more distant human populations.
55. How will construction and operation activities impact movements of bighorn sheep through the area as they travel from the Coyote Mts Wilderness to the Jacumba Mts wilderness?
56. How will construction and operation impact the density and diversity of prey for avian predators that have been observed to use the area?
57. What are the construction and operational impacts on military flight paths and Border Patrol operations both on the ground and using low flying aircraft, especially at night when it would be more difficult to “see” where wind turbines are.
58. Border Patrol agents have informed me that there are “thousands” of bats observed at night coming in to feed on insects attracted to the lighting at the Border Patrol check point on State Hwy 2. What bat surveys have been done, and where? How would construction and operation impact the bat populations in the area. There are hundreds of bats observed feeding above residential properties and many species have been observed both feeding and roosting to the SE of the project site. If the Border Patrol check point has become a major foraging area, then impacts from the turbine operations could be very significant given bat fatalities at other wind turbine locations.

Decommissioning

59. POD 25 Decommissioning process sounds like boilerplate text lifted from some other project and appears to either contradict the notion of restoration/reclamation or negate the idea of recycling and removal of materials from site. There is only one parcel of private land and all the rest is BLM managed public lands limited use designation. So what is meant by the statements that: “These areas shall be returned as close as reasonably possible to pre-construction conditions suitable for current adjacent land.” (POD 25) and “Other than those roads that the landowners wish to retain, access roads owned by the wind plant operator that lead to the wind turbines would be removed and restored in a manner consistent with current adjacent land use.” (POD 26) ??

Rare earth minerals as components of wind energy turbines

60. What rare earth minerals are used in the manufacture of the wind turbine engines and blades? What mine or country is the source of the rare earth minerals and what are the environmental impacts of mining for those rare earths? Is the processing done in the country of origin or are the rocks containing rare earth minerals transported and exported for manufacture elsewhere?
61. What is the energy cost and air quality and public health costs of mining, processing , transporting rare earth minerals doe the manufacture of components of the proposed wind

turbines. In other words, what is the true energy cost and environmental costs and public health costs for this supposedly “green renewable energy”? Please see the following article about rare earth minerals mining in China.

62. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1241872/EXCLUSIVE-Inside-Chinas-secret-toxic-unobtainium-mine.html#ixzz1BIZALX3h>
63. And another article about rare earths mining from the Denver Post at http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_17109238 . Both articles point to the very serious problems of environmental degradation and water quality issues associated with mining rare earth minerals necessary for “green” energy projects..

Jobs are not to local County residents

64. Why isn't there any guarantee of jobs for local residents? POD 2.5 in suggesting that workers would likely stay in hotels or rental properties in El Centro, suggests that workers would be brought in from outside Imperial County for the construction jobs.

Human health impacts

65. 55 miles of new dirt roads for use by heavy equipment (POD Sec. 2.5 at p. 19) and the large areas identified for clearing around each turbine suggests major dust generating sources which could have human health impacts including exposures of sensitive human receptors to Coccidioidomycosis of Valley fever. Based on CDC maps, all of Imperial County is considered an endemic area, and evidence reveals that there appears to be a higher incidence of fungal spores in previously undisturbed desert soils than in areas that have been intensively farmed for decades.
66. Please address the impacts of low frequency noise and vibrations, including infrasound on sensitive people in their homes, especially at night when they are trying to sleep. Published literature indicated that industrial scale wind turbines produce significant levels of low frequency noise and vibrations that can be very disturbing to nearby and sensitive residents. Although not believed to cause hearing loss, the noise and vibration can penetrate homes, thereby becoming an issue for residents but not so much for workers who spend less time in the vicinity of the turbines. Effects are more pronounced in areas with quiet nighttime noises, and in the elderly, young children and some people with pre-existing medical conditions. It has been noted that if some property owners are getting payments for having turbines on their property or are not permanent residents, they are less likely to complain than others who may be experiencing adverse impacts.
67. Infrasound is detected by the ear and has subtle influences that can impact balance, tinnitus and disturb sleep among other impacts. Sleep disturbances have forced many families with members sensitive to infrasound to abandon their homes to get relief from the sleep disturbances induced by living in proximity to wind turbines. Will the project proponent agree to property value guarantees and buy out homes of impacted families Studies have indicated that sleep disturbances have been problems for residents of homes up to 5 KM away. There should be an analysis of recommendations from health professionals treating patients with health problems associated with wind turbines. Sound studies should be done

by independent professionals not associated with any wind energy company or wind energy association such as the American Wind Energy Assn (AWEA) or Canadian Wind Energy Association (CWEA) because they are likely to have an overwhelming industry bias. It is recommended to include input from independent medical and acoustical experts such as the Society for Wind Vigilance.

68. If the wind energy company truly believes that there are no adverse health impacts then it should have no difficulty in agreeing to property value guarantees. Any such guarantees and buy-outs must not be accompanied by “gag” orders attempting to silence impacted residents from speaking out.
69. The irregular noise associated with wind turbines is related to frequency and loudness that are related to variable changes in wind speed and local atmospheric conditions. Interference with sleep and repeated sleep arousals or awakenings can have a number of adverse health impacts on both brain and apparently also cardiovascular risks. Potential Health impacts on residents within 5 KM of the proposed wind turbines must be addressed. From the map provided by county it appears that turbine placement is anticipated within ½ mile of at least one home!
70. What are the potential impacts of low frequency sound, infrasound and the variable turbine speeds and pressures on other sensitive wildlife and birds in the area?
71. Many studies have recommended setbacks from residences of at least 2 KM, others suggest as much as 5 KM, but what about wildlife in the area?
72. The EIS/EIR must address the issue of shadow flicker, especially in early morning and evening when the shadows will be cast considerable distances because there is no vegetation or other structures to interrupt the visual impacts of shadow flicker. The combination of shadow flicker and low frequency noise and infrasound must be addressed because their impacts will be different for different people depending on location and sensitivities.
73. There should be no construction and traffic through the community after 8 PM as many residents are elderly and try to go to sleep earlier. This would reduce the additional noise impacts of trucking through the residential community during any proposed construction.
74. Please discuss the serious potential health impacts associated with blade glint which can cause a strobe like effect with the sun on the blades. It is our understanding that both blade glint and shadow flicker can trigger seizures in sensitive persons. What if anything can be done to prevent these impacts on sensitive residents living in the area..
75. Please also address the flashing white (during day) or red (at night) lights mounted on the nacelles? Many of us have difficulty driving toward flashing lights. I for one am extremely sensitive to flashing lights after dark.
76. It appears that the POD text authors are blinded by the anticipation of large financial returns and simply fail to understand the adverse impacts of the proposed project, the visual blight, noise, dust and public health impacts. They don't seem care nor understand because they have no connection to this sensitive part of the California desert which BLM is supposed to be protecting from impacts, thus the BLM Limited Use designation for vehicle use.

Hydrology and groundwater

77. There must be detailed descriptions of how groundwater resources will be protected from spills, etc associated with both construction and operation.
78. The POD Sec. 5.1.10.2 (p 54) fails to identify the source of water for construction and dust suppression> Why and what are the impacts at the source of water to be used.

Potential impacts on radar, Border Patrol operations and DOD flight paths

79. These issues must be addressed especially in light of the fact that it is well documented elsewhere that wind turbines can interfere with radar and aircraft being picked up on radar.

Cultural resources and human remains

80. I have been informed that Border Patrol is knowledgeable about the presence of human remains on the proposed project site. What is the final disposition of recent remains and what if any investigation may or may not be complete?
81. In the past during hikes over the lands proposed, I have discovered what I believe to be evidence of pre-historic human activity. I leave cultural resource issues to Native Americans who have expressed great concerns about the sites and the visual resource component associated with past locations of human activity.

Visual resources

82. Please address the current BLM VRM Class designation and provide the photographic evidence that supported the VRM Class designation that was asserted in the 2010 POD at 49. It is difficult to understand how such an incredibly scenic area could have been designated as a VRM Class III area, unless there is some serious mistake. Unless one is specifically turning to look to the east and sees the powerlines, the viewshed both in the foreground and the background is incredibly scenic mountains of the Coyote Mountains and Jacumba Mountains wilderness areas. The transmission lines do not stand out as an industrial eyesore as would the wind turbines with their visual impacts which could not be ignored unless one is blind or extremely nearsighted.
83. The fact that the POD at 50 mentions an area of "high four -wheel drive (4WD) recreational use suggests that the authors fail to understand that the area for which project approval is sought is a Limited use area where vehicle use is restricted to approved routes of travel. The nearest area of high ORV use is the Plaster City Open Area many miles to the east and not near the project site. People may use 4WD vehicles to reach an area to part and explore for geologic purposes, follow historical trails, hike or simply explore the area for the abundance of vegetation during spring blooms. Any such asserted heavy 4WD vehicle use would likely be illegal it resulted in large scale vegetation destruction.
84. The proposed wind turbine project would turn a currently scenic area into an industrial viewshed, completely inconsistent with the scenic vistas in western Imperial County and as Interstate 8 winds through the Jacumba mountains and between wilderness and State park areas. Using the BLM VRM criteria in POD at 49, it seems that the existing VRM class should be II because there are not manmade structures that dominate the viewshed as would occur if the Wind turbine project were to be approved.. The Ocotillo Express Wind Project

is completely inconsistent with BLM VRM Classes I, II, and III.

85. Again, unless one is blind, is nearsighted or only travels through the area after dark, it would not be possible not to have the viewshed dominated by the ugly wind turbines which seem out of place adjacent to wilderness areas and a State Park.
86. Please allow for public input in selecting the Key Observation Points for visual resources impacts. Applicants always seem blind to what the public sees and believes is important.

Air quality

87. How does contributing to the already serious non-attainment status for Imperial County Air Quality by the construction and transportation of materials, creating 55 miles of new dirt roads that will be causing increase air pollution and fugitive dust and tailpipe emissions as they are used by heavy equipment and transport of oversized loads do anything other than make a bad situation even worse, especially for the nearby down-wind communities?

Hazardous materials

88. There must be detailed discussion of how to protect the groundwater basin and the nearby community from hazardous materials stored or use on site and from fluids leaking from vehicles and transported materials.
89. How would the lubricating fluids be removed, stored and transported to avoid contamination of the groundwater basin. If perhaps more likely when, a nacelle or blade catches fire, how will the local fire department be able to respond, what precautions are necessary to prevent the spread of damage from one turbine to another as happened at Campo, where and how will fluids and damaged materials be disposed of?
90. Vegetation can be dry in period when there may be many months between rainfalls. What precautions would be taken to prevent the spread of a desert wildfire such as occurred on BLM managed lands in the East Mesa some years ago? Experience at Campo suggests a real need to set back turbines further from public roads in the event that a turbine blade is thrown off. If a blade lands in the road, it has the potential to cause a very serious accident if not quickly removed. This was a concern of a firefighter from the Boulevard Fire Station at the January 19, 2011 public meeting on wind turbines.

Transportation and traffic

91. What are the proposed routes of travel for all components and activities?

Real estate values and Property Value Guarantees

92. Changing the quality of the scenic vistas from all residences in the Ocotillo/Nomirage communities will result in a decline in real estate values according to Michael McCann, a real estate appraiser from Chicago who is familiar with appraisals where properties have been adversely impacted by proximity to wind turbines. (At public meeting at Boulevard January 19, 2011)

93. There can be a 60-80% decline in property values where wind turbines are close or where human health has been impacted. The adverse impacts of wind turbines on property values has been found to extend up to 5 miles from turbines , especially where noise is an impact and turbines are within a mile of the property.
94. Why? Because of noise, infrasound, shadow flicker, blade glint and medical symptoms that come after the installation of wind turbines. Not only have adverse impacts been observed in humans, but also in livestock and domestic animals/pets.
95. Wind turbines change the character of a community to industrial from whatever it was before.
96. Property Value Guarantees are necessary for all properties within 1-2 miles of turbines, that would mean many PVGs would be necessary for residents/properties other than Rick Hamilton who is leasing his property for project use. Even though the designation of Pattern Energy as a LLC suggests that the company does not have deep pockets, there must be provisions for PVGs . But really, Mr. McCann suggested that there needs to be a moratorium on siting wind turbines until there is a better understanding of a safe distance of a turbine from residences.

.USGS Seismic studies and Atmospheric River extreme storm event issues.

97. Please address the implications of the USGS seismic studies being conducted in multiple places in Imperial County now, including in the Ocotillo area within the proposed wind project area, and the USGS winter storm Atmospheric River 1000, (ARk Scenario) a 201 page USGS publication made available on the USGS website this past week that noted a past history of catastrophic storms striking California with high rains and high winds with the catastrophic effects such as 1861-1862,
98. These are two very serious hazardous studies being conducted by scientists from USGS and a number of agencies and universities.
99. Projections for another major earthquake in Imperial County of the magnitude of the Easter 2010 Earthquake in Baja California in the not too distant future, means that it is likely to happen at least during the life of the proposed project. Generating an intermittent source of electricity at a site remote from the intended source of use raises serious questions about the potential impacts of violent shaking associated with a strong earthquake much closer to the proposed wind turbines, their underground buried electrical connections and the connected project /transmission lines. The Elsinore Fault is one of the major faults that is being studied and all faults in Imperial County have been active and experienced increasing stresses during the past more than 9 months. Last summer, staff at Pasadena told me to expect another magnitude 7 or greater on the Laguna Salada Fault closer to Ocotillo within the next few years.
100. What studies have been done projecting the impacts of a magnitude 7 earthquake within one to five miles of wind turbines of the structure and magnitude of those proposed. Please provide the information in a seismic appendix.
101. What is the potential scenario and likely outcome if either a wind turbine or powerline/transmission line tower might sway or topple and impact other components of either the transmission line or another wind turbine? There must be a discussion of potential fire hazards, including fire, related to a major seismic event within 5 miles of the proposed project site.

102. The proposed project cannot be separated from considering the impacts of the connected transmission line projects, both in terms of environmental impacts and the concerns being raised by the USGS.
103. The ARk storm projections refer to a winter storm that hit California in the winter 1861-1862, turning the Central Valley into a lake 300 miles long and 20 miles wide and knocking out infrastructure. The ARk text goes on to state that following such a storm along coastal California could mean that:

Power, water, sewer, and other lifelines experience damage that takes weeks or months to restore. Flooding evacuation could involve 1.5 million residents in the inland region and delta counties. Business interruption costs reach \$325 billion in addition to the \$400 property repair costs, meaning that an ARk Storm could cost on the order of \$725 billion, which is nearly 3 times the loss deemed to be realistic by the ShakeOut authors for a severe southern California earthquake, an event with roughly the same annual occurrence probability. (ARk 2011 at p. v)
104. How would such a winter storm along coastal and inland San Diego County impact the ability of SDG&E to deliver power and how might the transmission lines fare in the excessive winds that are projected to accompany an Atmospheric River storm event?

Cristina Piraino

From: EwingDuo@aol.com
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 10:04 PM
To: caocotillo@blm.gov; cedric_perry@ca.blm.gov; Angelina Havens; Jack Terrazas
Subject: Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project

My name is Parke Ewing, I live at 98 West Imperial Highway, Ocotillo, Ca. 92259.

Please add another reason why the Ocotillo Express Wind Energy Project should not be constructed. Will the Sidewinders end up migrating to my property because they will be forced out of their habitat due to construction. Will my grandchildren be more susceptible to sidewinder bites? Will the citizens of Ocotillo constantly be threatened with sidewinders? What is the plan to eliminate excessive exposure to sidewinders that will be forced from their habitat? Is there a plan?

This project benefits only one person in Ocotillo. Does anyone care about the people of Ocotillo? All I hear is how much will the investors of Pattern Energy increase their profits. What about the investment I have in my property? My property value will certainly decrease. I've heard decreasing values from 20-40%. This project is simply not fair to me or the people of Ocotillo. Not to mention the destruction of the desert. If this project is allowed to be built the desert in this area will be permanently ruined.

I adamantly oppose this project. Put these type of projects in the backyards or roofs of the people that benefit from them. That is, if you call raising electricity rates a benefit!

Sincerely:

Parke Ewing

jeepmeech@sbcglobal.net

To vkastoll@blm.gov, mwest@ca.blm.gov

cc

01/24/2011 04:00 PM

Subject elcentro feedback

Please respond to jeepmeech@sbcglobal.net
--

name = Mark Meech

organization =

email = jeepmeech@sbcglobal.net

subject = Ocotillo Express

FeedbackType = Comment

request_comment = How can you let the Ocotillo Express project happen when 5 of your top 10 sites on your list will be so drastically impacted with these 450 tall disrtactions of these areas?

username123 =

sentinal = Sentinal

page_referred_from = http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/arch_cult/yuha_pc.html

fo = 8

Submit = Send Request