

Thank you for your comment, David Fick.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60244.

Comment Date: September 14, 2009 17:41:18PM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarM60244

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Attachment: BLM-PEIS Comments.doc

Comment Submitted:

See below attachment

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Solar Energy PEIS – Solar Energy Study Areas
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue
EVS/90
Argonne, IL, 60439

September 14th, 2009

Re: Scoping Comments on the Solar Energy Study Areas for the Solar PEIS

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA) represents the Morongo Basin's environmental concerns for four decades. The Morongo Basin is approximately seven hundred square miles between the Joshua Tree National Park on the South and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms on the North and includes the City of Twentynine Palms, the Town of Yucca Valley and the communities of Joshua Tree, Morongo Valley, Landers and Wonder Valley.

The MBCA formed to battle illegal power transmission lines through the Morongo Basin in 1969. It took over a decade to set SCE in the right direction in their previous agreements on power transmission corridors. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in the last couple of years has been attempting the Green Path North power transmission project through the western portion of the Morongo Basin on mostly BLM and pristine conservation lands. The LADWP is meeting a 99% resistance to this project from affected communities and San Bernardino County (see www.cadesertco.org). Any large scale solar projects within the Morongo Basin would require transmission lines going west that would meet equally 99% resistance from the Morongo Basin public.

Besides the unwanted power transmission lines, the proposed solar projects would be requiring some of the precious water of the Morongo Basin. The Morongo Basin is importing water (through the Sate Water Project) to replenish it's western aquifers since 1994. There isn't enough water through that arrangement to supply the current water demands of the Morongo Basin population.

The MBCA supports the comments by the Joshua Tree National Park and the MCAGCC 29 Palms in general and the comments by the Mojave Desert Land Trust and the Citizens for the Chuckwalla Valley in particular.

This "fast-tracking" and big solar projects are leading to the ruination of the California desert region for everybody that in the long run will only make some big utilities, some politicians and lots of lawyers happy. Roof Top Solar is the direction this nation's renewable energy policy should embrace as priority. It would be more feasible, quicker and adaptable to the communities needing to meet their energy demands.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Fick, President
Morongo Basin Conservation Association