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Steve Flock, Mayor Pro Tem
John E. Cole
Jim Harris
Steve Spear

CITY MANAGER
Michael Tree

September 1, 2009

RE: Comments for the Department of the Interior and Department of Energy regarding Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

To whom this may concern,

The City of Twentynine Palms would like to take this opportunity to comment on the study being prepared by the Department of Energy and Bureau of Land Management, regarding the development of several large solar energy projects being proposed near our community. Twentynine Palms recognizes the need to move toward clean, renewable energy sources and wants to encourage responsible, environmentally sensitive planning for such development.

Twentynine Palms is a small desert community that relies heavily on the tourist dollars of those visiting the Joshua Tree National Park and other tourist sites including the Mojave National Preserve and the Amboy Crater. Specific sites such as the "Riverside East" area border Joshua Tree National Park and thereby directly affect our community. Other potential sites, including "Iron Mountain", span large areas between Twentynine Palms, the Arizona border to the east, and the Mojave National Preserve to the north. Industrialization of this pristine desert region will result in diminished scenic views and may have significant impacts on our local tourism economy.

In addition to potential negative impacts to our local economy, there are several other areas of concern with respect to these large scale solar developments. These include:

- The immense swaths of land that must be used for their development and the respective environmental damage that will result.
- The loss of beautiful desert vistas and cultural identity.
- The destruction of wildlife corridors and habitat.
- The devastating effects that may be felt on economic development, especially with respect to the tourism industry along transmission corridors.
- The immense quality of life issues that will result from the placement of transmission lines through and near the community.

- The potential limits placed on future transportation corridors.
- Water usage as it relates to our area's overall water supply and quality.
- Potential negative impacts on aviation from our local and regional County airports.
- Potential negative impacts relating to the mission of the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) including its inability to expand and potential limits regarding training and aviation.

Finally, Twentynine Palms would like to thank the Department of Interior and the Department of Energy for this opportunity to provide comments on these agencies Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have concerning the comments made here.

Sincerely,



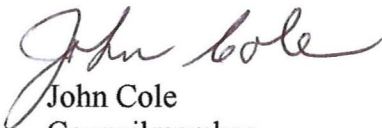
Joel Klink
Mayor



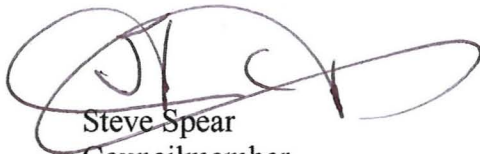
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