



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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July 28, 2009

Solar Energy PEIS
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 S. Cass Avenue – EVS/900
Argonne, IL 60439

RE: PEIS Solar Energy Scoping Process

Gentlemen:

The County supports BLM's efforts to more rapidly and effectively move California and other western states toward renewable energy resources and respectfully wishes to make clear its desire to have local interests represented by being integrally involved not only in the planning and environmental review stages involved in the solar process, but in all phases – from inception to completion.

Inyo County requests to participate as a cooperating agency with the BLM in the PEIS process for solar energy development in California. Specifically, Inyo County requests coordination with BLM on this important issue, as provided under FLPMA and NEPA, in order that the County may take an active role with BLM in investigating and shaping future solar development within California.

Specifically, in reviewing the proposed renewable energy study areas, we notice both that there are no areas identified in Inyo County, and that there are areas immediately to the east of the County, in Nevada, that are identified for review. These areas (in western Nevada) end abruptly at the County (and California) border. There are extensive BLM lands in Inyo County that are contiguous with the identified study areas in Nevada and that possess the same excellent renewable energy potential (see two attached maps). Further, in Inyo County, BLM lands surround private, undeveloped lands in the Charleston View area (south and west of Pahrump, Nevada) that would be excellent land on which to locate solar production as well as support operations for solar development both in Inyo County and Nevada.

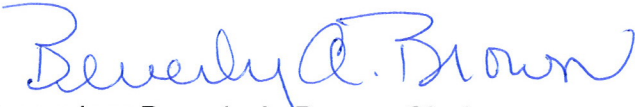
We request that the BLM review the identified study areas with a view toward expanding them across political boundaries to similar lands in Inyo County. We believe this is important for two reasons. First, it increases the area and effectiveness of the identified study areas. The appropriateness of BLM lands for renewable energy development does not depend on state, county, or other political boundaries. Additionally, including BLM lands that are contiguous with private undeveloped land opens the possibility for

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private/public energy partnerships. Certainly, it would increase the likelihood that these private lands could be effectively used for energy generation and, combined with BLM lands, for energy transmission. Second, such energy development could lead to increased economic development and increased tax support for the citizens of any jurisdiction in which the development occurs. Excluding appropriate contiguous lands from study areas because those lands lie across political or BLM organizational boundaries removes an economic opportunity for similarly situated lands and jurisdictions, at no real savings to the study process. This seems neither logical nor fair.

For these reasons, Inyo County requests that BLM expand and modify its renewable energy study areas to include contiguous and appropriate BLM land in Inyo County.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Beverly A. Brown, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Atch: Map

cc: Greg Miller, Renewable Energy Program Mgr., BLM California Desert District
California Energy Commission, Clare Laufenberg Gallardo
Board of Supervisors, Inyo County
Kevin Carunchio, County CAO
Randy Keller, Deputy County Counsel
Doug Wilson, Willdan Associates