

Thank you for your comment, Sita Antel.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50104.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50104

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In evaluating the environmental impacts of largescale solar farms in southern California, the BLM should also be required to evaluate the impacts of transmission lines that would be needed to carry the energy. Specifically, any project in Southern California that would require new transmission lines should include evaluation of the impacts of the transmission lines on tourism, flying raptors, views, and endangered species in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Further, any new transmission lines should be limited to carrying only renewable energy so that the building of a new solar plant does not increase greenhouse gas emissions by facilitating the building of a power line that is then run with fossil fuels. I.e., no bait and switch on new transmission.

The BLM should vigilently study the impacts on water, as many solar plants use water. The overdraft of the Colorado River and the water transfers from agriculture to San Diego should be studied as part of the EIR to determine if solar plants would cause further water shortages, therefore instigating future water transfers and what the impacts would be on the farming economy if a project on BLM land requires significant water.

Light pollution should also be studied to determine if the solar arrays will cause a problem for adequate viewing of the night sky, including what effect such light pollution created by the arrays could have on endangered animals in the BLM areas.