

Appendix 5.15B
Inyo County Hydrology Methodologies Letter



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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COUNTY
OF
INYO

Doug Wilson, Interim Director

February 23, 2011

Brian Ruiz
VTN Consulting Engineers
2727 S. Rainbow Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89146-5148



Re: Hydrology Methodologies for BriteSource Hidden Hills Project

Dear Mr. Ruiz,

Thank you for meeting with County Staff regarding methodologies used for the hydrology analysis for the proposed BriteSource solar energy generating systems planned for the Hidden Hills area in Southern Inyo County. At the meeting you presented information regarding the methods used in your hydrology analysis and results obtained for on and offsite sourced stormwater and how the potential flows could impact the site.

We noted that Inyo County has not yet developed a Hydrology Manual, which would guide developers in the study of stormwater impacts to proposed construction within the County. At this time, the County evaluates proposals on a case-by-case basis, relying on the developers' engineering staff to present an evaluation and proposal for dealing with stormwater impacts. This is the current situation with the submittal from BriteSource for the proposed Hidden Hills project.

At the meeting, which was held in County offices in Independence on February 9th, VTN engineers presented information on the methods used for analysis and results of the hydrology study performed for the Hidden Hills site. VTN staff has requested that the County consider the use of the San Bernardino Hydrology Manual, including the 2010 Addendum to the Manual, which provides specific information for arid regions. The County feels that the use of the San Bernardino Hydrology Manual is appropriate for an evaluation of stormwater impacts for the Hidden Hills Project because portions of San Bernardino County lie within 15 miles of the proposed site.

VTN has also proposed the use of a 100 year, 24-hour duration storm for their hydrology modeling. The Inyo County Subdivision Ordinance specifies the use of the 100-year storm, but does not specify the duration for the storm. Therefore, the use of the 100 year 24 hour duration storm provides a conservative estimate for evaluating stormwater impacts. The County has no issues regarding the use of this frequency and duration for stormwater modeling.

VTN has also proposed the use of Army Corp of Engineers HEC-1 and HEC-RAS software for evaluating storm events and runoff as well as FLO-2D in the analysis of storm events. The County feels that the use of this software and modeling will provide a realistic analysis of stormwater impacts to the site, which will be used to develop site-specific plans for construction of the proposed facilities.

In summary, the County feels that the methods and models proposed by VTN for the Hidden Hills BriteSource Project are suitable for evaluating the stormwater impacts to the site.

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If there are specific question regarding Inyo County's specific stormwater design standards or the response to VTN regarding the stormwater evaluation for the BriteSource Hidden Hills Project, please direct them to our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Wilson
Interim Public Works Director

cc: Kevin Carunchio, CAO
Inyo County Supervisors
County Counsel
Planning Department
Environmental Health Department
Building and Safety
file