



**Systems Assessment and  
 Facilities Siting Division**

**FILE: 07-AFC-8**

**PROJECT TITLE: Carrizo Energy Solar Farm**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone				<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:
<b>NAME:</b>	John Kessler, Chris Marxen, Eileen Allen, Eric Knight	<b>DATE:</b>	11/14/08	<b>TIME:</b> 12:30 PM
<b>WITH:</b>	Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee			
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Staff's briefing regarding the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm PSA Status			

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>07-AFC-8</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	NOV 14 2008
<b>RECD.</b>	DEC 04 2008

At Assemblyman Blakeslee's request, staff provided a briefing regarding the status of staff's analysis for the Preliminary Staff Assessment. The briefing is summarized as follows:

Biological Resources – The project could cause significant direct and cumulative impacts to habitat for the pronghorn antelope, tule elk and San Joaquin kit fox, and to migration corridors for the antelope;

- Habitat and corridor study is in-progress with CDFG, USFWS, SLO County and CEC
- Mitigation would include acquisition and easements of conservation lands, and other potential measures;

Noise – The project's noise levels would exceed the thresholds of significance during both construction and operation; Staff is requesting the applicant to prepare a Noise Mitigation Plan to identify noise control measures.

Traffic and Transportation – Large trucks requiring pilot cars or CHP escorts would cause significant traffic delays to other vehicles travelling State Route 58; Staff is requesting the applicant to prepare a Traffic Mitigation Plan to identify traffic measures to use Bitterwater Road as an alternative route, and/or to employ further measures on the proposed traffic plan.

Visual – The project would cause a significant transformation to the Carrizo Plains, changing current rural farmland to industrial use, and degrading visual quality overall;

- CEC and SLO County are requesting perimeter tree screening to soften the visual effect; and
- Provide option for residents to have trees planted along their property boundary facing the plant;

Water Resources – The project's use of 21 afy of groundwater, primarily for mirror washing, would be offset by an equal or greater amount of recharge to the aquifer that would occur by the project's matrix of retention basins throughout the solar field;

**Schedule of Upcoming Activities:**

- PSA publication – November 20, 2008
- PSA Workshop – early to mid-December
- FSA – estimated Feb. or Mar., depending on schedule of wildlife analysis/modeling

Assemblyman Blakeslee stated one of his major concerns was how the acquisition of lands for mitigation of Bio. impacts would be handled. He would like to see us working with third party non-profits such as The Nature Conservancy to establish land conservation easements rather than the State/CDFG becoming the land owner. His overall interest is to strike a balance with existing uses of land in the Carrizo Plains and the solar development projects, so as to not disrupt the lifestyle for ranchers and farmers.

Staff invited Assemblyman Blakeslee's district staff to participate in the discussions with the bio agencies on how to make the mitigation land preservation/acquisition process happen, given the three projects (Ausra, Optisolar and SunPower) proposed. He readily agreed and asked Sally Kay of his district staff to join in this effort.

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 2 of 2**



<p><b>cc:</b> Chairman &amp; Presiding Member Jackelyne Pfannenstiel, Associate Member Jeffrey Byron, Commissioner Karen Douglas, Executive Director Melissa Jones, Hearing Officer Gary Fay, Deputy Director Terry O'Brien, Director of Governmental Affairs Chris Marxen, CDFG Deputy Director Kevin Hunting, and the POS List</p>	<p><b>Signed:</b></p>          <p><b>Name:</b> John S. Kessler – Project Manager</p>
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BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
 COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
 1-800-822-6228 – [WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
 FOR THE *CARRIZO ENERGY*  
*SOLAR FARM PROJECT*

Docket No. 07-AFC-8  
**PROOF OF SERVICE**  
 (Revised 11/25/2008)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION  
 Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-8  
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**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

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## **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, Hilarie Anderson, declare that on December 4, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached ROC with Assemblyman regarding the Carrizo PSA status in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

**OR**

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

**Original Signature in Dockets**  
**Hilarie Anderson**