December 6, 2008

DOCKET 07-AFC-8	
DATE	DEC 06 2008
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Mr. John Kessler

Project Manager

Attn Docket No. 07-AFC-8

California Energy Commission

1516 Ninth Street, MS-15

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Carrizo Energy Solar Farm (07-AFC-8)

Resident Responses to Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)

Dear Mr. Kessler:

I, Michael Strobridge, resident of Carrisa Plains hereby submit responses to the PSA on the proposed Carrizo Solar Energy Industrial Site on the Carrisa Plains by Ausra. The following are my concerns regarding Noise and Vibration.

- Page 4.6-29, Public and Agency Comments- On November 8th, 2008 I sent the CEC a letter with a document attached expressing my extreme concern with the noise of the proposed industrial site and the effects on my family's health and my communities. I strongly disagree with the CEC's remarks that the noise level can be mitigated to deviate from any health related issues stemming from the given decibels by URS and the CEC. Noise pollution can cause annoyance and aggression, hypertension, high stress levels, tinnitus, hearing loss, sleep disturbances, and other harmful effects. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), health should be regarded as "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO 2001). Under this broad definition, noise-induced aggravation is an adverse health effect. As with any psychological reaction, annoyance has a wide range of individual variability, which is influenced by multiple personal and situational factors (Fields 1993, Broadbent 1972). The proposed plant is a situational factor that is affecting the health and

welfare of a community. In the Noise and Vibration section of the PSA only three residents are being addressed; yet approximately there are 16 residential homes between my residence (Strobridge) and the Bell residence. According to the CEC's findings this "situational" factor will bring noise levels causing significant noise impacts on the community surrounded by the affected vicinity during both construction and operation. My findings have been dismissed without any supporting documentation to prove otherwise. To summarize my concerns, I will acknowledge that I am not an Acoustical Engineer, but I am a Certified Technician in noise suppression, refrigeration systems, and electrical diagnostics and work daily with excessive noise conditions that have to be regulated by the EPA. To reiterate the PSA includes no scientific knowledge of the surrounding area and affects the atrocious proposed noise polluting industrial site will have on the public.

Broadbent D.E. (1972) Individual differences in annoyance by noise. *Sound, 6:* 56-61

Fields J.M. (1993) Effect of personal and situational variables on noise annoyance in residential areas. J. *Acoust. Soc. Am.,* 93: 2753-2763

- Page 4.6-27, Cumulative Impacts and Mitigation- The CEC states that the only noise from the Topaz Industrial Project would include transformers and invertors. These would be located in the center of each photovoltaic block or within the TSF project substation, relatively far away for the CESF project's noise-sensitive receptors. Staff believes that the TSF's major sources of noise would be sufficiently far away from these receptors that they would not create significant impacts when combined with the CESF project noise. This information is erroneous the TSF is located on three sides of my home; set back only 30 feet from my fence line. TSF will have an inverter block every 5 acres, these blocks produce from 56-42dBA during the day and 56-38dBA at night (see attached noise contour sheets from OptiSolar's SLO Counties Application). These contour sheets are from OptiSolar's Sarnia Industrial Site which is only a 40mw which is drastically smaller than the proposed 550mw site. This comparison is comparing apples to oranges as any educated noise professional cannot disagree. There will be approximately 32 inverter blocks directly on or just behind my property line on three sides. I agree with the findings that the staff cannot conclude that project construction will not contribute to significant undesirable cumulative noise impacts on people and wildlife within the affected area. Per the SLO County application sent in by OptiSolar the two Sites Construction will overlap in the vicinity of the CESF- it states that construction on TSF will begin first in the non-Williamson Act land- which will be located in Sections 20, 21, and 22. My home is located in Section 21- 2800ft. from the CESF site. When

you add Cumulative noise impacts from TSF ,dBA levels will be well over the predicted operational Maintenance and Construction levels, which would make CESF not able to mitigate noise at my residence (Strobridge). For example, Nighttime Maintenance alone on the CESF Site is 10 dBA over the ambient. Moving CESF any farther south would result in larger noise impacts to other residents such as SR10 which is a residence not a location. Taking that into consideration, and taking the fact that OptiSolar stated maintenance will also be done during the night it clearly shows that Cumulative Impacts need to be evaluated.

- Page 4.6-23, Nighttime Maintenance Activities- It is absurd and I am enraged that assumptions about my sleeping patterns and my interior noise levels are being decided without proper research! First I would like to state that my living standards are within my constitutional privacy rights but I will explain just a few of your ridiculous theories. The Carrisa Plains is a rural area with a different way of life than an area such as Sacramento or Palo Alto, I am up every morning at sunrise to feed animals and prepare my day. Summer is a time enjoyed outdoors on the plains. I spend my evenings and nights in the crisp non-polluted air enjoying the clear night skies free from light pollution and noise- after taking in the breathtaking views of a sunset with my family. It is my right as a tax paying American to be able to enjoy my property day or night. According to this section my family must be inside at night to avoid any noise pollution. This is in direct violation of my constitutional rights. I believe it is only fair since assumptions are made about interior noise in my home to see sufficient data supporting your interior noise findings in a rural environment and prove that they do not violate my constitutional rights as a property and home owner in any way. I am unclear why the only reference material used by the CEC is from another county besides San Luis Obispo.

- 4.6-22 CEQA IMPACTS, CEC states that the projects noise environment is very quiet. Thus, staff considers an increase of between 5 and 10dBA in the ambient level, resulting from project operation, to be significant if the project plus ambient noise level is above 40dBA at the Strobridge residence. This is unacceptable. Ambient noise at my property is 33dBA. Why is a 7dBA increase acceptable at my home but an increase of 5 dBA is all that is allowed at all other sensitive receptors? I am a tax paying home owner who deserves equal consideration. I strongly believe the CEC is giving Ausra preferential treatment. There should only be 5dBA increase at my home just like all other residences. Any thing else is subject to prejudice. If Ausra cannot meet the sound requirements- perhaps they should relocate to an

appropriate location such as Harper Lake. I demand an explanation as to why louder noise pollution is acceptable at my home compared to other sensitive noise receptors.

- Page 4.6-26, Temperature Inversion-The CEC states that the project is located in a quiet rural setting within a basin called the Carrizo plain. CEC also states that temperature inversion can occur in such a setting. I do not agree with CEC's opinion that the CESF must be in operation to evaluate Temperature Inversion. I have firsthand experience with Temperature Inversion in the Carrizo Plains. I have repeatedly told the CEC at the workshop meetings of being able to hear my neighbors small radio over 1.5 miles away in the mornings. Gordon Hayes has told me he can hear my dog barking in the morning over 3 miles away. Temperature Inversion is a common situation in the Carrizo Plains and can take place in both summer and winter mornings. I would like to refer to the PSA document 4.7-7, Meterology, "Strong atmospheric temperature inversions frequently occur especially in the late mornings and early afternoons". I firmly agree with Obed Odoemelam, Ph. D. Temperature Inversion frequently occurs in the Carrisa Plains. Since documentation is contradicting within the PSA findings I assure you that this phenomenon needs to be studied before the plant is in operation- as it could tremendously increase the noise at my home and other sensitive receptors.

In conclusion, my opinion on the extensive mitigation measures being put forth for the CESF shows how the Carrisa Plains is an inappropriate site for Ausra. If they were trying to do the right thing, why have they not contacted myself or my neighbor Santos Reyes, who are the closest and most effected residences in the Carrisa Plains?

Sincerely,

Michael Strobridge

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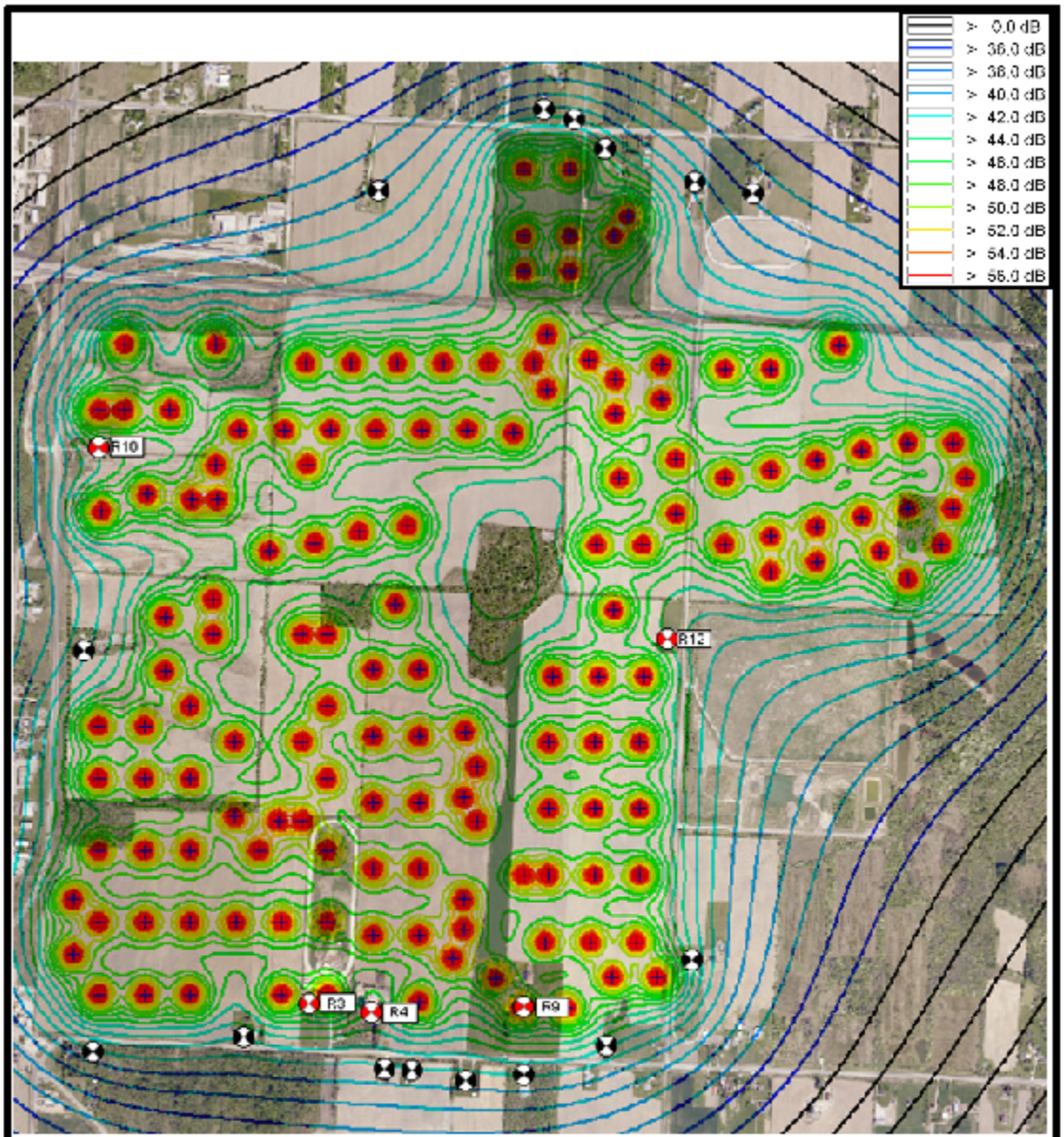
Santa Margarita, CA 93453



Golder Associates	SCALE - NTS	OPTI-SOLAR NOISE ASSESSMENT SARNIA, ONTARIO
	DATE - APR. 09/08	
	DESIGN	
	DRAWN – SI	
	CHECKED - Dd	
Project: 07-1112-0071	REVIEW - Dd	DAY TIME NOISE ASSESSMENT — FIGURE 1
	REV. - A	

Golder Associates	SCALE - NTS	OPTI-SOLAR NOISE ASSESSMENT SARNIA, ONTARIO
	DATE - APR. 09/08	
	DESIGN	
	DRAWN – SI	
	CHECKED - Dd	
Project: 07-1112-0071	REVIEW - Dd	NIGHT TIME NOISE ASSESSMENT — FIGURE 2
	REV. - A	