CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

January 18, 2008

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The Honorable Sam Blakeslee
Member of the California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4117
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Blakeslee:

On October 25, 2007, Ausra CA II, LLC (dba Carrizo Energy, LLC) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission to develop a 177- megawatt (MW) solar thermal power plant, in San Luis Obispo County, near the community of California Valley. The proposed Carrizo Energy Solar Farm (CESF) project would be owned and operated by Carrizo Energy, LLC.

The proposed CESF project design would incorporate Ausra's proprietary Compact Linear Fresnel Reflector (CLFR) technology to concentrate solar energy on a row of specially coated stainless steel pipes to produce saturated steam. The steam is collected in a series of pipes, and routed to two steam turbine generators in the power block to generate electricity. The steam is then condensed in two air-cooled condensers and returned to the solar field. The 640-acre proposed project site is located immediately adjacent to California State Route 58 (SR-58)/Carrisa Highway. Project construction is proposed to begin during the first quarter of 2009 and take 35 months to complete. Commercial operation is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2012.

On December 19, 2007, the AFC for the CESF project was deemed complete by the Energy Commission and our staff has begun the discovery and analysis phases of our permitting process. Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the CESF project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to these events. The first event is an Informational Hearing and Site Visit scheduled for January 29, 2008 to be held at the Carrisa Plains Heritage Association Community Center, 10750 Carrisa Highway (State Highway 58), about one mile from the proposed project site, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/carrizo. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html.

We are available to brief you and your staff on the Energy Commission's power plant review process and the specifics of the CESF application. Please contact Michael Smith, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at (916) 654-4942, if you would like a briefing. If your constituents would like to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, they should contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228 or by e-mail at: pao@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

MELISSA JONES
Executive Director

Same Letter Sent To:

Senator Abel Maldonado
Supervisor James R. Patterson – San Luis Obispo County