

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION Page 1 of 1



**Energy Facilities Siting and
 Environmental Protection
 Division**

FILE: 07-AFC-8

PROJECT TITLE: CESF

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone	805-781-5914	<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location:	
NAME:	Linda Auchinachie, San Luis Obispo County, Ag Dept	DATE:	03-18-08
		TIME:	1:50 p.m.
WITH:	Negar Vahidi, Land Use Technical Specialist, Aspen Environmental Group		
SUBJECT:	County of San Luis Obispo Concerns Regarding Conversion of Agricultural Lands		

COMMENTS:

I spoke with Linda Auchinachie of the SLO County Ag Department who had left me a message to call her back. Linda wanted to know how Land Use Staff Assessments dealt with mitigation for Farmland conversion. I explained the various types of mitigation for past projects, but told her that mitigation is usually project-specific and formulated in coordination with affected agencies. She also wanted to know if we used CEQA thresholds and I explained that we did.

She explained that the Ag Dept has concerns regarding conversion of Ag lands resulting from CESF, and that she just recently learned about this project from John McKenzie. Linda said that the information in the SLO County letter and AFC regarding ag lands is not accurate. In other words, although the site is not irrigated, there are potential significant Ag Land impacts, because the area is predominantly in dry production. She said that they have conducted a preliminary LESA Evaluation and have found there to be potentially significant impacts to ag lands. She wanted to know what steps they should take to ensure that the evaluation in our staff assessment addresses their concerns.

I recommended that the Ag Dept prepare a letter from the County specifically focused on ag issues, and to include the types of mitigation they would impose if they were permitting the project. I also asked her to put the findings of their preliminary LESA evaluation into the letter. I asked her to send this letter to Mary Dyas so that we can make sure it's docketed. I told her that once I see the letter I would most likely also be contacting them to coordinate portions of the analysis with them.

Linda said she would send a letter to Mary in the next week or so. She appreciated our willingness to get their input.

cc: Dale Edwards, Office Manager, Environmental Protection Office; Mary Dyas, Siting PM; Eric Knight, Program Manager.	Signed:
	Name: Negar Vahidi

DOCKET	
07-AFC-8	
DATE	MAR 18 2008
RECD.	MAR 19 2008