

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



March 18, 2008

The Honorable James R. Patterson, Chairman
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
1055 Monterey Street, #D430
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408

DOCKET 07-AFC-8	
DATE	MAR 18 2008
RECD.	MAR 20 2008

Subject: Carrizo Energy Solar Farm (07-AFC-8), Response to San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' Initial Comments

Dear Supervisor Patterson:

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 2008 regarding the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm (CESF) project proposed by Ausra CA II, LLC (dba Carrizo Energy, LLC). We appreciate the concerns raised by you and the other Board members.

The Energy Commission's facility certification process, a certified regulatory program under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), carefully examines 23 technical disciplines involving public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering aspects of proposed power plant projects. This evaluation includes the environmental areas of land use, biological resources, water resources, visual resources, noise, and traffic and transportation mentioned in your letter. Alternatives to the proposed project are also assessed.

The Energy Commission staff has the responsibility to perform an independent, assessment of the Application for Certification (AFC) for the proposed CESF facility. The Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) is the initial environmental document distributed for public and agency comment. This document will address the public and agency comments received prior to its publication. Our intent is always to insure that specific concerns and questions are addressed in this document. All public and agency comments are docketed and shared with staff and will be considered within the analysis. When the PSA is released, staff will schedule a public workshop in the Carrizo area, and possibly in other areas given sufficient interest, for the purpose of receiving additional public comments. We will notify you of the availability of the PSA and the workshop date. We anticipate publishing the PSA in June 2008.

Staff held a public workshop on March 12, 2008 in the Carrizo area. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss the applicant's responses to staff's data requests, work to resolve issues, and to receive public comment. About two dozen local residents attended the workshop and provided comments and input.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 2/5/08) FILED WITH
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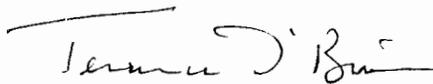
Supervisor James R. Patterson
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Notices of availability for documents, including the PSA, and all future workshop notices will be mailed to individuals on the project mailing list, including all people within a three-mile radius of the project. We obtained the names of this latter group of individuals from the San Luis Obispo County Planning Department. Also, at each workshop we provide sign-in sheets that include an option for the signer to request to be added to our mail list.

We are currently working with the county planning staff to organize an Information Workshop to be held on an upcoming Saturday as requested by the Board of Supervisors. We hope this will provide an additional opportunity for the public to obtain information about the project, raise issues of concern, provide input on the scope of staff's analysis, and to learn more about the Energy Commission's siting process. This workshop will be held in a location suggested by county staff, such as Santa Margarita or Atascadero, at an appropriate time of day, and will cover an overview of the project, a discussion of the Energy Commission's review process, a project status report, and a brief discussion of where staff's analysis stands on each of the issues raised by the local community and county.

For your future information, the status of the project, copies of notices regarding public events held by the Energy Commission on the Carrizo project, an electronic version of the Application for Certification, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/carrizo>. Please contact me at 916-654-3933 or by email at tobrien@energy.state.ca.us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first name.

TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Energy Facilities Siting Division

BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the CARRIZO ENERGY
SOLAR FARM PROJECT

Docket No. 07-AFC-8

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 2/5/2008)

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:

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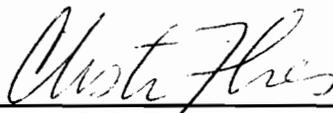
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Christina Flores, declare that on March 20, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached CEC Response to San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors 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.



Christina Flores