

September 24, 2008

Mr. John Kessler  
Project Manager  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>07-AFC-8</b>	
DATE	<u>SEP 24 2008</u>
RECD.	<u>SEP 24 2008</u>

RE: Carrizo Energy Solar Farm  
Docket #07-AFC-8

Dear Mr. Kessler

From a discussion with the CEC Sound Consultant, Jim Buntin, we have discovered noise issues with the CESF that are alarming. These issues need to be addressed. They are as follows:

**Operational Noise Nuisance**

From discussions at CEC workshops, we believed the noise from the CESF would be insignificant for most homes. However, Mr. Buntin explained that based on the CESF sound contour diagram, this was definitely not the case. CESF will produce a clearly audible noise at our home. And, given there are many homes much closer to the plant than ours, the sound will obviously be even more disturbing for many other residents.

One of the main reasons we chose this property to build our home was because of its uniquely quiet location. But, CESF will destroy this special quality for all area residents. The CESF's decision to build this plant in neighborhood with established homes and to inflict their noise pollution on these homes is not a reasonable or responsible decision. They should build in a location where people do not live or they should redesign their system so that it is not audible. If neither of these can not be achieved, at minimum CESF needs to bear responsibility for the disturbance they will create and be required to limit noise pollution to twelve hours a day on week days only. Local residents should at least be able to enjoy their homes and property in peace and quiet on weekends. As requested in previous workshops, these restrictions should also apply to construction noise.

**Sound Carrying Long Distances on the Plains**

At various workshops, several local residents have spoken of how sound often carries great distances on the plains. Some examples I recall are:

Kelly Haynes spoke of hearing a radio at a home almost a mile away as clear as if it were on here patio.

Mike Strobridge described hearing the same radio sound at a distance of approximately two miles. Mike also described hearing the sound of a shotgun being shucked at a distance of over a mile.

I thought I heard a dog barking on my front porch but it turned out he was over a mile away.

I routinely hear conversations from home that is almost a mile away.

This phenomenon of sound carrying happens often on the plains. I described it to Mr. Buntin and he said this is an easily explained and common occurrence. He said most likely it was due an inversion layer that can be created by heat or other various reasons and which causes sound to be bounced over long distances.

We have all been concerned that the sound from CESF will carry just as these other noises do. Now I have heard an explanation of why the sound carries as it does, I do not see any reason that the sound from the CESF would be excluded from this common occurrence. This issue needs to be addressed in your noise evaluation as it will increase the CESF noise level at our residences. Now that there is a scientific reason for this sound carrying, it cannot be ignored in your evaluation.

### **Noise Limits**

What guarantee do local residents have that the CESF will not exceed the levels they claim the plant will produce or any limits the CEC may set. What would happen if the project is built and it turns out to be louder than anticipated or cannot meet any limits established? We need a realistic answer to this question.

We appreciate you and the CEC Staff addressing these concerns and look forward to resolution of these issues.

Sincerely,

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