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October 15, 2010

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

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-10</b>	
DATE	<u>OCT 15 2010</u>
RECD.	<u>OCT 15 2010</u>

Subject: Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10)  
Supplementary Information Item #9, Biological Resources Mitigation Acreage  
Table and Map

Dear Mr. Kessler:

Attached please find one hardcopy of the Supplementary Information Item #9, Biological Resources Mitigation Acreage Table and Map for Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10).

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (916) 286-0278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas M. Davy".

Douglas M. Davy, Ph.D.  
AFC Project Manager

cc: POS List  
Project File

# Rice Solar Energy Project

## CEC Docket #09-AFC-10

SUBMITTED TO: California Energy Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Rice Solar Energy, LLC

WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CH2M HILL

DATE: October 15, 2010

TOPIC: Supplementary Information Item #9, Biological Resources  
Biological Resources Mitigation Acreage Table and Map

The following is Rice Solar Energy, LLC's (RSE's) Supplementary Information Item (SII) #9, submitted in support of RSE's Application for Certification (AFC) for the Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP) (09-AFC-10). Table SII9-1 is a complete account of the acreages of desert tortoise habitat that would be affected by construction or operation of the Rice Solar Energy Project, broken down by project subarea, and separating acreages within the project ownership parcel and all other areas (including mostly federal land managed by the BLM). Figure SII9-1, attached, shows the locations of all of the key project components, annotated with their acreages, as calculated using CAD drawings and ArcGIS geographical information systems software. Please note the following:

- The ownership parcel (#1) of 3,325 acres is the property in RSE's control, within which most of the project facilities are sited.
- Total acreage affected (#2) includes areas affected within the ownership parcel (#2a) and outside of the ownership parcel (#2b), including a portion of the generator tie-line that extends for 10 miles between the RSEP project site and the Parker-Blythe #2 transmission line, and the RSEP interconnection switchyard.
- Total acreage affected within the ownership parcel (#2a) includes areas within the permanent project fenceline (#2a1) and also areas that are outside the fenceline but still inside the parcel (#2a2). The former includes the heliostat field, northern administration building, and evaporation ponds. The access road from State Route 62 to the project site is included in this acreage for convenience and because it represents a permanent habitat removal, even though a portion of this road is outside the fenceline. The latter includes the east and west drainage channels and their diffusers or spreaders and also a nearly one mile-long portion of the generator tie-line, with its new access road.
- The mitigation requirement (#3) includes a requirement to replace acreage affected a ratio of one acre replaced to one acre affected (1:1) for acreage within the ownership parcel. Acreage along the generator tie-line is mitigated at a 3:1 ratio of replacement to affected acreage because this area is located on federal land not previously disturbed.
- Acres within the ownership parcel that qualify as mitigation land fit into three categories of different value. The area within 250 feet of the project fenceline is considered to have half

the habitat value of the standard acres because of proximity to the fence, so half of this acreage is deducted from the total available acres (“fence buffer deduction”). The area between the RSEP fenceline and State Route 62 (see Figure SII9-1) is similar considered to have one-half of the habitat value of standard acres because of the proximity to State Route 62, and so half of this acreage is also deducted from the total available acreages (“northern buffer deduction”). All other unaffected acres within the ownership parcel have full acreage value.

The table shows that the mitigation acres required totals is 1,522.2 and that the acreage available within RSE’s ownership parcel is 1,690.7. Therefore, it appears feasible to meet all of RSEP’s biological resources mitigation obligations using the property adjacent to the project site within the ownership parcel (as long as other requirements for a conservation easement and endowment to manage are met).

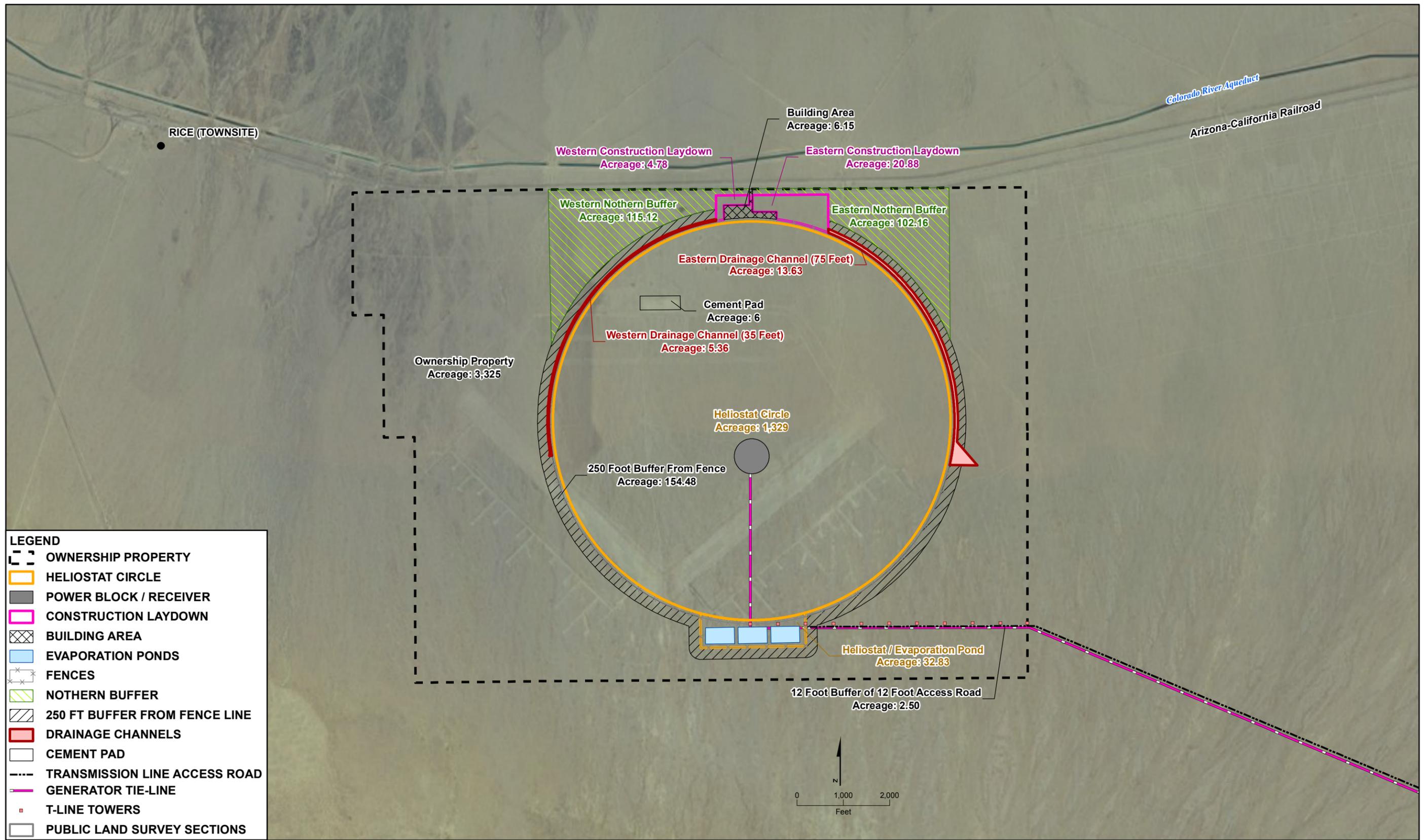
TABLE SII9-1  
Acreage Analysis of Desert Tortoise Mitigation Land, Rice Solar Energy Project

Item	Calculation	Acres
<b>1. Total Ownership Parcel</b>	CAD Drawing	<b>3,325.0</b>
<b>2. Total Acreage Affected</b>		
<b>2a. Within Ownership Parcel Tortoise Habitat</b>		
<b>2a1. Within permanent fenceline</b>		
Heliostat circle only	CAD drawing	1,329.0
Evaporation ponds and pond fencing	CAD drawing	32.8
North Administration Building and Road	CAD drawing	6.2
Subtract concrete apron (not DT habitat)	870' x 300' per aerial photo	-6.0
		1,362.0
<b>2a2. Outside Permanent Fenceline/Inside Parcel</b>		
East Construction Laydown	CAD drawing	20.9
West Construction Laydown	CAD drawing	4.8
East channels outside fence	75' wide channel + diffuser area	13.6
West channels outside fence	35' wide channel + diffuser area	5.4
Transmission line access road	24' (road+buffer) x 5,065 feet	2.8
Transmission Towers	100' x 100' area x 9 towers	2.1
		49.5
<b>2b. Outside of Ownership Parcel Tortoise (BLM and other private)</b>		
Transmission line access road	24' (road+buffer) x 3.6 miles	10.5
Transmission towers	100' x 100' area x 81 towers	18.6
Transmission line pull sites	100' x 200' x 10 sites	4.6
Switchyard + 50-foot buffer	400' x 265' plus 50-foot buffer	3.3
		36.9
<b>Total Desert Tortoise Habitat Affected</b>		<b>1,448.4</b>

TABLE SII9-1  
Acreage Analysis of Desert Tortoise Mitigation Land, Rice Solar Energy Project

<b>Item</b>	<b>Calculation</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>3. Mitigation Requirement</b>		
Private land, heliostat circle, road, 9 towers	1:1 ratio (2a1+2a2)	1,411.5
Public land, switchyard, pull sites, 81 towers	3:1 ratio (2b x 3)	110.7
<b>Total Mitigation Requirement</b>		<b>1,522.2</b>
<b>4. Mitigation Acreage Available</b>		
Total acres minus mitigation required	#1 - #3	1,876.6
Fence buffer deduction	-154.48 acres x 0.5	-77.2
Northern buffer deduction	-217.28 acres x 0.5	-108.6
<b>Total Mitigation Acreage Available</b>		<b>1,690.7</b>
<b>5. Acres Surplus to Requirement</b>	<b>#4 - #3</b>	<b>168.5</b>

Note: Does not include a public access area, which may be required per CUL-11.



**FIGURE SI19-1**  
**MITIGATION PARCEL AND**  
**TORTOISE IMPACT ACREAGES**  
 RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT  
 RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This map was compiled from various scale source data and maps and is intended for use as only an approximate representation of actual locations.



BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE RICE SOLAR ENERGY POWER  
PLANT PROJECT**

**Docket No. 09-AFC-10**

**PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 8/5/2010)**

**APPLICANT**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Mary Finn, declare that on October 15, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10) Supplemental Information Item #9 Mitigation Acreage Table and Map. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar).

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

**(Check all that Apply)**

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

\_\_\_\_\_ sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

\_\_\_\_\_ by personal delivery:

\_\_\_\_\_ by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

**AND**

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

\_\_\_\_\_ sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method);

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-10

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Finn