

APPENDIX K

Agency and Other Correspondence

July 9, 2009

Tom Meagher
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Re: Final Evaluation Letter Report
Blythe Solar
Application _____ (Psomas Job 6BLM0101.01)

Under contract #L09PC00076, Task Order TBD, Psomas was retained to "...conduct a civil engineering, geologic and hydrologic review of Plans of Development (POD) for Solar Energy facilities on BLM lands. The review needs to be done to insure that preliminary storm water management, site grading and water supply are properly addressed and technically feasible...."

This letter report summarizes Psomas' findings at the Blythe Solar Millennium site.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Psomas has reviewed the 30% plans, hydrology and engineering for storm water issues related to the SOLAR MILLENIUM Blythe solar project and in our opinion, the basic design and layout of storm water facilities are feasible. Even if more detailed topographic information and engineering reveal that some adjustments are needed in the final design, the project foot print should not change to a significant degree. From a stormwater perspective, the project appears to be sufficiently developed to file a notice of intent to complete an EIR / EIS.

SITE RECONNAISSANCE

Psomas completed a site visit on June 10, 2009 to observe existing conditions at the project site. For this site, access was limited and only a small portion of the site was viewed. Only the southeast quadrant of the site was included in our visit.

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger
Page 2 of 9
July 9, 2009
Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

Present at the site review were:

Solar Millennium: Gavin Berg
Chevron: Ralph Hollenbacher
AECOM: Bill Hagmaier & Mike Flack
PSOMAS: Mike Thalhamer, Ernie Leporini, Stefanie Kemen, & Mike Daly
BLM: Claude Kirby,
CEC: Paul Marshall, Richard Latteri

SITE DRAINAGE

Scope of review

The overall intent of the review was to identify potential issues which impact existing drainage features and patterns adjacent and downstream of the proposed project. It was not intended to provide input related to the proposed onsite drainage scheme beyond how this scheme might impact areas beyond the project limits.

Summary Of Project Documents Reviewed:

- *Blythe Solar Power Plant Hydrology Report*, May 18, 2009, AECOM (Attachment A)
- Preliminary Civil Construction Plans for Blythe Solar Power Project, dated May 18, 2009. (Attachment B)

Project Hydrology

The hydrologic analysis for the project was reviewed and appears to be well documented and appropriate for site specific conditions. It also appears to be in general compliance with the methodologies outlined in the *Riverside County Hydrology Manual*. However, Psomas provided the following recommendations for the final drainage report:

A reproduction of the appropriate soils map used to determine the site specific soils should be included.

A CD of the HEC-HMS models for both the existing and proposed conditions should be provided for review.

Tom Meahger

Page 3 of 9

July 9, 2009

Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

The potential for an increase in curve number (CN) for developed and disturbed watersheds should be considered as there does appear to be the potential for increased runoff from these areas. Under developed conditions all vegetation will be removed. The area will also be graded flat eliminating any potential “surface retention” associated with an uneven terrain, and it will likely be compacted to a greater degree than existing conditions. Numerous collector swales are also proposed which may more effectively convey runoff to the main channels. Based on the table provided in Appendix D of the Hydrology Report, the developed CN would appear to be closer to 85 for “B” soil consistent with fallow agricultural land. A photograph of existing conditions at the Blythe site as well as one from the existing solar field facility just outside of Kramer Junction off of highway 395 have been provided in Attachment C. Assuming that conditions at the developed Blythe site will be similar, the photographs provide a clear indication of the potential for increased runoff due to grading and compaction.

The locations and alignments of the routing reaches should be noted on the existing and proposed conditions hydrology maps.

The proposed conditions hydrologic model does not appear to provide for any channel routing within the individual solar units, but rather treats them as single watersheds with a discreet point of concentration. This approach, in conjunction with the potentially underestimated CN values, may cause the model to underestimate discharges associated with these watersheds under developed conditions.

The construction of engineered channels to collect and convey flow through and around the site can significantly change downstream peak flows by more efficiently conveying flows and reducing the magnitude of flood peak attenuation which occurs in natural floodplains. In addition, the proposed drainage scheme appears to result in a significant flow diversion to West Channel from the watersheds to the north, increasing the peak flow by approximately 31% for the 10-, 25- and 100-year events. It is recommended that the final drainage report provide an assessment of the potential downstream impacts resulting from the increased discharge from West Channel.

Existing Conditions Hydraulics

Under existing conditions the project site is impacted by numerous poorly defined washes and will enter the project area as predominately shallow flow during large events. The report did not include the analysis of existing floodplains limits impacting the upstream project boundary. Formal floodplain mapping to define the limits of where flow enters the property may not be needed to support the drainage design since the intent is to construct collector

Tom Meahger

Page 4 of 9

July 9, 2009

Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

channels along the entire upstream property boundary. However, a detailed assessment of the floodplains impacting the project would allow for a more site specific design and should be considered.

Proposed Conditions Hydraulics

- Collector Channel Design. The concept design includes collector channels along the upstream property boundary to collect offsite flows for conveyance through or around the property. Flow into the collector channels is primarily from poorly defined shallow washes. Flows during large events occur primarily as shallow sheet flow and there is a tendency for the small washes to migrate or for new channels to form. The collector channels must be appropriately designed to account for the unpredictable flow patterns and to prevent headcutting upstream of the constructed channel. If not protected, these headcuts can quickly become incised to the flowline depth of the collector channel. This may also be an issue where site drainage flows into the constructed channels. Neither the drainage report nor the concept plans have yet addressed this issue.
- Channel Velocities. Velocities within earthen channels should be within acceptable limits to minimize both vertical and lateral channel erosion. Typical maximum velocities for non-consolidated silty sands as observed at portions of the project site range from approximately 3.5 to 5.0 feet per second (ft/s) for the 10-year flow. Higher velocities for less frequent events may be considered if there is sufficient room for some migration of the channel to occur without threat to adjacent structures. Velocities reported in the HEC-RAS model for some of the proposed drainage channels range are reported to be as high as 12 ft/s for the 10-year event. Per the existing report all channels are to be earthen with exception of “stress areas” such as bends and transitions. It is recommended that the drainage report address erosion control measures at all locations where excessive velocities occur. The threshold velocity for erosion control should be based on site-specific conditions and local standards and guidelines. If erosion protection is not desired then grade control structures should be utilized to reduce the channel slope thereby reducing channel velocities to within acceptable limits. The reduction of channel velocities will also likely have the impact of eliminating supercritical flow which occurs in some of the channels for extended reaches.
- Channel Sections Some of the proposed channels have very large width/depth ratio which will tend to favor incisement of a low flow thalweg within the overall drainage channel. Rather than flow in a very wide and shallow condition, low flows will tend to

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger

Page 5 of 9

July 9, 2009

Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

to develop a low-flow channel to more efficiently convey flow. This channel can become quite deep depending on the actual channel slope and can cause bank sloughing or undercut erosion protection measures. It is recommended that the potential issues associated with the formation of a low flow thalweg be considered in the final design.

Field Decisions

The overall consensus of the site review team was that the east channel should be eliminated from the plans and the flow from the north channel should be returned to existing conditions via a diffuser located at the northeast corner of the project. This scenario appears to better match pre-development flow patterns. See the attached Base Map (Attachment D).

General report comments

Relevant channel data such as slope range, design Q and velocity range should be included on the proposed channel sections in Appendix I of the Hydrology Report.

The scale of the project may warrant using larger maps to depict existing and future watershed conditions. The scale and size of the maps provided make it very difficult to discern topography or any relevant features.

A CD with the HEC-RAS input files should be provided with the final drainage report.

General plan comments

The plans call for fencing around the project, including directly downstream of drainage diffusers. How will the issue of flow blockage created by the project fencing be addressed?

Relevant channel data such as slope range, design Q and velocity range should be included on the proposed channel sections on Sheet 3 of the Preliminary Civil Construction Plans.

Provide locations of channel sections on Sheet 3 of the Preliminary Civil Construction Plans as there is no cross-reference to determine where each section is located.

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger
Page 6 of 9
July 9, 2009
Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

WATER SUPPLY

Scope of review

The overall intent of the review was to “...evaluate [the water supply] for sustainability, water quality and for potential impacts to the environment such as groundwater depth, springs, effects underground water movement such as plumes, salinity or movement between aquifers...”

Water Supply Requirements

According to Michael Flack of AECOM (Developer’s consultant) per email dated June 6, and personal conversations during the site visit, water supply requirements for the Blythe site are:

Water quantity required

The operational groundwater use at each site is about 150 acre-feet per year (afy) per solar field. So for the projects the total operational use is:

Average usage = 600 afy, or 372 gallons per minute (gpm)
Peak usage (estimated at 50% more during summer months), 558 gpm
Construction supply = 1,900 acre feet over 5 years (estimated) or 380 afy

These volumes should be considered preliminary and subject to revision as the analysis of the construction program groundwater requirements is ongoing. Construction water will be primarily used for site grading and dust suppression.

Water quality required

- Domestic supply – Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and California Title 22 requirements
- Mirror Washing – Reverse osmosis or electro-dialysis reversal followed by ion exchange
- Power cycle makeup water - Reverse osmosis or electro-dialysis reversal followed by ion exchange
- Dust suppression – desalination waste blended with raw water.

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger

Page 7 of 9

July 9, 2009

Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

- Construction water – no treatment, raw water.

Proposed water source.

The water for the Blythe project will be provided from groundwater wells dug on the site. Information on the local groundwater conditions and impacts from proposed project pumping has not been determined. Water resource investigations have been proposed and work plans developed for consideration by the BLM. The environmental assessment (EA) documents have been reviewed and are presently being revised for resubmission to the BLM. It is anticipated that the groundwater investigation programs will be initiated within the next few weeks.

The Blythe site is located within the Lower Colorado groundwater basin, which is tied hydraulically to the Colorado River. There are many wells, including high capacity irrigation wells, within the basin, but none within the project site and only a few as far west as this project. Although there is a good chance of onsite wells providing adequate quantities of water, this will not be confirmed until drilling and test pumping of a test well is accomplished on the project site.

The level of total dissolved solids (TDS) in groundwater at the site is reported to be high. This level is treatable, but treatment will produce levels of brine (water with concentrated levels of dissolved solids), for which disposal will have to be addressed.

Historically, water from wells in California may be used without establishing rights, so water rights are not an issue. However, because of the project's proximity to the Colorado River, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is attempting to require and establish entitlements for groundwater as a part of the Colorado River hydrologic system. They have issued draft regulations (which have subsequently been withdrawn). Eventually, some form of allocation of groundwater will probably be established for groundwater at the Blythe project site.

Wastewater disposal

There is no anticipated process wastewater, only sanitary wastewater to be discharged into one or more leach fields. For the Blythe facility, sanitary wastewater quantity is estimated to be 332,000 gallons per month, or 11,000 gallons per day.

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger
Page 8 of 9
July 9, 2009
Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

Comments and Recommendations

Because formal documentation of water supply criteria has not been done, detailed evaluation of water supply issues is not possible at this time.

Developer's consultant, AECOM, has identified the issues to be resolved and is proceeding with their work plan. Items that BLM should monitor as work progresses include:

- Test well drilling and evaluation – insure that the evaluation confirms that adequate quality and quantity of water is available. This evaluation should also include:
 - a survey of data from other wells in the area and summarization of the data
 - construction of at least two monitoring wells, and data collection of monitoring wells in conjunction with test pumping/evaluation of the test well.
 - potentially, modeling using the existing groundwater model for the basin.
- Water Rights – If regulations are promulgated changing the status of groundwater, insure that Developer obtains rights to an adequate water supply.
- Brine disposal – If brine is to be blended with raw water and used for dust control, insure that California Regional Water Quality Control Board approval is obtained for this discharge.

If you should have questions about this report, or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

PSOMAS



Michael G. Thalhamer, PE
Project Manager

MGT:ast

PSOMAS

Tom Meahger

Page 9 of 9

July 9, 2009

Final Evaluation Letter Report – Blythe Solar

Attachments Enclosed:

- A. Blythe Solar Power Plant Hydrology Report, May 18, 2009, AECOM
- B. Preliminary Civil Construction Plans for Blythe Solar Power Project, AECOM, 30%
Conceptual Engineering Plans, May 18, 2009
- C. Photographs Depicting Anticipated Change in curve number (CN)
- D. Blythe Base Map with Psomas Recommendations



Oliver Harris
Account Manager
Energy Markets
UEG / Wholesale Markets

June 23, 2009

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Sr. Project Manager
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Subject: Gas Transportation Service Request Response for 968 MW Power Plant Project

Dear Gavin:

Thank you for your request concerning gas transportation service to a new electric generation facility in the City of Blythe, CA located 8 miles west of Blythe, CA and 1.5 miles north of Highway I-10. As you requested, our review was performed assuming a plant size of 968 MW using a maximum fuel flow of 0.02 MMCFH at full capacity [equivalent to 0.5 MMcfd on a daily basis]. Subject to the execution of appropriate contracts, SoCalGas would agree to provide natural gas transportation service to the proposed 968 Power Plant subject to applicable CPUC approved rules and tariffs.

The minimum operating pressure range of our transmission system at this location is currently 600 psig. Service pressure level is provided on an as-available basis, with no pressure level guarantees or warranties of any kind. The availability of natural gas service, as set forth in this letter, is based on current conditions of gas supply and regulatory policies and is not a guarantee of future operations.

The facility can be served by the SoCalGas. The interconnect would consist of a 4 inch diameter pipeline extending for approximately 5 miles traversing the I-10 Fwy to the proposed plant site. In addition the interconnection requires a tap and construction of appropriate meter set at estimated costs of approximately [REDACTED]. This estimate has a sunset date of six months from the date this information is submitted to you. The estimate does not include any permit, survey, right of way/easement or environmental charges that may have to be included at a later date.

This preliminary cost estimate is for the construction cost of the facilities and is provided at your request. SoCalGas/SDG&E have not performed a detailed specific site or route evaluation for your project in the development of this estimate. Additionally, costs associated with permitting, paving, right-of-way, environmental, gas quality, measurement, regulatory, and land acquisition/development issues; and any unusual construction costs or facility requirements (e.g. freeway, river, or channel crossings)



are explicitly excluded from this preliminary cost estimate. These costs are the developer's responsibility and can be significant.

SoCalGas construction costs also continue to rise with increasing costs of labor and materials. Since this preliminary cost estimate is developed using average historical project cost data, it is highly likely that the actual construction costs for your particular project could vary significantly from this preliminary estimate based on the actual design, permitting and construction variables associated with this specific project. SoCalGas/SDG&E urge you to retain the services of a third-party engineering construction firm, or enter into a design and engineering contract with SoCalGas/SDG&E to develop a more accurate construction cost estimate for your specific project. SoCalGas/SDG&E do not recommend any use of this preliminary cost estimate. Any use by you is at your own risk and should factor in the above risks and limitations.

Assuming normal planning and construction schedules, SoCalGas requires approximately 12 to 18 months from the completion of contracts and the receipt of any necessary deposit in order to complete the planning, design and construction of the service facilities needed for your project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Oliver Harris".

Oliver Harris
Account Manager



List of Gas Suppliers

For Noncore Transportation Customers
(Last Revision 11/26/2008)



Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) Company customers have the option of purchasing their natural gas from a gas supplier. This list of natural gas suppliers is provided by SoCalGas solely as a convenience to noncore customers. This list will be updated periodically. Natural gas suppliers who would like to be included on future lists, or those with changes or corrections to this list may contact Carol Wade by phone at (213) 244-5073 or by email at CWade@semprautilities.com.

Neither the Commission’s regulation of this list nor SoCalGas’ publication thereof constitutes any statement, recommendation, endorsement, approval or guaranty (either express or implied) of the financial stability or service quality of any service providers, of any product or service, or of any other matter respecting the product, service and/or provider, whether or not listed. Moreover, neither the Commission nor SoCalGas shall be responsible for errors or omissions in this list, for claims or damages relating to the use thereof, or for continued publication thereof, provided that SoCalGas will comply with all Commission directives respecting services provider lists. Users of this list should understand that it is offered as a convenience only and that in utilizing resources on this list, they should always independently determine the quality and suitability for their purposes of all products and services they wish to obtain, and carefully select a service provider on the basis of their own judgment regarding cost, capability and reliability.

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Sempra Energy Solutions is not the same company as the utility, SoCalGas, and the California Public Utilities Commission does not regulate the terms of Sempra Energy Solutions' products and services.

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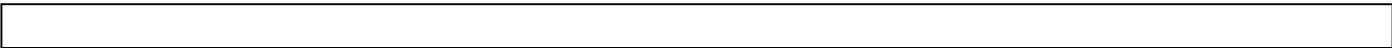
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¹ A Contracted Marketer may perform the same functions as an Agent, that is, the purchasing, nominating and balancing of gas supplies for one or more transportation customers. A Contracted Marketer is required to sign a Master Services Contract (referred to herein as "MSC") and MSC Schedule B, Marketer/Core Aggregator/Use or Pay Aggregator Agreement (Form Nos. 6597 and 6597-2) with the Utility and as part of such agreement accepts the financial responsibility of managing imbalances for their customers.

² Represents Federal public sector facilities

³ Represents public government agencies



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
52F00ME/3433
10 August 2009

Ms. Jessie Audette
Vice President of Development
Solar Millennium LLC
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Berkeley, CA 94709-1161

Subj: Solar Millennium Proposed Blythe & Palen Solar Power Projects

Dear Ms. Audette:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Solar Millennium Blythe and Palen solar power projects. I am providing this response on behalf of the Department of Defense Region IX Renewable Energy Working Group.

As we have discussed, we have no concerns with the Blythe project. The Palen project underlies several low-level military training routes and could impact military testing and training conducted on those routes. However, after evaluation, we have determined that the project will not have significant mission impacts. This determination is based on the information you provided, including the towers and transmission lines. If there are any changes, particularly in the height of the structures, please notify us.

If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. M. Parisi".

A. M. Parisi
Head, Sustainability Office
By Direction of the Commander