

Comment Letter I36

Hingtgen, Robert J

From: Paula Byrd <paulabyrd46@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 2:29 PM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J
Cc: Donna Tisdale
Subject: To be included in the Soitec Draft PEIR Project Record

Hi Mr. Hingtgen:

I did some extensive research on what it takes to prepare dirt work on the construction side of a solar project similar to Soitec Solar proposed project in Boulevard and compared notes to the EIR.

A job has started in Palm Desert called the Garnet Solar Project. These calculations reflect a one 8 hour day, only the construction side of the project.

They are moving 15,000 cubic yards of dirt per day which requires 38 gallons of water per cubic yard to achieve 90% relative compaction. So, in an eight hour day, they are using 570,000 gallons of water per day! Per day!

Obviously, the water calculations in the EIR for Boulevard is grossly miscalculated.

Please include this in the Soitec Draft PEIR Project Record.

I hope this information will help in the decision NOT to allow Soitec Solar in our neighborhood. We need our water for our homes and community.

Thank you so much!

Paula Byrd
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I36-1

Response to Comment Letter I36

Paula Byrd
 February 10, 2014

I36-1

The volume of grading required for solar installations is dependent on size, layout, terrain, and technology, among many other site- and project-specific factors.

The County evaluated the water supply for the Proposed Project in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report; see Sections 3.1.5.3.4, Groundwater Resources, and 3.1.9.3.1, Water. The commenter is also referred to common response WR1, which discusses the changes in water demand estimates that have been made in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report in response to other public comments. As discussed in WR-1, the estimate of the rate of water needed for mass grading is reasonable, conservative, and based on site-specific information. The commenter is also referred to the response to comment I32-8, which discusses why earthwork volumes for the Proposed Project are lower than for the ECO Substation Project. Like the Eco Substation project, the Garnet solar project requires large-scale modification of the topography. Beyond shallow grading and certain site preparation activities, the general topography of the Proposed Project sites will be maintained. Therefore, the County disagrees that the Proposed Project’s water calculations for mass grading are “grossly miscalculated.”

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