

Steve Taffolla

From: Rydzik, John <John.Rydzik@bia.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 2:27 PM
To: ECOSUB
Cc: Thomsen, Gregory; Fisher, Iain
Subject: BIA comment letter on DEIR/EIS
Attachments: Tule Wind Letter.pdf

Greg and Iain,

Attached is BIA's comment letter. Original will follow by mail.

John

This footnote confirms that this email message has been scanned by
PineApp Mail-SeCure for the presence of malicious code, vandals & computer viruses.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

MAR 4 2011

Margaret Goodro, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
El Centro Office
c/o Dudek
605 Third Street
Encinitas, California 92501

Dear Ms. Goodro:

As a Cooperating Agency to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the East County Substation, Tule Wind and Energia Sierra Juarez Gen-Tie Projects. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was invited to be a Cooperating Agency due to the discretionary action of lease and right-of-way approval on lands held in trust for the benefit of the Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians. BIA submits the following comments on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Executive Summary

Table ES-1, Agency Jurisdiction of Project Components, Add the BIA under the heading of jurisdiction for the Tule Wind Project. Delete the CPUC and add the BIA under the heading jurisdiction for the Campo Wind Project and Manzanita Wind Project, as the CPUC has no jurisdiction on the respective reservations.

A. Introduction/Overview

Table A-1, Agency Jurisdiction of Project Components, Add the BIA under the heading of jurisdiction for the Tule Wind Project. Delete the CPUC and add the BIA under the heading jurisdiction for the Campo Wind Project and Manzanita Wind Project, as the CPUC has no jurisdiction on the respective reservations.

B. Project Description

B.4.1, Project Components, 3rd Sentence, Add BIA, with BLM and the respective reservations.

Table B-12, Tule Wind Project Applicant Proposed Measures, APM No. TULE-PDF-2, Add BIA to the Construction and Maintenance Fire Prevention/Protection Plan as a reviewer of the multi-agency review team.

D.2 Biological Resources

Figure D-2.9, Key Wildlife Species, Remove the 2009 USFWS Critical Habitat graphic for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly on the Campo Indian reservation as there is no designated critical habitat for this species on the reservation. Likewise, any text description should be modified accordingly.

D.4 Land Use

Table D.4-1, Agency Jurisdiction of Project Components, Add the BIA under the heading of jurisdiction for the Tule Wind Project. Delete the CPUC and add the BIA under the heading jurisdiction for the Campo Wind Project and Manzanita Wind Project, as the CPUC has no jurisdiction on the respective reservations.

Page D.4-11, 3rd paragraph, last sentence, Add Ewiiapaayp before tribal lands. Other Tribes referenced in this environmental document do have land use designations.

Table F-2, Campo Landfill Project, Add - A Federal Register notice was published on February 3, 2011, which announced that the BIA as Lead Agency, in cooperation with the Campo Band, Campo EPA and U.S. EPA, cancelled all work on a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the federal action of approving an amended lease and amended sublease that would have allowed for the Project.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments, if you have any questions, please contact John Rydzik at (916) 978-6051.

Sincerely,



Regional Director