

Thank you for your comment, Richard Grainger.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60238.

Comment Date: September 14, 2009 15:57:50PM
Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarM60238

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Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Dear BLM,

In the spring of 2009, I was visiting the BLM area located about eight miles east of Blythe, CA to explore where in World War II Gen. Patton held his tank warfare training exercises. I was also there to photograph desert wildlife and spring flowers, as I have done this for several decades now in the California deserts.

While there, I came across several wildlife biologists who were conducting desert tortoise surveys for a solar construction project I was told was called Solar Millennium. Using the Solareis.gov website, I see that this area is designated the Riverside East Solar Energy Study Area.

The area where the wildlife surveys were being conducted for solar development was undisturbed except for the historical artifacts and tank tracks left from Gen. Patton's tank maneuvers. This area was also filled with numerous wildflowers, snakes, lizards, birds, and significant archaeological sites.

To reach this area, I had to drive past several miles of abandoned farmlands and previously bulldozed industrial sites that are located close to Interstate 10.

Why are pristine and valuable BLM lands being considered for solar development when there are already disturbed lands adjacent and available for these projects?

The BLM should not give away high-quality public lands for private development when there are suitable, previously degraded lands available for solar projects.

Sincerely,

Richard Grainger
Altadena, CA