

Thank you for your comment, Joshua Stark.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50139.

Comment Date: July 8, 2008 12:53:58PM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50139

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As all comments within the scope of the PEIS must be considered, I would like to humbly suggest that when considering placement of any solar arrays or power generators, first priority must be given to locations that that incorporate solar arrays and generating systems into existing infrastructure. For example, sufficient surface area can be found in the parking lots and major thoroughfares of the city of Los Angeles to provide for much of its energy consumption. In addition, this land is already in use, so NEPA requirements, and potential harm to ecosystems will be completely mitigated.

An even better location may be compromised farm land, where the transportation and consumption of water, the continual need for pesticides and fertilizers, the leaching of heavy metals from poor soil, and the subsequent air pollution can be completely mitigated by farming solar. In addition, farmland receives much direct sunlight, and in California includes huge tracts of flat, open, sunny land. The prime example of this is in the Westlands Irrigation District in the Central Valley. By farming solar instead of cotton in this region, water consumption would decrease, pressures on water transportation to LA would ease, air pollution and the volatile farming industry (which relies on huge influxes of seasonal labor) would be replaced with the steady income and jobs generated by power, and air pollution in the Central Valley would be positively effected. As this land is already in production, no ecosystem damage would take place. The location of the Westlands, in a rain shadow, and right between two major markets (LA and San Francisco) makes it a prime candidate for solar energy production.