

Thank you for your comment, Shelton Douthit.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50336.

Comment Date: July 14, 2008 11:55:09AM  
Solar Energy Development PEIS  
Comment ID: SolarS50336

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Attachment: Douthit Comment PEIS 07-07-2008.pdf

Comment Submitted:

[See Attachment.](#)

# Shelton Douthit Consulting

*Land Stewardship and Acquisition Specialists*

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July 7, 2008

Steven Borchard  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District  
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

RE: Solar Energy Development, Catellus Acquired Lands (8600 CA-610-(P))

Dear Mr. Borchard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of The Wildlands Conservancy (TWC) concerning proposed solar energy development on BLM-administered lands. The lands of particular interest are those lands acquired by BLM from Catellus Development Corporation (SF Pacific Properties) between 2000 and 2006 involving funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund matched by \$16 Million of TWC monies.

These former Catellus lands proposed for solar development lie outside of designated wilderness and critical wildlife habitat but if developed will dramatically impact the scenic vistas and wide open views along Interstate 40, Route 66, Highways 95 and 62 corridors, traveled by millions of visitors to the greater Mojave Desert annually. The impact visually will alter the American people's sense of the Mojave, with its views of wilderness as far as the eye can see. The impact of large expanses of solar mirrors and steam generators will reduce the average traveler's experience to a backyard view of industrial facilities versus the current unobstructed view of the greatest un-impacted wild landscape in the lower 48 states. The developments will also impact recreational opportunities and wildlife corridors protected through the Catellus acquisition.

The intent of TWC, the Congress, the Senate and the President, when authorizing the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund monies for the acquisition of the Catellus lands was ***"to preserve and protect these lands from development and to allow their continued use for recreational, parkland, wilderness and habitat protection purposes"***.

TWC feels that the large scale construction of solar facilities involving the removal of vegetation, alteration of landforms and the development of associated transportation corridors and infrastructure on former Catellus lands is inconsistent with the intent of Congress, the Senate and the President when they authorized the acquisition of these lands using LWCF funds.

I strongly recommend the locating of proposed solar developments to areas with less of an impact on the scenic qualities, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat of the Mojave Desert.

Sincerely,



Shelton Douthit

Land Protection Consultant, The Wildlands Conservancy