

APPENDIX H

SCOPING REPORT

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing the leasing of geothermal resources within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Inyo County, California for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization. The proposed action is to: 1) open or close leasing of 22,460 acres of BLM-managed lands; 2) approve or reject pending lease applications for 4,460 acres; and 3) amend the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan to allow Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area lands to be leased under the authority of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*).

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is approximately 13 miles south of Olancho, California, to the east of the Inyo National Forest, west of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center, and south of the South Haiwee Reservoir. The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area encompasses a total of 24,320 acres. The BLM manages 22,460 acres (4,460 acres containing three pending applications for non-competitive leasing and 18,000 acres of lands for competitive leasing), the State Lands Commission manages 640 acres (Section 16), and 1,220 acres are privately owned. The BLM-managed lands considered for geothermal leasing are located in the Mount Diablo Meridian and occupy the following 37 sections that are illustrated in Figure 1:

Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Sections 11-14, 23-26, 35-36
Township 21 South, Range 38 East, Sections 7-10, 15, 17-22, 27-34
Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Sections 1-2, 11-12
Township 22 South, Range 38 East, Sections 5-8

The approval to issue geothermal leases represents a commitment of resources that may have indirect environmental impacts for subsequent exploration, development, and production. The BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Proposed Plan Amendment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify, analyze, and disclose potential environmental effects of leasing geothermal resources.

Scoping must be conducted both internally with appropriate BLM staff, and externally with interested and potentially affected public, agencies, tribes, and organizations (40 CFR 1501.7). This Scoping Report summarizes the public scoping effort, and documents issues and concerns expressed during scoping of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Draft EIS/Proposed Plan Amendment.

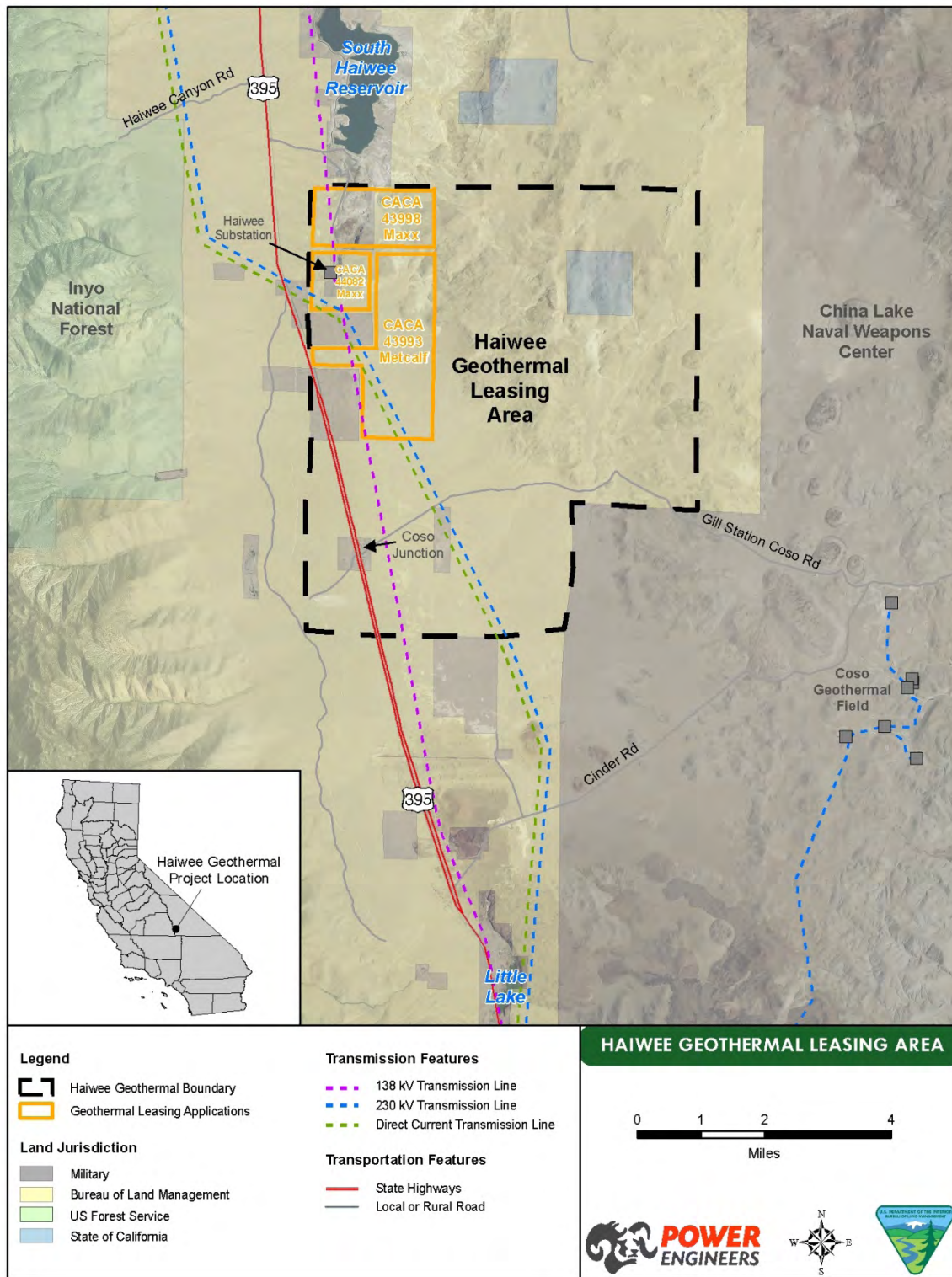


Figure 1 Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Map

2.0 SCOPING

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed, identifying the significant issues, and allowing regulatory agencies and the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7).

2.1 NOTICE OF INTENT

To comply with NEPA 40 CFR 1508.22, on September 11, 2009, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area in the *Federal Register*, Volume 74, Number 175 (See Appendix A). The *Federal Register* is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations.

The NOI initiated the public scoping period for the EIS/Plan Amendment and described the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and plan amendment, alternatives, and environmental review process. It also identified preliminary issues and concerns, and contacts. The notice served as an invitation for other federal agencies to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIS/Plan Amendment and requested all comments be received by October 13, 2009.

2.2 NEWS RELEASES

The BLM distributed three news releases to agency representatives, elected officials, Native American Tribes, the media, or interested parties and organizations. The news releases and associated distribution lists are found in Appendix B. The September 11, 2009 news release announced the times and locations of the public scoping meetings in Lone Pine, Bishop and Ridgecrest, California. It also listed issues to be analyzed in the EIS, and contact information. A second news release was issued on October 1, 2009 announcing the addition of the Death Valley scoping meeting date, time, and location. A third news release was issued on July 28, 2011 to clarify and affirm that three pending lease applications would be analyzed in the EIS.

2.3 SCOPING MEETINGS

The BLM conducted four public scoping meetings from October 13 to 20, 2009 in Lone Pine, Bishop, Ridgecrest and Death Valley, California, with a total of 32 attendees. Table 1 lists the dates, locations, and number of attendees for each of the meetings. The scoping meetings provided an opportunity for the BLM to share information regarding the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, plan amendment, and the decision-making processes, and to listen to public and agency views on the range of issues and alternatives to be considered during the preparation of the Draft EIS/Plan Amendment.

The meetings began with a brief presentation by the BLM discussing the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and alternatives, geothermal resources, and the environmental review process. A copy of the presentation and information boards may be found in Appendix C. A question and answer session followed to allow agency representatives, elected officials, Native American Tribes, interested parties and organizations to ask questions and provide comments. A list of topics discussed at each of the meetings and the court reporter transcripts may be found in Appendix D.

Table 1 Scoping Dates and Locations

Date		
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Boulder Creek RV Resort 2550 S. Hwy 395 Lone Pine, CA	7
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Eastern Sierra Fairgrounds Home Economics Bldg Sierra Street & Fair Drive Bishop, CA	12
Thursday, October 15, 2009 5:30 - 9 p.m.	Kerr-McGee Center 100 W. California Ave Ridgecrest, CA	10
Tuesday, October 20, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Office 900 Indian Village Rd Death Valley, CA	3

2.3.1 Scoping Handouts

All attendees were given a scoping package that contained a fact sheet, map, and comment form. The fact sheets informed the public about the proposed action, geothermal resources, the purpose and need for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area EIS, and the environmental review process, and provided contact information. Copies of the following were also made available: Notice of Intent, news releases, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Specifications and Acreage, and Geothermal Resource Leasing Regulations (43 CFR 3200). Attendees also received notification of the extension of the scoping period to November 9, 2009 to allow commenters and attendees at the Death Valley scoping meeting sufficient time for commenting. Appendix E contains copies of all the scoping handouts.

3.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

3.1 NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

The BLM will use the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the requirements for public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets.

On October 7, 2009, the BLM sent letters via certified mail to the following Native American Tribes inviting them to participate in the scoping and consultation process: Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Ft. Independence Paiute Tribe, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and Timbisha Shoshone Tribe. The letter discussed the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and location, NEPA process, scoping locations, and contact information. Appendix F contains a representative letter to the Tribes.

3.2 AGENCIES

Approximately 200 federal, state, and local agencies were sent news releases inviting them to the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area scoping meetings (see Section 2.2). The news release also identified preliminary issues and concerns for the project, as well as contact information.

3.3 ELECTED OFFICIALS

Inyo County Supervisors were sent scoping letters inviting them to participate in the scoping process for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. The letter also describing the proposed action, NEPA process, scoping, preliminary resource management issues and concerns, and schedule. A representative copy of the letter may be found in Appendix H and Table 2 lists the recipients and their districts.

Table 2 Inyo County Supervisors and Representative Districts

Inyo County Board of Supervisors	Representative District
Linda Arcularius	District 1
Susan Cash	District 2
Beverly Brown	District 3
Marty Fortney	District 4
Richard Cervantes	District 5

4.0 SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY

BLM received 14 comment letters and numerous oral comments during the scoping meetings. Copies of the comment letters may be found in Appendix I. A list of topics discussed at each of the meetings and the court reporter transcripts may be found in Appendix D. To assist the BLM, comments were summarized and categorized by resource issue (see Appendix J) to determine the scope and significant issues that will be analyzed in the Draft EIS. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Purpose and Need

The public was concerned about the potential impacts of geothermal exploration, development, and utilization. They requested that the reasonable foreseeable development scenario be included in the purpose and need section and that it identify suitable and non-suitable locations for geothermal resources. The public and agencies inquired about the anticipated amount of generation, the power plant type and lifespan, and cooling methods. Many commenters requested the quantity of water needed, and its source, be identified. It was also suggested that the water amounts required for each phase and the water needs for the various power plant cooling designs be described. To address potential cumulative impacts, the identification of mitigation measures and establishment of mitigation funds was also requested.

A discussion of the Plan Amendment to the CDCA Plan in regards to the Geothermal Programmatic EIS and Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area was requested. The public, agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes were also interested in the relationship of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area to the Deep Rose Geothermal Exploration Project and the three pending lease applications, as well as the connection to Coso Geothermal Fields.

The public, agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes were concerned about the level of environmental analysis for the EIS and questioned if additional analysis would occur for specific projects in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area.

Alternatives

It was recommended that a reasonable range of alternatives, including the no action alternative, be analyzed. An organization suggested a smaller leasing area be considered to avoid sensitive wildlife species and their habitats. It was suggested that alternative designs of geothermal facilities and conservation of geothermal resources be considered. Some examples are a geothermal power plant that would eliminate or vastly reduce water needs, or a means to capture and treat wastewater. It was suggested that alternative sources of water be identified, such as the Ridgecrest Treatment Plant, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Indian Wells Water Basin, construction of new water entrapment programs, and conservation and recycled water. There was also concern regarding the lack of a competitive bidding process for leasing of government lands for other renewable energy development, such as solar and wind, and multiple uses of the land.

Air Quality

Consideration of potential impacts caused by windborne dust and pollution, carbon dioxide emissions, and impacts to air quality in Rose Valley, were recommended. It was also suggested that any contributions to non-attainment areas be addressed, and greenhouse gases and global warming be analyzed.

Biological Resources

There is concern for the potential loss of water resources in Rose Valley and the potential impacts it may cause to habitat and vegetation, especially to the Little Lake Ranch property, wetlands adjacent to U.S. Highway 395, and the Habitat Project at Little Lake. There is also concern regarding water level impacts to surface flora and fauna. A baseline study was requested to analyze the potential impacts of surface water to a functional ecosystem. Analysis of riparian habitats, sensitive natural communities, natural springs, and artesian wells throughout the Rose Valley was also suggested.

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is within the Mohave Ground Squirrel Habitat Management Area and the Rose Valley Habitat Management Area. There is concern over the loss of habitat, the availability of suitable habitat compensation, and the compatibility of geothermal leasing and associated activities within the habitat management area. Of particular concern are the Mohave Ground Squirrel and Desert Tortoise. A member of the public also requested that impacts to vegetation, animals, and insects be addressed. Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game was requested.

Cultural Resources

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is an intersection of more than one tribe's territory and there is concern regarding the involvement of all interested tribes and the potential for cultural differences. A member of the public requested that a qualified archaeologist identify interested tribes for the proposed action, and actively solicited for comments, with personal contact and formal notices. It was also recommended that the archaeologist also collect and analyze comments from those tribes.

The Native American Tribes requested additional involvement. They are concerned about the Section 106 Consultation process, extraction of resources from the land, and what types of benefits the Tribes would obtain from the proposed action. Some local tribes requested additional information regarding geothermal

leasing of lands to the Tribes. The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe was especially concerned about the connections or impacts to the Coso Hot Springs, and the water table depth.

The Tribes were also concerned that the new power plants would require transmission lines and these facilities could prohibit access and conflict with Native American values. They noted that impacts affecting Native American values are not amenable to mitigation and may involve desecration or sacrilegious treatment of spiritually important sites.

Geothermal Resources

Organizations requested that the existence of the geothermal resource, and its size and composition, be identified. It was also questioned if the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area was within a known geothermal resource area (KGRA), such as Coso, and if viable geothermal resources were present. It was requested that the amount of electrical production from geothermal resources be based upon the size and extent of the reservoir. It was requested that the preservation of the geothermal reservoirs and long-term management be addressed. Commenters also requested the identification of the different types of fluids that are contained in a GeoReservoir (both liquid and steam) and the fluids re-injected.

The public was concerned about the seismic activity in the area and questioned if geothermal exploration and development contributed to increased seismic activity. They questioned if injection of water into the rocks would contribute to fracturing. United States Geological Survey (USGS) coordination was also requested.

The public was concerned that depletion of underground water basins and surface flows may have a profound effect upon soil erosion, loss of topsoil, and the capability of the surface to sustain life, and they requested examination of potential soil subsidence in Rose Valley. It was requested that potential impacts on geologic resources and seismic issues related to high-pressure injection of fluids directly into fault zones be addressed. If water cooling towers (WCTs) are utilized, the public requested that the dramatic loss of heated liquids from evaporation be addressed.

There was concern regarding potential impacts to the Coso Geothermal Power Plant and operations, as well as the Coso Hot Springs. The public, agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes were interested in the Deep Rose Geothermal Exploration Project and the three pending lease applications (CACA 43998 Maxx, CACA 44082 Maxx, and CACA 43993 Metcalf). They inquired about the cumulative impacts of numerous geothermal projects (existing and future) in close proximity to the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

There was concern regarding the potential for hazardous substance generation by future development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, and treatment and disposal of substances. An analysis of wastewater and emission hazards to the public, and potential impacts from heat emissions, was requested.

Land Use / Agriculture / Recreation

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is within or in close proximity to a number of desert management plans—the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), the Northern and Eastern Mojave (NEMO) Plan, and the West Mojave (WEMO) Plan. The public, agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes are concerned about the relationship of these plans to the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and potential land use conflicts.

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area contains motorized recreational roads and the public is concerned about access and potential impacts to recreation. They also requested mitigation for loss of roads from the NEMO planning decision. There is also concern regarding agricultural operations in Rose Valley and the potential impacts to water well owners.

Noise and Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

An organization requested evaluation of noise generation from development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, noise levels, and potential impacts to workers and surrounding wildlife.

Public Health & Safety

The public is concerned about potential impacts to human health and safety, and requested that the potential for wastewater and emission hazards to the public be analyzed.

Socioeconomics

Inyo County inquired about the potential for creation of jobs and revenue generation for the County. Concern arose regarding the CDCA Plan causing delays to geothermal leasing and potential impacts to the County's economy. The County requested consideration of the potential impacts to population and housing, and potential for socioeconomic impacts or adverse impacts to the Coso Geothermal Power Plant.

Traffic and Transportation

The California Department of Transportation was concerned about potential highway transportation issues to US 395, such as highway access points for facilities, and transport of construction materials and workforce.

Utilities & Public Services

The public questioned if adequate electrical transmission was available to transfer the geothermal energy to the load centers, and inquired about plans to upgrade existing transmission lines or construct a substation.

Visual Resources

The Rose Valley contains a number of recreational uses, and there is concern regarding visual impacts from the construction of structures and geothermal facilities.

Water Resources

The public, agencies, organizations, and Native American Tribes are concerned about the increasing scarcity of water in California, especially in Rose Valley. Most of the comments received inquired about the water needs for geothermal energy development and production, and questioned the source and amount of water appropriations. They requested that local and imported water sources for injection, the natural replenishment and adequacy of the water supply, and inter-basin water transfers in the vicinity be addressed.

The Rose Valley residents are very concerned about any potential reductions to water resources and the protection of watersheds, water rights, and nearby public lands. The owners of Little Lake Ranch, a 1,200 acre property located on the southern end of the Rose Valley, utilize the property for wildlife habitat and wildlife-oriented recreation, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The property includes a navigable body of water known as "Little Lake," ponds, and wetlands. Owners of Little Lake Ranch property requested potential impacts to subsurface water, aquifers, wetlands, water table depth, Little Lake, downstream ponds, creeks, wetlands, water wells, and natural springs be addressed. They requested consideration of water withdrawals impacts to arid environments that would affect many desert species, from fish to bighorn sheep to rare plants that depend on the water resources. The analysis of potential

adverse impacts to BLM-administered lands at Little Lake, specifically to the Little Lake Watchable Wildlife Areas, was requested.

The public inquired about the presence of a connection between the GeoReservoir and the water basins, and requested evaluation of potential impacts to the use and consumption of the GeoReservoirs on local water basins. The Native American Tribes are also concerned about the close proximity of the Coso Hot Springs to the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, and potential impacts to the hot springs. There was concern for the short- and long-term impacts of water extractions. It was requested that long-term pumping studies be completed prior to issuance of any permits.

Cumulative Effects

Many commenters were concerned about the cumulative impacts from existing and proposed geothermal projects, Deep Rose and Coso Geothermal Fields. There was also concern regarding large-scale operations in the vicinity of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, such as LADWP operations, Owens Lake Dust mitigation, water exports by Coso Hay Ranch, and livestock grazing. They are especially concerned about the increasing scarcity of water in California and the needs for groundwater extraction by these projects. The public is concerned that the development scenario is relatively small and may underestimate potential cumulative impacts and future projects and development. Cumulative effects should include an inventory and analysis of the following: wetlands (all springs and seeps), regional hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, rare plant and animal species, geology, aesthetic/scenic values, recreation, and dust generation.

In addition to geothermal energy development, an evaluation of potential cumulative impacts of future permitting for solar and wind energy development was requested. A commenter also requested identification of a menu of mitigation measures to be utilized at specific triggers to address potential cumulative impacts.

BLM also has a number of management plans in the desert (i.e., CDCA, NEMO, and WEMO) and the public questions how these plans would affect the proposed action.

Other Comments

The Native American Tribes, Inyo County planners, and local agencies requested additional coordination and notification of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. There was also concern regarding the *Federal Register* notice containing non-functional website links and the different scoping period end dates on the press releases. A commenter also questioned BLM's ability and capacity to manage and monitor geothermal activity without impacting its other responsibilities.

A comment was received that questioned a lease applicant's experience and knowledge of geothermal resource exploration and development, and financial capability.

Consideration of previous studies, reports, evidence, and comments prepared for projects, such as the Coso Project, was suggested. An organization also requested production of public records in connection with the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area.

5.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Comments received during the public scoping period will be considered during the preparation of the Draft EIS. Although the public scoping period has ended (November 9, 2009), the BLM welcomes comments throughout the environmental review process. The release of the Draft EIS/Draft Plan Amendment is expected to commence in spring of 2010 and begin the 90-day comment period. Shortly after the release, the public will also have the opportunity to attend formal public meetings. The Final EIS/Proposed Plan Amendment is expected in fall of 2010, and the BLM anticipates issuance of a Record of Decision in winter 2010.

Table 3 Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area EIS Timeline

Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping Comments due November 9, 2009 	Fall 2009
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Plan Amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Availability 90-day comment period Formal Public Meetings 	Summer 2010
Final Environmental Impact Statement/Proposed Plan Amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Notice of Availability 30-day protest period 60-day Governor's Consistency Review 	Fall 2010
Record of Decision	Winter 2010

APPENDIX A: FEDERAL REGISTER

Dated: September 8, 2009.

Rhea Suh,

*Assistant Secretary—Policy, Management
and Budget.*

[FR Doc. E9–21930 Filed 9–10–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LL91310000EI]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Leasing of National System of Public Lands for Geothermal Resource Development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Located in Inyo County, CA and To Amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1976 (NEPA), as amended, and section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ridgecrest Field Office intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the proposed leasing of approximately 22,060 acres of BLM-managed public lands for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Inyo County, California. The leasing of public lands for geothermal resources will require an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980. Comments are being solicited to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, determine the scope of issues, and identify and refine alternatives to the proposed action. The BLM will also use and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the requirements for public involvement in section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

DATES: This Notice initiates the public scoping process for the EIS and plan amendment. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until October 13, 2009. The date(s) and location(s) of the public scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local news media, newspapers and the BLM Web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days

after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments related to Geothermal Leasing in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Inyo County, California by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html>.

- *E-mail:* John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov.

- *Fax:* (951) 697–5299.

- *Mail:* Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office, Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Coordinator, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Dalton at (951) 697–5311, John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM has received three noncompetitive geothermal lease applications for 4,460 acres of public land within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area in Inyo County, California. In addition, the BLM identified approximately 17,600 acres of public lands, also within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and adjacent to the three geothermal lease applications, which will be considered for competitive geothermal leasing under 43 CFR 3203.10(e). The proposed action is to amend the CDCA Plan to allocate project area lands as open or closed to consideration for geothermal leasing, with appropriate stipulations necessary to maintain and protect other resource values and uses, and to develop a Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario for geothermal resources development under the authority of the FLPMA and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*). Individual lease issuance decisions and parcels to be included in a sale will be considered in a manner consistent with the final plan as amended, as subsequent implementation decisions. The public lands being considered for geothermal leasing in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area are located in sections 11–14, 23–26, 35, and 36 in Township 21 South, Range 37 East, sections 7–10, 15, 17–22, 27–34 in Township 21 South, Range 38 East, in sections 1 and 2 in Township 22 South, Range 37 East, and sections 5–8 in Township 22 South, Range 38 East, all within the San Bernardino and Base Meridian. Total acreage being considered for geothermal leasing is approximately 22,060 acres.

Alternatives thus far identified for evaluation in the EIS will include the following:

1. Proposed action.

2. No action alternative (not leasing the lands for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization).

3. Leasing fewer than the proposed 22,060 acres of public land.

The principal issues identified thus far for consideration in the EIS include Native American concerns; potential land use conflicts including recreation; cumulative impacts considering existing, proposed, and potential geothermal projects in the area; and potential impacts on cultural resources, wildlife, visual resources, and surface and groundwater resources. The EIS will also address other issues such as geology, mining, geothermal resources, vegetation, threatened or endangered species, air quality, noise, transportation, human health and safety, and social and economic issues, as well as any issues raised during the scoping process.

The BLM will identify issues to be addressed in the Plan, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan.

2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action.

3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the plan as to why we placed an issue in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the Plan. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The following Planning Criteria will be utilized during production of this document:

- The plan will be completed in compliance with FLPMA, NEPA, and all other relevant Federal law, Executive Orders, and management policies of the BLM.

- Where existing planning decisions are still valid, those decisions may remain unchanged and be incorporated into the plan amendment.

- The plans will recognize valid existing rights.

- Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration. The planning process will include the consideration of any impacts on Indian trust assets.

- Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer will be conducted throughout the planning process.

- Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be conducted throughout the planning process, as necessary.

By this notice, the BLM is complying with requirements in 43 CFR 1610.2(c) to notify the public of potential amendments to land use plans, predicated on the findings of the EIS. The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American Tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and Tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as individuals, organizations, or tribes that may be interested or affected by the BLM's decision on this project are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Jack Hamby,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. E9-21928 Filed 9-10-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNVC0100000.L91310000.EJ0000.
LXSIGEOT0000; MO4500008734; NVN
087795; 09-08807; TAS: 14X5575]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Salt Wells Energy Projects, Churchill County, NE

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Stillwater Field Office, Carson City, Nevada, intends to prepare an Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) for the Salt Wells Energy Projects proposed by Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra), Ormat Technologies, Inc. (Ormat), and Vulcan Power Company (Vulcan) that are located in Churchill County, Nevada. Three separate projects are proposed that could result in seven 30–60 megawatt (MW) geothermal power plants with 47 associated wells, pipelines and other facilities near Fallon, Nevada, and a 22-mile, fifty-foot-wide Right-of-Way (ROW) for a new transmission line with substations to support the existing and new Fallon geothermal power plants. The study area encompassed by the three projects together covers approximately 537 total acres. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process and solicits input on the identification of issues.

DATES: The public scoping period will close November 10, 2009. Any public meetings associated with the public scoping will be announced through the local news media and the BLM Web site: www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html at least 15 days prior to each event. Additional formal opportunities for public participation in the EIS process will be provided through comment upon publication of the draft document.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** BLM Stillwater Field Office, Attn: Salt Wells Energy Projects, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701.
- **Fax:** (775) 885-6147.
- **E-mail:** saltwells_eis@blm.gov.

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Desna Young (775) 885-6078; or e-mail saltwells_eis@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The BLM Stillwater Field Office received separate proposed geothermal utilization plans and applications for facilities construction permits from Ormat and Vulcan, and an electric transmission right-of-way (ROW) application from Sierra, for proposed energy projects covering a combined area of approximately 537 acres in the Salt Wells area about 15 miles east of Fallon, Nevada. Vulcan proposes the development of up to six geothermal power plants and facilities. Ormat proposes the development of one geothermal power plant and associated facilities. Sierra proposes 22 miles of

above-ground electrical transmission lines, electrical substations, and switching facilities. The BLM determined that because of similar timing, geographic area, and type of action, the BLM will analyze the three proposals in one EIS. The BLM will issue a separate record of decision at the end of the process for each proposed project. The BLM will use information from this scoping process with the utilization plans and ROW proposals to facilitate public involvement and to identify the alternatives to be studied. All lands within the project area are already under lease. The proposed facilities would be sited on a combination of private property and public land managed by the BLM and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Several proposed well sites are located on Federal geothermal leases in the Carson Lake and Pasture area, currently open to leasing and managed by the BOR, although these lands have been proposed to be transferred to the Nevada State Department of Wildlife. These activities are consistent with the applicable 2001 Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan as amended by the 2008 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendments for Geothermal Resource Leasing in the Western United States. The Fallon Naval Air Station is adjacent to the leased areas in Salt Wells. The Navy has concerns both related to its own geothermal resource program and also related to preserving its airspace for training, and community encroachment issues. The Ormat project proposal includes the construction and operation of a 40 MW binary air-cooled geothermal power plant, 20 geothermal production and injections wells, pipelines, a substation, connection lines to the proposed Sierra transmission line, and access roads on approximately 90 acres of land. BLM has already completed a July 2008 Environmental Assessment in the Ormat Carson Lake Geothermal Exploration Project EA (EA-NV-030-07-006) and has approved 11 of the wells estimated to be necessary for Ormat's project. The Vulcan project proposal is to construct up to six 30–60 MW binary or double-flash geothermal power plants and associated facilities on approximately 160 acres of land, which could require an estimated 27 geothermal production and injection wells. Each site includes production and injection wells, pipelines, a substation, connection lines to the proposed Sierra transmission line, and access roads. Twenty of these wells have already been approved via two Environmental Assessments for ten

APPENDIX B: NEWS RELEASES



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

For Immediate Release: September 11, 2009

CA-CDD-09-69

Contact: Stephen Razo 951-697-5217; email: srazo@ca.blm.gov

Public Meetings Scheduled for Proposed Geothermal Project

Three public meetings are scheduled in October to gather public comments on proposed geothermal exploration and development on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management within the Haiwee area near Ridgecrest in Inyo County.

The meetings will be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- 1) Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5:30 pm to 9 pm, Boulder Creek RV Resort, 2550 S. Hwy 395, Lone Pine;
- 2) Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Ea Sierra Fairgrounds, Home Economics Bldg,
Bishop;
- 3) Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30 pm to 9 pm, Kerr-McGee Center, 100 W. California Ave, Ridgecrest.

BLM staff will present a brief overview of the proposed project. Following the presentation, BLM will accept public comment, which will be recorded by a court reporter. The timeframe of comments will be determined by the number of individuals who register to speak. Comments received throughout the public process will be considered during preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

Written comments should be submitted by October 16, 2009, to the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office, Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, California 92553.

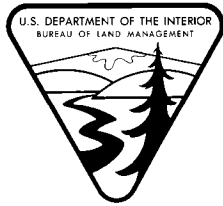
Total acreage being considered for geothermal leasing is approximately 22,060 acres.

Issues already identified to be analyzed in the EIS include hydrology; Native American concerns; cumulative impacts considering existing, proposed, and potential geothermal projects in the area; potential impacts on cultural resources; potential effects on wildlife; potential land use conflicts including recreation; potential visual impacts; and potential impacts on surface water and groundwater resources. The EIS also will address issues such as geology, geothermal resources, vegetation, threatened or endangered species, air quality, noise, transportation, human health and safety and socioeconomics, as well as any issues raised during the public process.

For more information contact John Dalton at (951) 697-5311 or email: John.Dalton@ca.blm.gov. You may also contact Linn Gum, BLM Ridgecrest Field Office assistant manager (760) 384-5450 or the BLM California planning and environmental coordinator (916) 978-4427.

-BLM-

California Desert District – 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2009

CA-CDD-10-01

Contact: David Briery (951) 697-5220 or Stephen Razo (951) 697-5217

Additional Public Meeting Scheduled for Proposed Geothermal Project

An additional public meeting to gather comments on the proposed geothermal exploration and development on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Haiwee area near Ridgecrest in Inyo County has been scheduled for Death Valley.

The meetings will be held at the following dates, times and locations:

- 1) Tuesday, Oct. 13, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m., Boulder Creek RV Resort, 2550 S. Hwy 395, Lone Pine;
- 2) Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., Ea Sierra Fairgrounds, Home Economics Bldg, Bishop;
- 3) Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30 - 9 p.m., Kerr-McGee Center, 100 W. California Ave, Ridgecrest;
- 4) Tuesday, Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Timbisha Shoshone Tribal Office, 900 Indian Village Rd, Death Valley.

BLM staff will present a brief overview of the proposed project. Following the presentation, BLM will accept public comment, which will be recorded by a court reporter. The timeframe of comments will be determined by the number of individuals who register to speak. Comments received throughout the public process will be considered during preparation of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS).

Written comments should be submitted by October 16, 2009, to the BLM California Desert District Office, Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553.

Total acreage being considered for geothermal leasing is approximately 22,060 acres.

Issues already identified to be analyzed in the EIS include hydrology; Native American concerns; cumulative impacts considering existing, proposed, and potential geothermal projects in the area; potential impacts on cultural resources; potential effects on wildlife; potential land use conflicts including recreation; potential visual impacts; and potential impacts on surface water and groundwater resources. The EIS also will address issues such as geology, geothermal resources, vegetation, threatened or endangered species, air quality, noise, transportation, human health and safety and socioeconomics, as well as any issues raised during the public process.

For more information contact John Dalton at (951) 697-5311 or email: John.Dalton@ca.blm.gov. You may also contact Linn Gum, BLM Ridgecrest Field Office assistant manager (760) 384-5450 or the BLM California planning and environmental coordinator (916) 978-4427.

-BLM-



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
News Release

For Immediate Release: July 28, 2011

CA-CDD-11-57

Contact: David Briery, (951) 697-5220 or Stephen Razo, (951) 697-5217

BLM to Analyze Geothermal Lease Proposals in Inyo County

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will analyze three geothermal lease proposals on public lands that are within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area (HGLA) in southwestern Inyo County, northwest of Ridgecrest, Calif.

The BLM is currently writing a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the HGLA, which includes an estimated 22,040 acres of BLM-managed federal lands. The EIS will analyze various alternatives in considering whether none, all, or part of the HGLA should be made available for geothermal exploration and development. In conjunction with this analysis, the BLM will evaluate the three pending lease proposals that total approximately 4,500 acres of federal mineral estate within the area.

The leasing area is east of the Inyo National Forest, west of the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, north of Little Lake, and south of the South Haiwee Reservoir.

As part of the ongoing HGLA analysis first announced in September 2009, issues raised during the public scoping process will be addressed. The BLM is also evaluating the potential environmental, social, and economic effects of proposed alternatives. The BLM will use this same EIS and CDCA plan amendment process to evaluate the impacts of the three pending geothermal lease applications.

Following the release of the draft EIS and possible CDCA plan amendment, there will be an opportunity for public comment on the three potential geothermal leases.

For more information contact Peter Godfrey, HGLA Project Manager, California Desert District Office at (951) 697-5385 or email: pgodfrey@blm.gov

-BLM-

California Desert District Office – 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Agency Contact List

CITY PLANNING DEPT	TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT
KERN CITY PLANNING DEPT	UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
APPLE VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CA ASSOC RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	US ARMY ENGINEER DIST SUCCESS LAKE
CA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION	US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT
CA DEPT OF CORRECTIONS	US BORDER PATROL
CA DEPT OF FISH & GAME	US DEPT OF AG SOIL CONSERVATION SVC
CA DEPT OF FISH & GAME REGION 6	US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR
CA DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION	US ECOLOGY
CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 9
CA DESERT PROTECTION LEAGUE	US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
CA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES	US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE ENHANCEMENT
CA PARKS AND RECREATION	US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
CA REG WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD	US FOREST SERVICE
CA REGIONAL WATER CONTROL BRD	US FOREST SERVICE ANGELES NF
CA SECRETARY OF RESOURCES	US FOREST SERVICE BIG PINES VISITOR CTR
CA STATE LANDS COMMISSION	US FWS KERN NWR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY	US FWS HAVASU NWR
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	USDA FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	USFW REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA DEPT OF FORESTRY	VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS	TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER, KERN VALLEY INDIAN COUNCIL
CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION	BEATTY TOWN BOARD
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS POMONA CENTER
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	CAMP PENDLETON US MARINE CORP BASE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT	COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
DESCANSO RANGER DISTRICT	FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RIVERSIDE COUNTY
DESERT DISTRICT GRAZING BOARD	CLARK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
DESERT WATER AGENCY	COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION TULARE COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	IMPERIAL COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
GARRY MEEKER INSURANCE AGENCY	IMPERIAL COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT	IMPERIAL COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
INDEPENDENT OIL PRODUCERS AGENCY	DAGGETT COMM SERVICES DIST
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	DESERT FISHES COUNCIL
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT	DESERT PROTECTION COUNCIL
MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION	IMPERIAL COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
OLIVENHAIN WATER DISTRICT	FISH GAME COMMISSIONER
OTAY WATER DISTRICT	INYO COUNTY PLANNING COMM
SALTON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT	GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
SUNLINE TRANSIT AGENCY	

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Agency Contact List

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPT	LA COUNTY SANITATION DIST
KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT	LOS ANGELES COUNTY
KERN COUNTY PLANNING COMMN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	ORANGE COUNTY
KERN COUNTY PLANNING DEPT	PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DIST
MONO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT	PLANNING DEPT
ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING DEPT	PLANNING OFFICE
PLANNING COMMISSION RIVERSIDE COUNTY	PLANS AND PROGRAMS AFTTC XP
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AGRI COMMISSIONER	REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN DIEGO COUNTY PLANNING AND LAND USE	RIDGECREST PLANNING COMMISSION
INDIO PLANNING DEPT	RIVERSIDE CO PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS KERN COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO CO FISH GAME COMMISSION
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	RIVERSIDE COUNTY
KERN CO WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION	RIVERSIDE COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE
KERN COUNCIL OF GOVTS	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEPT OF REG PARKS
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEPT OF WASTE MGT
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY ENV ANALYSIS TEAM
ENVIRON ANALYSIS SECTION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SERVICES AREA NO 29
FOURWHEELERS OF ORANGE COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY-DEPARTMENT OF AIRPORTS
IMPERIAL COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS-
IMPERIAL COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION	SAN DIEGO COUNTY
IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFF	SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
IMPERIAL COUNTY SUPERVISOR	SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF
KERN COUNTY	SBCO CHIEF OF ENVIR DIVISION -- PLANNING
KERN COUNTY BOARD OF TRADE	SOUTH DIST SECTYTREAS
LAKESIDE PLANNING GROUP	STATE BOARD FOOD AG
KERN COUNTY FARM BUREAU	STATE BOARD OF FOOD AG
KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPT	SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT
MBR CA BOARD FORESTRY	TLC LOS ANGELES COUNTY
MINE COUN	TULARE COUNTY
KERN COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES	CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
KERN COUNTY PROSPECTORS	COACHELLA VALLEY ASSN OF GOVTS
NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM	DEPT OF ADMINISTRATION
NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERV DIST	DEPT OF AGRICULTURE
KERN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SOLID WASTE MGMT	DEPT OF ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH
OFF HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION COMMISSION	DEPT OF GEOLOGY
ORANGE CO PLANNING COMM	DEVELOPMENT DEPT
ORANGE CO SANITATION DIST	F D ARCH DEPT
KERN COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT	FORESTRY DEPT

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Agency Contact List

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DEPT	DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
GOVT PUBLICATION SECTION	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROGRAM IPR
KERN CO FIRE DEPT	FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMIN CENTRAL
KERN CO HEALTH DEPT	FISH AND GAME COMM
NAVY PUBLIC WORKS CENTER	FOREST SERVICE
PUBLIC WORKS	L A DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
SAN BERNARDINO CNTY DEPT ECONOMIV AND	MOJAVE DESERT AQMD
CMNTY DEV	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WESTERN REGION
TULARE CO ASSN OF GOVTS	NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION
US ARMY COE	PROVIDENCE MTN STATE REC AREA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFO CENTER	SAN BERNARDINO CNTY
BAKER COMMUNITY SERVICES DISRTICT	SAN BERNARDINO CO FARM BUREAU
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	SAN BERNARDINO CTY
CA HIGHWAY PATROL	SAN DIEGO CO FISH GAME ASSO
CDFG	SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
CDFG FIELD SUPERVISOR	SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST
CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT	STATE OF NEVADA
CNPS	STATE OF NV DIVISION OF FORESTRY
CO OF ORANGE PARKS RECREATION	

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Elected Officials Contact List

EL CENTRO CITY COUNCIL
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 41
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 65
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 70
STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 79
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 25
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 33
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 36
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 38
STATE SENATE DISTRICT 39
US CONGRESS 22ND DISTRICT
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 20
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 26
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 34
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 38
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 41
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 43
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 45
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DIST 51
US SENATE
COUNCILMEMBER
IMPERIAL CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KERN CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LA JOLLA TOWN COUNCIL
ORANGE CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RIVERSIDE CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN BERNARDINO CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN DIEGO CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TULARE CO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
City Contact List

CITY MANAGER	CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY
CITY MANAGERS ASSOCIATION	CITY OF FULLERTON
CITY MUNICIPAL MUSEUM	CITY OF GARDENA
CITY OF AGOURA HILLS	CITY OF GRAND TERRACE
CITY OF ALHAMBRA	CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
CITY OF ANAHEIM	CITY OF HAWTHORNE
CITY OF ARCADIA	CITY OF HEMET
CITY OF ARTESIA	CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH
CITY OF AZUSA	CITY OF HIDDEN HILLS
CITY OF BALDWIN PARK	CITY OF HOLTVILLE
CITY OF BANNING	CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
CITY OF BARSTOW	CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK
CITY OF BARSTOW PLANNING DEPT	CITY OF IMPERIAL
CITY OF BEAUMONT	CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH
CITY OF BELL	CITY OF INDIO
CITY OF BELL GARDENS	CITY OF INGLEWOOD
CITY OF BELLFLOWER	CITY OF IRVINE
CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS	CITY OF IRWINDALE
CITY OF BIG BEAR LAKE	CITY OF LA CANADAFLINTRIDGE
CITY OF BISHOP	CITY OF LA HABRA
CITY OF BLYTHE	CITY OF LA MIRADA
CITY OF BRADBURY	CITY OF LA PALMA
CITY OF BREA	CITY OF LA QUINTA
CITY OF BUENA PARK	CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH
CITY OF BURBANK	CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE
CITY OF CALEXICO	CITY OF LAKEWOOD
CITY OF CALIPATRIA	CITY OF LAWNDALE
CITY OF CARSON	CITY OF LEMON GROVE
CITY OF CERRITOS	CITY OF LOMITA
CITY OF COALINGA	CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS
CITY OF CORONADO	CITY OF LYNWOOD
CITY OF COSTA MESA	CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
CITY OF CUDAHY	CITY OF MAYWOOD
CITY OF CULVER CITY	CITY OF MONTEBELLO
CITY OF CYPRESS	CITY OF MORENO VALLEY
CITY OF DEL MAR	CITY OF NATIONAL CITY
CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS	CITY OF NEEDLES
CITY OF DOWNEY	CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
CITY OF DUARTE	CITY OF NORCO
CITY OF EL CENTRO	CITY OF ORANGE
CITY OF EL SEGUNDO	CITY OF PAHRUMP
CITY OF FARMERSVILLE	CITY OF PALM DESERT
CITY OF FONTANA	CITY OF PALM SPRINGS

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
City Contact List

CITY OF PALOS VERDES ESTATES
CITY OF PARAMOUNT
CITY OF PERRIS
CITY OF PICO RIVERA
CITY OF PLACENTIA
CITY OF POMONA
CITY OF POWAY
CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES
CITY OF REDLANDS
CITY OF REDONDO BEACH
CITY OF RIVERSIDE
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
CITY OF ROSEMEAD
CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
CITY OF SAN DIMAS
CITY OF SAN GABRIEL
CITY OF SAN JACINTO
CITY OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
CITY OF SAN MARCOS
CITY OF SAN MARINO
CITY OF SANTA ANA
CITY OF SANTA FE SPRINGS

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
CITY OF SEAL BEACH
CITY OF SIERRA MADRE
CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
CITY OF SOUTH GATE
CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
CITY OF STANTON
CITY OF TEMPLE CITY
CITY OF TORRANCE
CITY OF TULARE
CITY OF TUSTIN
CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS
CITY OF UPLAND
CITY OF VICTORVILLE
CITY OF VILLA PARK
CITY OF VISTA
CITY OF WALNUT
CITY OF WEST COVINA
CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY OF YORBA LINDA
LANCASTER CITY HALL
VICTORVILLE CITY HALL
CITY OF RAMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY
TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Native American Tribes Contact List

CHEMEHUEVI TRIBE
FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE
FT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE OF THE OWENS VALLEY
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, BISHOP PAIUTE TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, FORT INDEPENDENCE PAIUTE TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, LONE PINE PAIUTE-SHOSHONE TRIBE
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, TIMBISHA SHOSHONE TRIBE
AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS
AUGUSTINE BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
CABAZON BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
CAMPO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
CUYAPAIPE BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE
LAS VEGAS INDIAN CENTER
MANZANITA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
MESA GRANDE BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
PAUMA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
PECHANGE BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
SAN LUISENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
SAN PASQUAL BAND OF DIEGUENO INDIANS
SANTA YSABEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
SOBABA BAND OF MISSION INDIAN
SYCUAN BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
TIMBISHA BAND SHOSHONE INDIANS
TORRESMARTINEZ BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
TORRES-MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, KERN VALLEY INDIAN COUNCIL
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIR, TUBATULABALS OF KERN VALLEY

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Organizations Contact List

A&L LITHO, INC	DOWELL SCHLUMBERGER INC
A.G. EDWARDS & SONS, INC.	DOWNSTREAM SERVICES, INC
A1 AGGREGATES INC	DRIFTERS JEEP CLUB
AGRI EMPIRE COMPANY	DWE ENGINEERING INC
AMA DISTRICT 37	EARTHWATCH CLUB
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY	EXECUTIVESUITE SERVICES INC
APPLE VALLEY GUN CLUB	FEATHERROCK INCUS PUMICE
APPLE VALLEY GUN CLUB INC	FILM PERMITS UNLIMITED INC
AUDUBON SOCIETY	FIRST ALLIED SECURITIES INC
AUDUBON SOCIETY KERN	FLY BY NIGHT 4X4 CLUB
AUDUBON SOCIETY NATIONAL	GEAR GRINDERS 4 WD CLUB
AUDUBON SOCIETY RIVERSIDE CHAPTER	GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY TULE
AUDUBON SOCIETY SOUTH COAST CHAPTER	GLENN RECORD INC
BAKERSFIELD SANDSTONE BRICK COMPANY	HAPPINESS IS BUGGY CLUB
BIGHORN GOLF CLUB	HEMET HS CONSERVATION CLUB
BORN DIRTY INDUSTRIES	HEMET JEEP CLUB
BRUBAKER MANN INC	HOOVED ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY
CA TORTOISE TURTLE CLUB	HUMBOLDT BUGGY ATV ASSN INC
CA TURTLE AND TORTOISE CLUB	I AND M SHEEP COMPANY
CA TURTLE TORTOISE CLUB MEMBER	IMPERIAL VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
CAL ENERGY COMPANY INC	INDUSTRIAL METALS SALVAGE
CALIF TURTLE AND TORTOISE CLUB	INFORMATION BOULEVARD INTERNET SERVICES, INC
CALIF TURTLE TORTOISE CLUB	ISLANDERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
CALIFORNIA 4 WHEEL DRIVE CLUB	IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA INC
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY	JEEPING JEEPERS JEEP CLUB
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY EL CAJON CHAPTE	KERN CO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PACIFIC PALISADE	KERN CO MINERAL SOCIETY
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER	KERN CO MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY
CALIFORNIA TURTLE AND TORTOISE CLUB	KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY
COLE GROUP, INC.	LAKESIDE SPORTSMEN CLUB
COMM ENT INC	LAND DEPT SHELL CALIFORNIA PROD INC
CPISTRANO VALLEY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB	LAND PARCEL LIQUIDATORS INC
CRESTLINE 4WD CLUB	LAS VEGAS VALLEY BICYCLE CLUB
DEATH VALLEY 49ERS INC	LOCKHEAD RECREATION CLUB
DEL AIR ROCKHOUND CLUB	LONE TREE CATTLE COMPANY
DELVERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY	LONG BEACH GEM MIN SOCIETY
DESERT IRONWOODS RESORT, INC	LUNAR LAND YACHT CLUB
DESERT MOTORCYCLE CLUB	MATLOW KENNEDY COMPANY
DESERT WILDLIFE UNLIMITED INC	MERKEL & ASSOCIATES, INC
DESOMOUNT CAMPING CLUB	MICROTEK LAB INC
	MOBIL EXPLORATION AND PRODUCING US INC
	MONO-INYO SHEEP COMPANY

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Organizations Contact List

MOTORCYCLE INDUSTRY COUNCIL	SOLE TECHNOLOGY INC
NADEAU TRAIL, INC	SOUTHERN CLAYEDWARD LOWE INC
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY	SPECIALTIES MINERALS INC
NATURAL HISTORY CLUB	SPINNIN FOURS 4WD CLUB
NEEDLES GEM MINERAL CLUB	STIMULUS INC
OF WOMENS CLUBS	SUPERIOR MORTGAGE INC
OMYA CALIFORNIA INC	TAFT SPORTSMAN CLUB
ORANGE COUNTY 49ERS INC	TAFT SPORTSMEN CLUB
ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY	TAFT SPORTSMENS CLUB
PACIFIC SHORES CONSTRUCTION AND PAINTING, INC	TETRA TECH INC
PACIFIC TELEPHONE COMPANY	THE DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL, INC
PALOMAR GEM AND MINERAL CLUB	THE WATLING COMPANY
PALOMAR SPORTSMENS CLUB	THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
PARKER INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES	THOMAS OLSEN ASSOCIATES INC
PFUESSTAUFER CA INC	TIERRA DEL SOL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB
PLUESSTAUFER INC	TRAILMASTERS 4WD CLUB
PRO CIRCUIT AV, INC	TRI-CITIES LAPIDARY SOCIETY
PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE INC	TULE GEM & MINNERAL SOCIETY
RABBIT CHASERS BUGGY CLUB	US GYPSUM COMPANY
RED ROCK AUDUBON SOCIETY	VERBAL SKILL INC
REDEV INC	VICTOR VALLEY GEM MIN CLUB
RHEOX INC	WAX RESEARCH, INC
RIVER RUNNERS INC	WESTERN MINNING COUNCIL INC
ROCKCRAFTERS CLUB	WJM FARMING INC
ROYAL GOLD INC	WOMENS CLUB OF BELLFLOWER
SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL	AGRI-EMPIRE CORP
SAN DIEGO COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY	AMA DIST 37
SAN DIEGO LAPIDARY SOCIETY	BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CA
SAREEA AL JAMEL 4WD CLUB	BARSTOW BOARD OF REALTORS
SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY INC	CA OFF ROAD VEHICLE ASSN
SEARCHERS GEM MIN SOCIETY	CALIF OFFROAD VEHICLE ASSN
SEQUOIA SIDEWINDERS 4WD CLUB	CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION
SIERRA CLUB	CALIFORNIA MINING ASSOCIATION
SIERRA CLUB CHAPTER CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN	CALIFORNIA OFF HWY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION
SIERRA CLUB FRIENDS OF MOJAVE ROAD	CALIFORNIA OFF ROAD VEHICLE ASSOC
SIERRA CLUB KERN KAWEAH CHPT	CANYON RESOURCES CORP
SIERRA CLUB MOJAVE GROUP	CANYON RESOURCES CORPORATION
SO COUNCIL CONSERVATION CLUBS	CASCADIA EXPLORATION CORP
SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP	CV ORGANIC FERTILIZERS
SOCIETY OF CA ARCHAEOLOGY DEPT OF ANTHRO	DESERT CONSERVATION INSTITUTE
	DOORA LAND CORP
	ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT CORP
	EL MIRAGE MAC STEERING COMM OFF ROAD

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Organizations Contact List

PARK

ENV MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES
FOUR J CATTLE CORP
FREMONT GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL
FRIENDS OF THE MOJAVE ROAD
GIRL SCOUTS JOSHUA TREE COUNCIL
GOLD DOME MINING CORP
IMPERIAL VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS
INLAND FISH GAME ASSOCIATIO
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOC
CENTRAL ORANGE COUNTY CHAP LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
LANDERS ASSOCIATION
LILBURN CORP
LOWE RESERVE CORP
MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING CORP
MINE RECLAMATION CORP
MONACHE ASSOCIATES
MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
NATIONAL OHV CONSERVATION COUNCIL
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
NEEDLES DESERT WILDLIFE ASSOC
NEWMONT MINING CORP
NONPROFIT COUNSEL
OFF ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
OHV COMMISSION
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SAN DIEGO COUNTY
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY CHAP LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
ORGANIZATION AGAINST TOXIC EXPOSURE
PACIFIC MINING ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY 3 WHEELERS
ORANGE COUNTY 49ERS
ORANGE COUNTY BUGS
ROAD RUNNER SPORTS
ORANGE COUNTY FILM OFFICE
SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
SAN DIEGO FILM COMMISSION
SAN DIEGO OFF ROAD COALITION
SAN DIEGO OFF ROAD MAGAZINE
SAN DIEGO OFFROAD COALITION
SAN DIEGO OFF-ROAD COALITION

SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER
SAN GORGONIO GEM AND MINERALS
SANDPAPER
SERRANO BOARD OF REALTORS
SO CA ROCK PRODUCTS ASSOC
SO CALIF BIRD DOG ASSOC
SOUTHEAST COUNSELING CONSULTING SVCS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON LICENSING AND
PLANNING
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SOARING ASSOCIATION
STAFFER & FLINT ACCOUNTANCY CORP
SYLMAR HANG GLIDING ASSOC
SYLMAR HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION
THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL
THE EARTH TECHNOLOGY CORP
UNITED CONTINENTAL DEVELOPMENT CORP
UNITED FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS
US HANG GLIDING ASSOC
VICEROY GOLD CORP
VICEROY GOLD CORPORATION
WESTERN MINING COUNCIL
YUCCA VLY BOARD OF REALTORS
4H OIL CO
A & F SHEEP CO
ALL FOURS OF SOCAL
AMERICAN MUSTANG BURRO ASSN
ASSN COLORADO RIVER WATERWAY
AUTOMOTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS
BERNAL SHEEP CO
CAL FED MINERALOGICAL SOC
CAL FED MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CALIFORNIA ASSN 4X4
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL
SOCIETIES
CHEVRON USA PRODUCTION CO
COACHELLA VALLEY CYCLING ASSN
DEL NORTE GEM MINERAL SOC
DESERT TRAIL ASSN OF CALIF
EL CAJON VALLEY GEM MIN SOC
EL TEJON SHEEP CO
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOC
EXCELMINERAL CO
FRUIT GROWERS SUPPLY CO

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GRANITE CONSTRUCTION CO	MISSION IND
HALL MINING CO	VOLUNTEERS 4 DESERT RACING
HARRIS FEEDING CO	W LOS ANGELES JACL
HUG CONSTRUCTION CO	WANDA GREEN TRUST
INTERNATIONAL SCOUT ASSN	WATROUS S CYCLING ENTERPRISES
LA RONNA JOSOBA CO	WEBBER AND WEBBER
MINERALOGICAL SOC OF SOCAL	WESTERN FOUNDATION OF VERTEBRATE
MISSION ENERGY CO	ZOOLOGY
MONO SHEEP CO	WESTERN OUTDOORS
MORONGO BASIN CONSERV ASSN	WESTERN ROCKHOUNDS ASSN
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOC	WESTERN STATES PETROLEUM ASSN
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE ASSN	WESTERN STATES PETROLEUM ASSO
O BAR O CATTLE CO	WEYMOUTH SCIENCE CENTER
ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOC	WHITEWATER ROCK CO
PACIFIC COAST ARCH SOC	WHITEWATER ROCK SUPPLY CO
PACIFIC MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO	WHOA
PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE	WIGGINTON RANCH
RAYMOND CO	WILD SPACES
RICK ENGINEERING CO	WILDERNESS ASSN OF SAN DIEGO
RIVERSIDE CEMENT CO	WILLIAMTERRY BEENE
RIVERSIDE CO	WINDSKATE
S CALIF EDISON CO	WOOD
SAN BERNARDINO CO	YAMAHA OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
SAN DIEGO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOC	YUCAIPA VALLEY GEM MIN SOC
SO CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	1STANDARD
SOUTHERN CA EDISON CO	4WD GHOST RIDERS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	4X4 FREELANDERS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS CO	ACE REALTY
SOUTHWEST PORTLAND CEMENT CO	AERA ENERGY LLC
SOUTHWESTERN CEMENT CO	AFTERSHOCKS
TURN KEY ENGINE SUPPLY	ALEXANDER HEFLIN RANCH
UNIGRAFIX	ALL AMER AGGREGAT
US BORAX	AMA D37
US GYPSUM COMPAY	AMERICAN HANDGUNNER
US POOR WHEELERS	AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL
USBR YUMA AREA OFFICE	GEOLOGISTS
VALLEY GEM MINERAL	AMERICAN TOURS INTERNATIONAL
VANCE ELECTRIC	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
VICTOR VALLEY 4 WHEELERS	ANTHONY C SYCIP
VICTOR VALLEY GEM MIN	AQUAFARMS
VICTOR VALLEY MUSEUM ASSN	ASA AXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
VICTORY OIL CO	ASARO BUILDERS

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Organizations Contact List

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ATC FEVER	CO-CHAIR, NUUI CUNNI INTERPRETATIVE CENTER
ATV CONNECTION	COCHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSEVANCY
B D TRUST	COINSHOOTERS CLIQUE
BANNER QUEEN RANCH	COLORADO RIVER REC PROJECT
BEACH N TOYS	CONVAIR ROCKHOUNDS
BEACON	CORTE MADERA RANCH
BEVERLY HALL	CORVA
BEVERLY WILSHIRE HOTEL	CUSHENBURY MINE TRUST
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BIGHORN INSTITUTE	DEATH VALLEY 49ERS
BIRDWELL RANCH	DEL AIR ROCKHOUNDS
BLAST OFF HYDRO BLAST OFF ENTERPRISES	DERT
BLUERIBBON COALITION	DESERT DISPATCH
BOB LONGPRE PONTIAC	DESERT DIVERS
BOBS CREEK RANCH	DESERT ENTERPRISES
BOY SCOUTS	DESERT FOXES
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	DESERT RACE SUPPORT
BOYD DEEP CANYON RESEARCH CEN	DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COM
BUENA VISTA CHAPTER	DESERT TORTOISE PRESERVE COMM
C/O KEITH RELPH	DESERT WILDLIFE UNLIMITED
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CALIF GROUND POUNDERS	DON EMDE PRODUCTIONS
CALIFORNIA GROUND POUNDERS	DUNE BUGGIES & HOT VWS
CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION	DVM
CALNEV PIPELINE	EAGLERIDER GLENDALE
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	EARLY BRONCOS LIMITED
CAMP ED	EARTH JUSTICE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC
CAMPING BARES	EARTH SYSTEMS
CAPITAN GRANDE BND MISSION IN	EASTSIDE FEDERAL COMPLEX
CATTANI AND SON	EASY RIDERS
CATTLEMEN ATLARGE COMMITTEE	ECOLOGICAL 4 WHEELING ADVENTURES
CATVA	EDITH WILLOUGHBY
CENTERPOINTE LENDING	EDITORROCKHOUNDS BULLETIN
CENTRAL VALLEY SPORTSMEN	EL CHICANO
CENTURY 21 FAIRWAY	EL SOL DE SAN DIEGO
CENTURY HOMES COMMUNITIES	ELITE AUTO SERVICES
CFMS	ELLEN VAN CEERENT
CHARTER OAK REAL ESTATE	EPWATransPORTATION
CHAVARIN WELDING	EQUESTRIAN TRAILS
CHEVRON	ERWIN ENTERPRISES
CIBOLA WILDLIFE REFUGE	ESMERELDA TRUCKHAVEN GEOTHERMAL LLC
CIRCLE MTN CONSULTANTS	EW MERRITT FARMS

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F K CHAN	JOEHAULER MOTORCYCLES CARRIERS
FORT MOJAVE RESERVATION	JOHNSON BROTHERS RANCH
FOUR WHEELIN DEALIN 4WDC	JOSHUA TREE C C
FRATERNITY OF THE DESERT BIGHORN	JOUGHIN RANCH
FRIENDS CALICO EARLY MAN SITE	KAISER STEEL RESOURCES
FRIENDS OF DESERT WETLAND PARK	KEMP RANCH
FRIENDS OF EL GARCIS	KERN COG
FRIENDS OF EL MIRAGE	KERN RIVER MUSKRATS
FRIENDS OF THE DUNES	KERNVILLE CHAMBER OF COMERCE
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GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES DPET	KINGSBURG 4WDC
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GERMAN STREET	LAKE MINERALS
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GRANTS AIRPORT	LAURA RODRIGUEZ
GRUBB & ELLIS	LAW OFFICES
H B RANCH	LAW OFFICES OF PAUL ZOGG
H. ELIZABETH WILMARTH	LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS
HARVEY HOUSE SHELL	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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HEADFRAME	LEEFAA INVESTMENTS
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HOLROYD TILE AND STONE	LOS ARRIEROS 4WDC
HONDA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ATTN LRI DI	LOS COYOTES RESERVATION
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IMPERIAL VALLEY SIDEWINDERS	MINNEOLA MINI MART
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IRONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	MOJAVE RIVER VALLEY MUSUEM
IZQUIERDO WOOL GROWERS	MONROVIA CANYON PARK
JEFFREY STONE	MORE
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MOUNTAIN DEFENSE LEAGUE
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NAACP DELANO
NATIONAL OUTDOOR COALITION
NATL SORTY OF PHI DELTA KAPPA
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
NATURE BOY AND BEARCAT
NAVY LEAGUE
NEON DIVERS
NICKEL FAMILY LLC
NRA
OAK CANYON NATURE PARK ANAHEIM PRKS
OC 49S
OCOTILLO WELLS SVRA
OREG LTD REAL ESTATE LOAN FUND
ORMAT NEVADA
OWENS VALLEY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
P V ENTERPRISES
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PALOMAR COMMUNICATIONS
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PORTA POTTY PILOTS
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PROFESSOR

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY
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QUARTERCIRCLE A 1 RANCH
RAC MEMBER
RANCHO MISSION VIEJO
RANCHO MUSCUIABE
REAL ESTATE LOAN FUND OREG LTD
REGIONAL BRANCH
REGROUPERS 4WDC
RESOURCE CENTER CA STATE POLY
RESOURCE CENTER CAL STATE POLY
RIVERLAND RESORT
RIVERMERE AA RANCHES
RIVERSIDE BLACK VOICE
RIVERSIDE RUFF RIDERS
ROBERT BIRD
ROCKATOMICS GEM MINERALS SO
ROSSI LAND AND CATTLE
S CALIF EDISON
SAN BERNARDINO AMERICAN
SAN BERNARDINO CO MUSEUM
SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL HISTORY MUSEUM
SAN DIEGO 4 WHEELERS
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
SAN DIEGO OUTBACK 4WDC
SAN DIEGO OUTBACKS 4X4
SAN DIEGO SPORTS CYCLES
SAN DIEGO TRAIL RIDERS
SAN DIEGO VOICE VIEWPOINT
SAN DIEGUITO RIDERS
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER
SAND JEEPS
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY CHAMBER
SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD MESQUITE MINE
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE LRC
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SEISMOLOGICAL LAB 25221
SENATOR BARBARA BOXER STAFF
SERVICE
SFV PARTTIME 4 WHEELERS
SILICZ ESTATE

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Organizations Contact List

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SLASH X COMMUNITY	STONE BUFFALO
SLASH X COMMUNITY REP	STUDIES PROG
SMALL MINERS OF AMERICA	SUN AQUA
SMITH RANCH	SUN REPORTER
SO NV WATERFOWLERS	SYMBIENCE LLC
SOLID WASTE DIV CO OF SAN DIEGO	SYSTEMS ECOLOGY
SONY BONO NATL WILDLIFE REUGE	SYSTEMS SURVEYS
SORRELS & KEEFER	TECHNOLOGY CENTER
SOUTH BAY 4X4S	THE BRADCO COMPANIES
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ATV	THE CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON	THE DESERT TRAIL
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COM	THE GOOD IDEA GROUP
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON FEDERAL PERMITS	THE LIVING DESERT
SOUTHWEST GAS TRAIL HIKERS	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
SOUTHWEST MIN ENG	THE STANDARD
SOUTHWEST PROSPECTOR AND MINERS	THOMPSON ENGINEERING
SOUTHWEST PROSPECTOR ASST	THOROUGHbred OF CALIFORNIA
SOUTHWESTERN CABLE	TORTOISE GROUP
SOUTHWESTERN CEMENT	TRAIL REPAIR IMPROVEMENT
SOUTHWESTERN HERPETOLOGISTS	TRANSCOAST FINANCIAL
SOUTHWESTERN MINERS	TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
STANDARD MINERALS	TREE OF LIFE NURSERY
STAR RANCH	TU MUNDO

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Chamber of Commerce Contact List

ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	EL CENTRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ALPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	EL SEGUNDO C OF C
ANAHEIM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ENCINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANZA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ESCONDIDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
AVALON CATALINA ISLAND C OF C	FULLERTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BAKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	GRAND TERRACE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BAKERSFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	GREATER RIVERSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BANNING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	GREATER TULARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BARSTOW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	HEMET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	HERMOSA BEACH C OF C
BELLFLOWER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	HESPERIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BEVERLY HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	HIGHLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BIG BEAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	IDYLLWILD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BLYTHE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	IMPERIAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BORREGO SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	INGLEWOODAIRPORT C OF C
BRAWLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	IRWINDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	JOSHUA TREE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUENA PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	JULIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BURBANK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LA HABRA AREA C OF C
BUTTONWILLOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LA MESA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CALEXICO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LAKE ARROWHEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CALIMESA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LAKE ELSINORE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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CAPISTRANO BEACH C OF C	LAKESIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CARDIFF BY THE SEA C OF C	LAKEWOOD GTR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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CERRITOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LONG BEACH AREA C OF C
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LOS ALAMITOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHERRY VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	LUCERNE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHULA VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	MALIBU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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CONEJO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	MONROVIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
COSTA MESA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	MORONGO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CRESCENTA VALLEY C OF C	NEEDLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CRESTLINE RESORTS C OF C	NEWPORT HARBOR C OF C
CUDAHY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	NILAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CULVER CITY C OF C	NORWALK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DAGGETT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	OCEANSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DANA POINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	ORANGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DELANO DISTRICT C OF C	PACIFIC PALISADES C OF C
DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	PALOS VERDES PENINSULA C OF C

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PENINSULA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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POMONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
POPLAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PORTERVILLE GTR C OF C
POWAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RAMONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RANCHO BERNARDO C OF C
RANCHO MIRAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REDLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RIALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
RUNNING SPRINGS AREA C OF C
SAN BERNARDINO AREA C OF C
SAN CLEMENTE C OF C
SAN DIEGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SAN DIMAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SAN MARCOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SAN MARINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SAN PEDRO PENINSULA C OF C
SANTA FE SPRINGS C OF C
SANTEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SOLANA BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SOUTH GATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SPRING VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SPRINGVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

STANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUN VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
SUNLANDTUJUNGA C OF C
TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TEMPLE CITY C OF C
THERMAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
THOUSAND OAKS/ WESTLAKE VILLAGE REG C OF C
THOUSAND PALMS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TOLUCA LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TORRANCE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TUSTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VALLEY CENTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VENICE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VICTORVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VISTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WEST SHORES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WESTMINSTER C OF C
WINNETKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WOODLAKE VALLEY C OF C
WOODLAND HILLS C OF C
WRIGHTWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
YUCAIPA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
YUCCA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
YORBA LINDA C OF C

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Media Contact List

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS
KROP RADIO
ASIAN JOURNAL
CALIFORNIA HORSEMANS NEWS
LAPIDARY JOURNAL
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT ILL CYCLE NEWS
SAN DIEGO WEEKLY NEWS
WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS
C B S PUBLICATIONS
CYCLE WORLD MAGAZINE
HOT VWS MAGAZINEDUSTY TIMES
INLAND EMPIRE MAGAZINE
PALM SPRINGS LIFE MAGAZINE
SAN DIEGO MAGAZINE
SAND SPORTS MAGAZINE
THREE WHEELING MAGAZINE
WARNER BROS STUDIO PRODUCTION AFFAIRS
WESTERN OUTDOORS PUBLICATIONS
WRIGHT PUBLISHING
BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN
KGAM AM
KGPE TV CBS CH 47
KPBS PBS CH 15
PSBS

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Schools Contact List

BIOLOGY DEPT CUESTA COLLEGE	DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL
CA STATE UNIVERSITY	FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL
CA STATE UNIVERSITY CALEXICO	GARDEN GROVE HIGH SCHOOL
CA STATE UNIVERSITY CARSON	HEMET HIGH SCHOOL
CA STATE UNIVERSITY FULLERTON	JAMES MONROE HIGH SCHOOL
CA UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	LA QUINTA HIGH SCHOOL
CAL POLY BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEPT	NORCO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CAL POLY LIBRARY DOCUMENTS DEPT	RUBIDOUX HIGH SCHOOL
CAL POLY POMONA GEOLOGY DEPT	SANTANA HIGH SCHOOL
CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC
CAL STATE POLY ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE	ADMINISTRATION
CENTER	CSU SAN BERNARDINO DEPT OF GEOGRAPHY
CAL STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY	DEPT OF MATHEMATICS WASHINGTON UNIV
CALIF BAPTIST COLLEGE LIBRARY	UC RIVERSIDE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIV OF CA IRVINE GOV INFO DEPT
COALINGA JR COLLEGE	UNIV OF CALIF RIVERSIDE
COMPTON COLLEGE	UNIV OF CALIF IRVINE
EL CAMINO COLLEGE BIOLOGY DEPT	UNIV OF CALIF RIVERSIDE
FULLERTON COLLEGE	UNIV OF CALIF SANTA BARBARA
LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE	UNIV OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS
LOS ANGELES PIERCE COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CA
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CALIF RIVERSIDE
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE EARTH SCIENCE	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPT	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DEPT OF
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE	ARCHEOLOGY
PIERCE COLLEGE	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DEPT OF BIOLOGY
RIVERSIDE COMM COLLEGE DEPT OF GEOGRAPHY	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE
SADDLEBACK COLLEGE SOUTH	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE
SEMITROPIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS
APPLE VALLEY JR HIGH SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS
BAKERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BANNING HIGH SCHOOL	CSU LIBRARIES
CARLSBAD HIGH SCHOOL	SAN DIEGO STATE UNIV
DALE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL	SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Library Contact List

BEAUMONT DISTRICT LIBRARY
COALINGA DISTRICT LIBRARY
PALO VERDE VALLEY DISTRICT LIBRARY
PLACENTIA LIBRARY DISTRICT
SANTA FE SPRINGS CITY LIBRARY
ALHAMBRA PUBLIC LIBRARY
CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY
ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY
ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
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BRAWLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY
IMPERIAL COUNTY FREE LIBRARY
BREWITT BRANCH LIBRARY
BURBANK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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APPENDIX C: SCOPING PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION BOARDS

Scoping Meeting Presentation



WELCOME

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Scoping Meetings

October 2009

Project Team

- **BLM, NEPA Lead Agency**
 - John Dalton, Project Coordinator
 - Sean Hagerty, Geothermal Lead
 - Linn Gum, Ridgecrest Field Office Assistant Manager
- **POWER Engineers, EIS Preparation**
 - Mike Strand, Project Manager
 - Karen Cadavona, Public Involvement Coordinator



AGENDA

- Introduction
- Project Background and Overview
- Purpose and Need
- Proposed Action
- Alternatives
- NEPA Process/Project Timeline
- Public Comments/Closing Remarks



Geothermal Energy

Geothermal Resources

- Underground reservoirs of hot water or steam created by heat from the earth.
- Geothermal steam and hot water can reach the surface of the earth in the form of hot springs, geysers, mud pots, or steam vents.
- Resources also can be accessed by wells, and the heat energy can be used for generating electricity.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Benefits of Geothermal Energy

- Clean Energy
 - produce only about one-sixth of the carbon dioxide that a relatively clean natural-gas-fuel power plant produces
 - very little if any, of the nitrous oxide or sulfur-bearing gases.
- Reliable Source of Energy
 - available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
 - geothermal power plants have average availabilities of 90% or higher, compared to about 75% for coal plants
- Geothermal power is accessible locally
 - reducing dependence on foreign oil
- Sustainable renewable resource
 - Earth's core provides an almost unlimited amount of heat
 - Even geothermal areas dependent on reservoir of hot water, the volume taken out can be re-injected.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



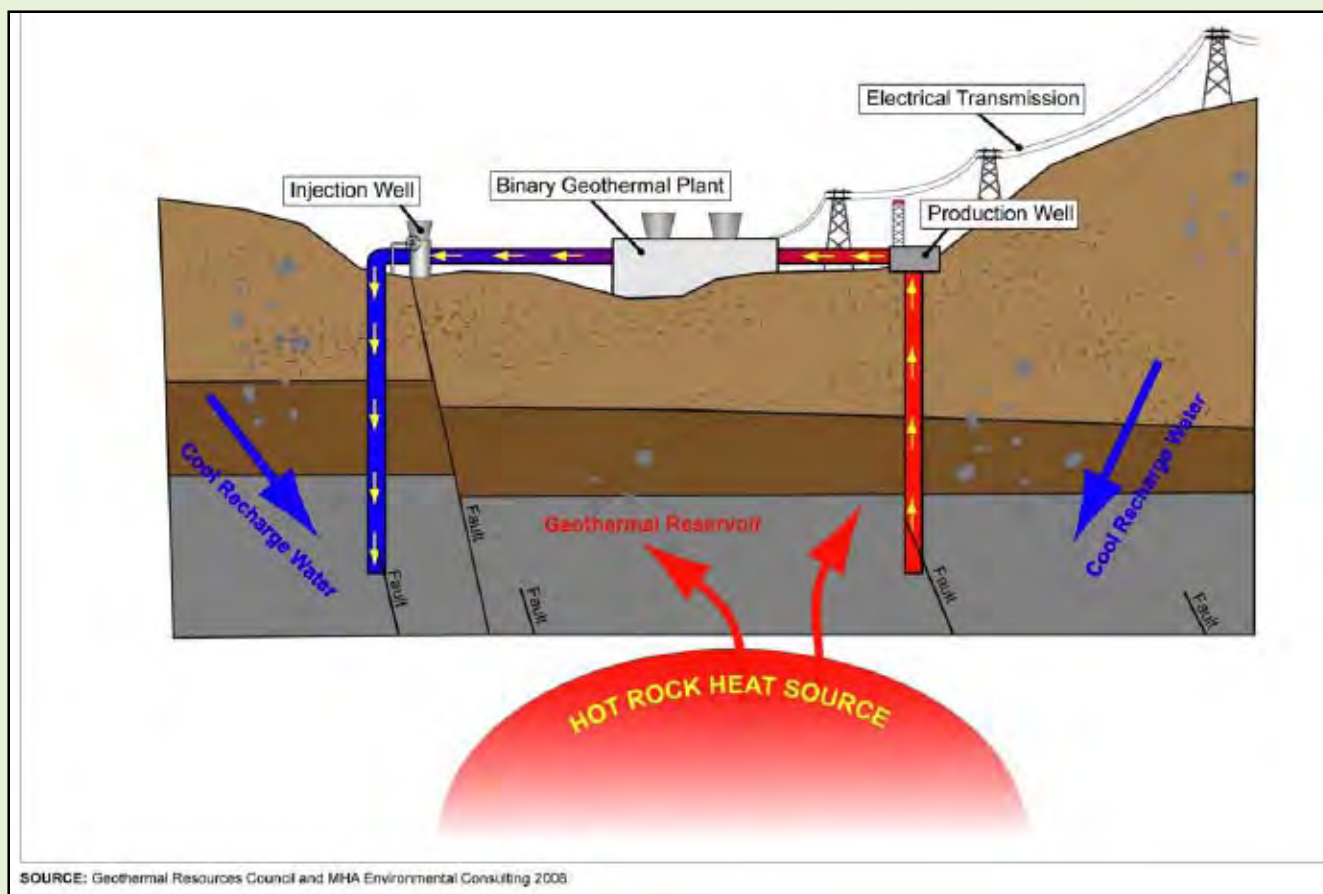
Geothermal Energy Development

- Exploration
 - Production and Injection Wells
- Development
 - occurs when the operator has located a potentially profitable geothermal reservoir
 - undergo NEPA review by the BLM to evaluate the possible environmental impacts of the action
 - construct access roads, pipelines, power plants, transmission lines & substations
- Utilization
 - Power Plant Operation

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Geothermal Energy Process



HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Three Types of Above-Ground Geothermal Power Plants:

- **Binary Plants**

- conventionally applied to comparatively low-temperature (190° - 330° F) hydrothermal resources
- apply the heat from the resource fluid to heat a separate working fluid which drives a turbine-generator through a closed-loop cycle

- **Flash Plants**

- applied to higher-temperature (330° F and above) hydrothermal resources
- “flash” the resource fluid into steam which directly drives a turbine-generator
- steam is condensed for injection or use in the plant’s cooling water circuit

- **Dry Steam Plants**

- applied in comparatively rare circumstances where the resource emerges from the wells as plant-quality steam
- the steam is condensed after use and re-injected or used in the cooling water circuit

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Leasing of Geothermal Resources on Federal Lands

- considered a major Federal action and a commitment to resource development; therefore, it requires NEPA analysis
- 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 3200 Geothermal Leasing and Exploration/Utilization
- lease allows the right to future exploration and development of geothermal resources; however, subsequent activities involving surface disturbance will require additional NEPA analysis.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Environmental and Energy Laws

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969:** requires Federal agencies to review the effects of its actions on the natural and human-made environment prior to taking action.
- **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966:** provides for the establishment of the National Register of Historic Places to include historic properties such as districts, sites, buildings structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture.
- **Endangered Species Act of 1973:** provides for the Federal protection of threatened and endangered plants, insects, fish, and wildlife.
- **The National Energy Policy Act of 2001:** determine ways to reduce the delays in geothermal lease processing as part of the permitting review process.
- **Executive Order 13212 (2001):** expedite Energy-Related Projects, review of permits, or take other actions as necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects.
- **Energy Policy Act of 2005:** encourage the leasing and development of geothermal resources from public lands.
- **Geothermal Steam Act of 1970:** governs the leasing of geothermal steam and related resource on public lands.

California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan: encompasses 25 million acres of land in Southern California designated by Congress in 1976. The plan provides overall regional guidance for management of public lands in the designated area and establishes long-term goals for protection and use in the California Desert.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



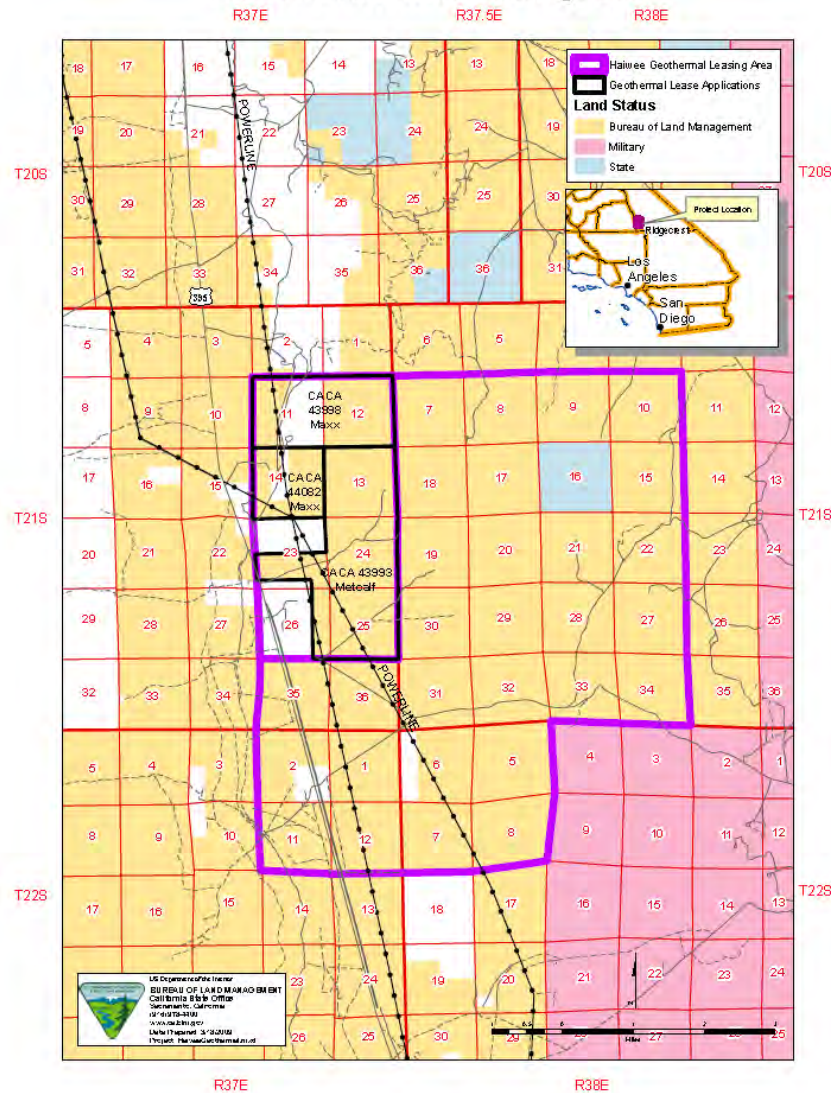
Haiwee Geothermal Lease Area

- 24,320 acre Leasing Area includes:
 - 22,460 acres of public lands
 - 640 acres state land
 - 1,220 acres private
- Pending Lease Applications
 - 3 pending applications
 - Total of 4,460 acres

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area



Project Area Map

- Located in Inyo County
- Approximately 13 miles south of Olancho, California
- East of the Inyo National Forest
- West of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center
- South of the South Haiwee Reservoir

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



PURPOSE AND NEED

- Determine whether to approve pending non-competitive geothermal lease applications
- Determine whether to offer competitive leases for geothermal resources in the Leasing Area
- California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment
- Implement President's National Energy Policy 2001 and Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Assist the State in meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals



PROPOSED ACTION

- Open or close leasing of approximately 22,000 acres of BLM-managed lands in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
 - Three pending lease applications covering approximately 4,500 acres are also included
 - Does not include State or private lands
- Amend the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980 for leasing of geothermal resources on BLM-managed lands

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



ALTERNATIVES

- No Action
 - leasing of geothermal lands would stay the same as outlined in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan
- Leasing of less than the proposed 22,000 acres



NEPA Scoping

- Early and open process to determine scope of issues
- Identify significant issues
- Identify range of actions, alternatives, and mitigation measures
- Identify potential significant effects



NEPA Process/Project Timeline

INFORM	Notice of Intent	September 2009
LISTEN	Scoping	October 2009
EVALUATE	Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Draft Plan Amendment •Notice of Availability •90-day comment period	Winter 2009
RESPOND	Formal Public Meetings	Spring 2010
	Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Proposed Plan Amendment •Notice of Availability •30-day protest period •60-day Governor's Consistency Review	Fall 2010
DECIDE	Record of Decision	Winter 2010

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Be a Part of the Process

Submit Comments

BLM welcomes your comments and input throughout the environmental review process. Please write your comments on the comment forms available tonight throughout the room and submit comments one of the following ways:

- Place them in the comment box located at the welcome table.
- Write to:
BLM, California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Coordinator
- Email comments to cahaiwee@blm.gov

While we encourage the public to submit comments at any time, all comments (letters and emails) for consideration in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be received by close of business **Monday, November 9, 2009**.

Project Updates

Available at www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest.html

Review Project Information and Meet the Team

Please visit the project displays to review the project information. Team members are available to discuss the project and answer questions.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



THANK YOU!

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Scoping Meeting Boards

Proposed Action

Amend California Desert Conservation Area Plan to either open or close the 22,000 acre Haiwee Geothermal Lease Area to geothermal exploration, development, and utilization.

Alternatives

1. No Action Alternative (leasing of geothermal lands would stay the same as outlined in the California Desert Conservation Area Plan)
2. Leasing fewer than 22,000 acres of BLM-managed lands.

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA

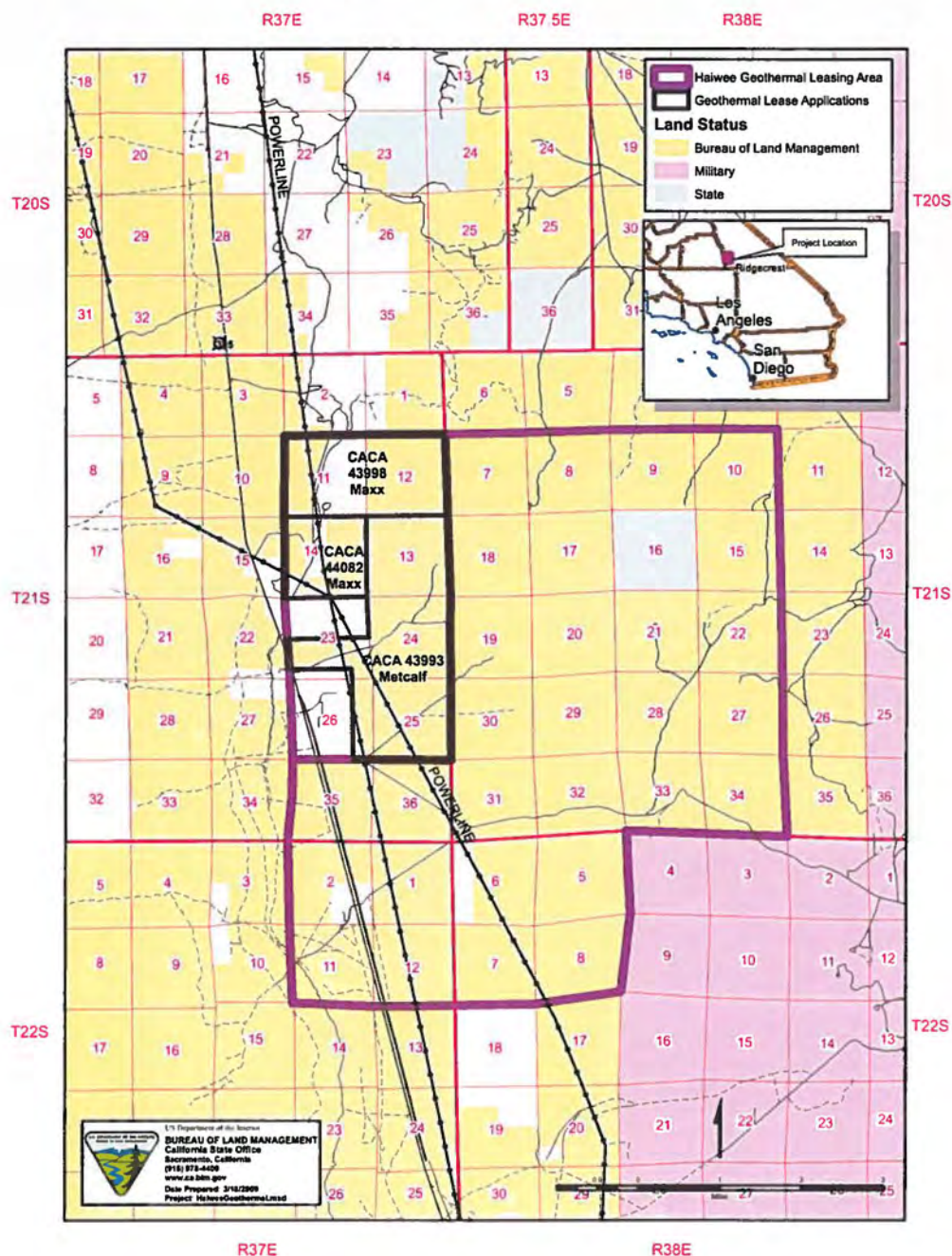


Purpose and Need

- California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment
- Implement Energy Policy Act of 2005
- Assist the State in meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard



BLM Project Area Map



HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Environmental and Energy Laws

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: requires Federal agencies to review the effects of its actions on the natural and human-made environment prior to taking action.

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HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Geothermal Resources

Geothermal resources are underground reservoirs of hot water or steam created by heat from the earth. Geothermal steam and hot water can reach the surface of the earth in the form of hot springs, geysers, mud pots, or steam vents. These resources can be accessed by wells, and the heat energy can be used for generating electricity.

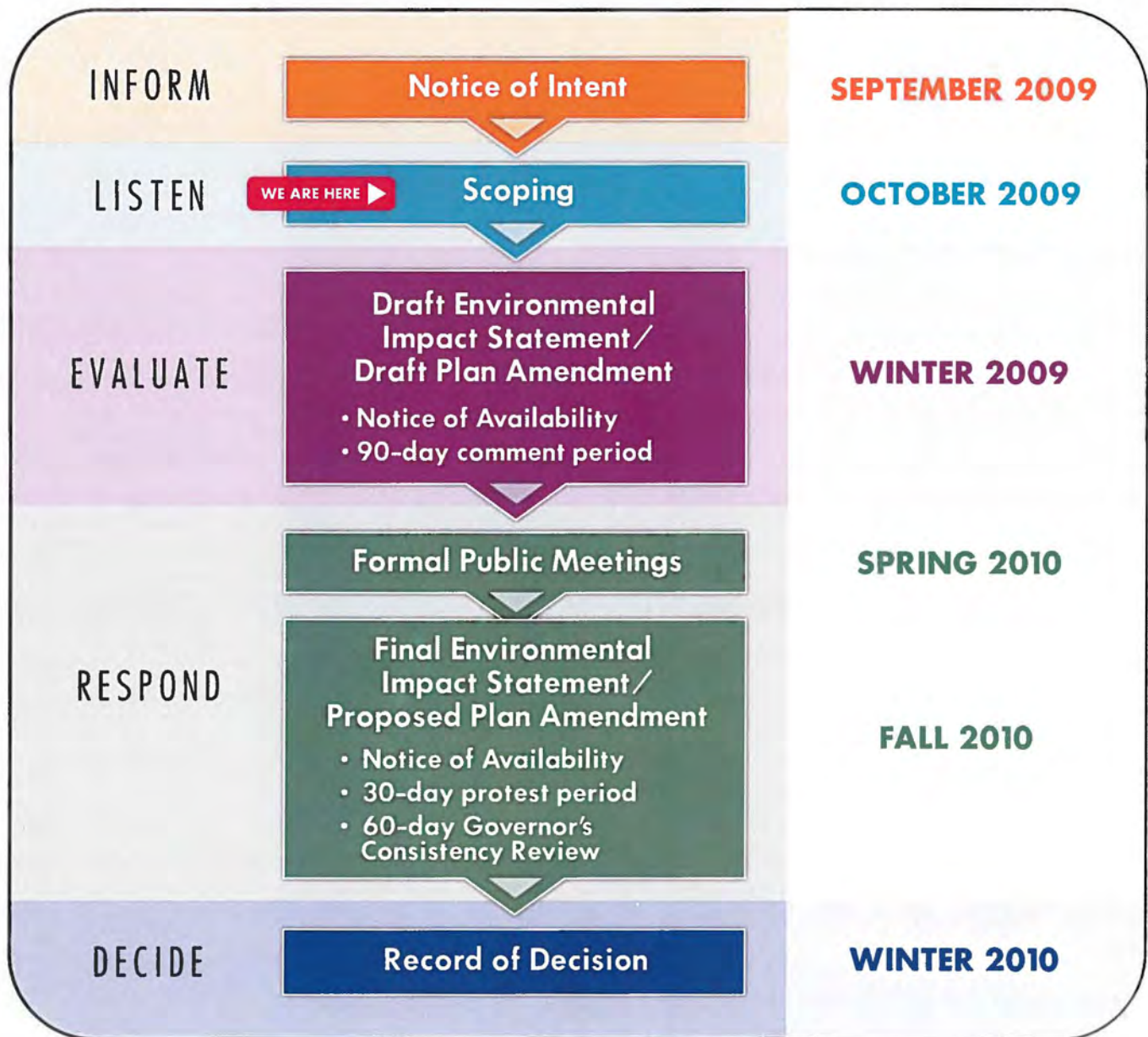
Benefits of Geothermal Energy

- produce about one-sixth of the carbon dioxide that a relatively clean natural-gas-fuel power plant produces, and very little if any, of the nitrous oxide or sulfur-bearing gases
- geothermal energy is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- sustainable renewable energy resource

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



NEPA Process



HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



We Welcome Your Comments

BLM welcomes your comments and input throughout the environmental review process and they may be submitted any of the following ways listed below.

email *cahaiwee@blm.gov*

send written comments to:

*BLM, California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553*

*Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal
Leasing Area Coordinator*

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*Project updates will be available at
www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest.html*

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Scoping

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed, and identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the Environmental Impact Statement.



APPENDIX D: SCOPING MEETING TRANSCRIPTS



Condensed Transcript Haiwee Geothermal Project

October 14, 2009

Bureau of Land Management Scoping Meeting - Bishop, CA

Printed on: November 22, 2009

Job #: 68508DM

Gillespie Reporting & Document Management Inc.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCOPING MEETING
HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: EASTERN SIERRA FAIRGROUNDS
HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING
Bishop, CA 93515

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, October 14, 2009
5:42 p.m. to 6:57 p.m.

REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR
CSR NO. 6008

JOB NO.: 68508DM

1 APPEARANCES

2
3 LINN GUM - Lands and Minerals Branch Chief

4 JOHN DALTON - Planning and Environmental Coordinator

5 SEAN HAGERTY - Geothermal Expert

6 MIKE STRAND - Project Manager

7 KAREN CADA VONA - Public Involvement Coordinator
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251 with our contracted services that we're using, Power
2 Engineers, and Karen Cadavona is the public relations
3 specialist for Power Engineers, as well, and then we
4 have two court reporters with us. They're going to
5 capture everything that you have to say.6 I'm going to have Mike come up in a minute
7 and go over some ground rules. I just wanted to say
8 thanks for coming, and as we go through this evening,
9 hopefully we'll answer your questions and get some good
10 interchange to help us on this project. Mike?11 MR. STRAND: Yeah. Thanks. So, Sean,
12 can you go to the next slide. I'll just run through
13 the agenda tonight real quick, what we're going to be
14 doing and looking at and have some timeframes here.
15 Sean is going to get up here in just a minute and go
16 through just some basic geothermal project information,
17 general geothermal-resource-type stuff, development of
18 geothermal resources and a little bit of history
19 background for this particular area we're looking at.20 And then I'll get up and talk a little bit
21 about the actual action that the BLM is looking at
22 taking on the project, and then we'll look at this EIS,
23 the aspects of the document we'll be writing,
24 the EIS.

25 I think that will take about 20 minutes, and

1 BISHOP, CA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009

2
3 PROCEEDINGS4
5 -000-
67 MR. GUM: We would like to go ahead and
8 get started this evening. Thank you all for coming to
9 our Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Project scoping meeting.
10 My name is Linn Gum. I am with the Bureau of Land
11 Management in Ridgecrest. I am the Branch Chief of
12 Lands and Minerals there. My branch is the branch
13 these applications will come to for these kinds of
14 activities. I'm also the Assistant Field Manager
15 there. And tonight we have brought together a group of
16 experts to be able to introduce to you this project.
17 They're sitting in the back row back here, and as we go
18 through this, we'll call them up.19 The fellow in the white jacket on the end
20 back here is John Dalton. He's the project coordinator
21 out of our California Desert District office in Moreno
22 Valley. The fellow next to him in the black t-shirt is
23 Sean Hagerty. He is our geothermal program leader out
24 of our State office in Sacramento. The fellow standing
25 up behind is Mike Strand. He is the program manager1 after that we will open it up for comments, and if we
2 can address your comments tonight, we're going to do
3 the best we can to answer questions. There may be
4 questions you ask that will be great questions and we
5 may not have an answers for you tonight, but we're
6 taking them down, and we will make sure they are
7 addressed adequately in the EIS.8 So you guys should all have a speaker card.
9 If you wish to give a comment tonight or ask a
10 question, you can just fill that out with your name.
11 After we're done with the presentation here, I'll
12 collect them and ask you to stand up. And you'll want
13 to state your name so the court reporter can hear you
14 clearly. If you can, speak slowly and loudly so they
15 can understand you. If she has trouble hearing you,
16 she may ask you to repeat yourself or slow down or talk
17 a little louder.18 And we don't have a lot of people here
19 tonight, so I'm not too worried about timeframe. But
20 you know, we'd like to give everyone a chance to ask a
21 question. If we could limit your questions to maybe
22 one or two and then come back and ask some more
23 questions once we've gone through all the speaker
24 cards. I want to give everyone a chance to ask their
25 question here. Okay. Thanks. Sean?

1 MR. HAGERTY: Good evening. My name is
2 Sean Hagerty. I'm the geothermal program lead with the
3 Bureau of Land Management in the Sacramento office.
4 There was a title someone gave me as geothermal expert.
5 I'm far from an expert, but I've been around the issue
6 for quite some time.

7 I started my career with BLM in Imperial
8 Valley. I saw the development of East Mesa Fields.
9 Now I oversee five different projects that are in
10 California: the Geysers, most notably, north of
11 San Francisco, big, big field; the Coso field, the East
12 Mesa field, Mammoth Lakes and also at Honey Lake up
13 near Susanville.

14 So I have a little bit of background, but as
15 I said, I don't know everything, and tonight is a
16 learning process for me. There may be questions you'll
17 have that I don't know, but I'll work together to get
18 an answer for you.

19 As Mike said, I'm going to go over some
20 basics. I won't go into a lot of detail. I'll be here
21 after the presentations. If somebody has questions
22 about the geology or reservoir or thermodynamics or
23 kinetics or things like that, I can try to answer some
24 of those questions. But I'm just going to give you a
25 brief overview of what is geothermal, where is it, how

1 is no surface manifestation of the resource. There are
2 no hot springs. And I'll talk a little bit about how
3 people can find those resources even when you don't see
4 any resource on the surface.

5 To access that resource, usually it's by
6 drilling wells like a water well but much, much bigger,
7 because you may have to drill down maybe 2,000, 4,000,
8 5,000, maybe even 10,000 feet to access that water.
9 And of course, it's very hot. Water normally boils at
10 about 212 degrees Fahrenheit at sea level, but the
11 water we're talking about here is down very deep. It
12 can be down over 4,000 feet. So water can actually be
13 above 212 degrees Fahrenheit because the pressure on
14 that water.

15 Going way back, thinking of my mom when she
16 had a pressure cooker to cook vegetables, it's the
17 pressure inside that pressure cooker that increases the
18 boiling point of water. Same concept here is that
19 water is very deep. There's a lot of pressure on the
20 water, so the water might be 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
21 Could be even higher but not boiling. Bring it to the
22 surface, and it will make it boil.

23 Benefits of geothermal energy. A lot of
24 discussion about renewable energy in California now.
25 You hear about solar. We hear about wind. We hear

1 do they find it, how to do they get it out of the
2 ground, what is it good for, things like that. So it
3 will be pretty generic.

4 When we talk about geothermal energy, we're
5 talking about the heat of the earth, crustal heat down
6 20-, 30,000 feet beneath our feet. The heat itself is
7 usually as a result of molten lava at depth. It can be
8 a variety of other things, too, but for most of the
9 areas around here, we're looking at a heat source
10 that's down fairly deep.

11 When that hot rock source is fractured and
12 water percolates down from the surface -- could be
13 rainwater, could be some other water -- that water is
14 heated, and it's that hot water that contains the
15 energy that we're looking at here. The heat itself,
16 the heat of the rock, is valuable, but current
17 technology is limited as far as getting that heat out.
18 So the water becomes a medium to get the heat to the
19 surface so it can produce something, it can do
20 something.

21 When we talk about geothermal steam and hot
22 water and things like that, most of us know things like
23 hot springs, fumaroles, geysers. Yellowstone is a good
24 example of that. But there's some areas where we don't
25 see that. There's still hot water at depth, but there

1 about biomass, and we hear about geothermal. One of
2 the biggest benefits of geothermal, say, as opposed to
3 fossil fuels, as opposed to oil or even natural gas is
4 that there's very few things that are released from
5 geothermal. There is some carbon dioxide, some types
6 of carbon dioxide in the reservoirs released, but far,
7 far less than what we have with natural gas.

8 It's a reliable source of energy from the
9 standpoint that with solar, solar works great when the
10 sun is shining. Wind is perfect when the wind is
11 blowing. But as you think about it, in the morning,
12 for solar, it ramps up a certain amount of voltage, and
13 then as the sun sets, it drops down. Winds is the same
14 thing. For geothermal, they turn the power plant on,
15 and it continues to produce power.

16 And that's something that the utility is
17 looking for so that they don't have to say, can you
18 produce so many megawatts this afternoon? Well, it
19 will depend on this cloud cover and whether the wind is
20 blowing. So there's a real benefit there. Mostly the
21 benefit is to the utility, but the benefit is to us, to
22 you, because it makes for a reliable source of power.

23 Geothermal power is accessed locally. We
24 have a resource here, and we have some transmission
25 capacity to take the power out. In the case of the

1 project here that we're looking at, there is a
2 transmission corridor in that area. So it's local.
3 It's domestic, and we don't have to import it.

4 And it's sustainable, for the most part.
5 The heat of the earth will be there for a long, long
6 time. The water issue is something else, but even at
7 the Geysers, they have been in production for over 40
8 years. The temperature of the rock itself, which is
9 about 475 degrees Fahrenheit, has only dropped a couple
10 of degrees.

11 We've all done this -- most of us have done
12 this. When we're camping, if we have a rock ring for a
13 campfire, even the next morning, if you were to pick up
14 one of those rocks, it's probably going to be pretty
15 warm. It may not be scalding hot, but it's going to be
16 hot. Once rock is hot, it stays hot. It stays hot for
17 a long time, and that's what nature has for us at
18 depth. So if there is hot rock there, a hot rock will
19 be there for quite some time.

20 In terms of how do companies get down and
21 find this water? What do they do? Well, there's a
22 process of exploration where they actually, again,
23 drill wells through the rock to get down to the water
24 itself. These are much bigger than a normal
25 truck-mounted water rig because now, if you're drilling

1 maybe a thousand feet, they may be going down much
2 further. In some cases they may be down close to
3 10,000 feet to reach this water.

4 And you might ask, how did the water get
5 down there? Well, because there's fractures in the
6 earth that the water has gone down, has percolated
7 down, much like a soaking of the ground, so it will get
8 down to these warmer rocks and heat up.

9 When a well is drilled and the company has
10 identified a resource, they'll flow test the resource
11 out to make sure there's enough heat and volume of that
12 water to make it commercially produceable, so now they
13 can build a power plant that will take that fluid.
14 Then that will become a commercial resource.

15 Wells. It may take a couple different wells
16 to make sure there's an adequate supply of energy
17 there, that there's an adequate supply of water in that
18 reservoir. But assuming that they determine that it is
19 a commercial resource, then there will be an
20 environmental review by us, of course, to assess the
21 project proposal, which might be a power plant, because
22 from the NEPA standpoint, we want to know about the
23 power plant, we want to know about the access roads, we
24 want to know about the transmission lines, every aspect
25 about that project. And utilization is that, once that

1 project has been completed, then the operator normally
2 is able to go ahead and do commercial operations.

3 Just a little cartoon. Yeah, nothing fancy,
4 just basically showing the heat of the earth down deep
5 in the crust. It could be molten rock. It could be a
6 variety of things. But the heat is conveyed up into a
7 reservoir rock here called a reservoir rock, where
8 water is percolated down from the sides through
9 fractures, cracks in the ground. It's heated up, and
10 then, although this fracture is here, usually over time
11 the fractures will seal off. There's usually
12 mineralization in the water much like you'll find in
13 the water pipes and things like that.

14 So quite often these fractures will be
15 sealed off to some degree so you've got water that has
16 been trapped in here. This becomes, then, cap rock to
17 hold the pressure in. Companies will then drill down
18 through the ground, through the cap rock, into the
19 reservoir to access the hot water.

20 In this cartoon we actually show a little
21 power plant. The hot water is brought up through the
22 pipe into the power plant, and if it's what we call a
23 flash plant, they allow it to flash in the steam. In
24 this case we are actually showing a binary power plant,
25 which the water comes up. It's sent through heat

1 exchanger much like the radiator in your car. The heat
2 is conveyed to a secondary fluid, usually a hydrocarbon
3 of some sort, isopentane, propane. It's that fluid
4 that heats up, turns into vapor that turns the turbine
5 that turns the generator that turns into electricity.

6 Once the water goes through the heat
7 exchanger, then it's injected back into the reservoir,
8 probably not the same place they extracted the water,
9 because they don't want the cool water coming in
10 contact with the wells here. They want the water to
11 migrate across the reservoir, picking up the heat of
12 the rock and then come back and pick up production.

13 Yes, sir.

14 GREG WEIRICK: What's the actual surface
15 footprint of an average geothermal plant, like the
16 total surface area of the facilities? I mean, a couple
17 of acres, a couple dozen acres?

18 MR. HAGERTY: For what we've proposed for
19 the Haiwee project, we've done a proposal -- or an
20 estimate of what we think that could be done. We would
21 look at two 30-megawatt power plants. And we're saying
22 that each 30-megawatt power plant would cover roughly
23 about 25 acres. Now, that does not include the well
24 field and access but the power plant itself, the
25 switchyard, the laydown yard, a maintenance shed and

1 all. We cover about 25 acres.

2 GREG WEIRICK: So about a tenth of one
3 percent of the actual land that you're talking about
4 opening up?

5 MR. HAGERTY: Right. I'll get into this
6 a little bit later, but when we talk about leasing --
7 and part of the issue here is basically to lease or not
8 to lease. If a decision is made to lease, then we have
9 a couple of pending applications out there right now.
10 The applications range from, I think, about 640 acres
11 all the way up to a little over 2,000 acres, but the
12 actual percentage of land utilized is very, very small.

13 It's not -- unlike solar -- I'm not throwing
14 stones at solar, but if the solar application were to
15 come in, if they were asking for a hundred acres and
16 they're going to cover it with thin-film photovoltaics,
17 they'll probably use a hundred acres, and that's what's
18 out there. For the wind form, of course, it would be a
19 lot less than a hundred acres, but they'd still have
20 the foundations.

21 So the power plant is like this, too. A
22 small portion of land would be used, but there wouldn't
23 be a fence going around the entire 2,000 acres. There
24 might be a fence around the power plant, but that's
25 only for safety and security reasons.

1 Yes, sir.

2 GREG WEIRICK: The average temperature
3 variance between the hot water you extract and the
4 water you return, what is the general temperature
5 difference there?

6 MR. HAGERTY: It can be several hundred
7 degrees. In the case of a binary power plant, you
8 might have water coming up -- and I'll talk a little
9 bit about the various types of plants, for binary power
10 plants versus a flash plant. A flash plant is, you
11 bring the water up. It flashes into steam, and then it
12 turns the turbine. In binary, you have a secondary
13 that heats up. For that binary process, it could come
14 up -- I'll use just an example of maybe 325 degrees
15 Fahrenheit coming up in this direction. The injection
16 water could be as low as 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

17 There's certain limitations to how low you
18 can go with that because the lower heat you extract,
19 the lower the temperature is on your injection, the
20 more chemical issues you start having with the water.
21 So you have to be careful.

22 In terms of the flash plant, flash plant is
23 limited because you're trying to get as much steam to
24 come out of the fluid. Well, it will only come out of
25 the fluid if it's at or above boiling, and if you're at

1 sea level, boiling is 212 Fahrenheit. So if you have a
2 resource of 330 degrees Fahrenheit, you're only going
3 to take it down to, at the most, 212.

4 But there is benefits to both projects. It
5 depends on -- it really depends on the temperature of
6 the water in the reservoir. That will be the call.

7 GREG WEIRICK: Thanks. Just one final
8 thing, and maybe you'll touch on this. But you spoke
9 about the size of the plants and the footprint they
10 have. Are you going to speak to the need for 22,000
11 acres and what that includes, whether it's going to
12 include numerous geothermal operations? Or perhaps you
13 could speak to us about why the need for such a large
14 area for a relatively small footprint.

15 MR. HAGERTY: Yeah, I will talk about
16 that. That's a very good point. Such a large area,
17 when we talk about a footprint, it may be 50 acres.
18 That's a good question. I kind of covered it a little
19 bit, but let me go into more detail here.

20 We talked about a binary power plant.
21 That's a power plant that, in terms of temperature, if
22 the resource is, say, 325 degrees or less, that hot
23 water at depth, then that would be most of what we
24 would see for a binary power plant. Again, the water
25 would be brought up to the surface. It's all contained

1 in pipe. It goes through the heat exchanger and is
2 injected back down. When it goes through the heat
3 exchanger -- and there's a secondary fluid that picks
4 up that heat, turns into a vapor that turns the
5 turbine, turns the generator, produces electricity.

6 A flash plant, on the other hand -- again,
7 we're showing here about 330 degrees Fahrenheit. There
8 are resources that will take it well over 450 degrees
9 Fahrenheit, so there's a wide variation of resources,
10 but roughly above 330 degrees. The economics will show
11 that a flash plant is much better. For a flash plant,
12 the same water that water is being brought up through
13 the pipe, they basically bring it up through a vessel
14 that drops it down to atmospheric pressure. It's like
15 taking the pressure cooker and suddenly taking the lid
16 off. It could be very dangerous in the kitchen.

17 That's exactly what they want to do in the
18 power plant. They want to take the lid off, drop the
19 pressure, and then the water will go into a portion of
20 it that turns it into steam. It's that steam that goes
21 into the turbine that turns the generator and produces
22 the electricity.

23 There's a third type of a plant, though,
24 that we don't see around here. It is up at the Geysers
25 north of San Francisco and in one other place, a place

1 called Larderello, Italy, where you actually have dry
2 steam. This is an unusual, unique resource in that,
3 when they drill into the rock, they don't hit any
4 water. It's just hot, hot steam that's coming out
5 steam that could be anywhere from 450 to 650 degrees
6 Fahrenheit. It's gas at that level.

7 We think of steam as something coming out of
8 the steam kettle. Well, that's only because of its
9 condensation. We see a little bit of white steam.

10 When you have steam at that temperature above 350
11 degrees Fahrenheit, you don't see it, not until it
12 begins to condense out quite a ways. It can be quite
13 dangerous. The good thing is, you don't have to let it
14 flash. It already is steam, so it turns the turbine,
15 which turns the generator, which produces electricity.

16 The Geyser produces about 900 megawatts of
17 power. That's enough to cover all the city of
18 San Francisco and most of Oakland Heights. Great
19 resource. Unfortunately nature doesn't give us that
20 very often.

21 For leasing, again, I'm kind of boiling it
22 down as we get down to the bare essence here. The
23 leasing of Federal Lands under the Geothermal Steam Act
24 is considered a major Federal, action, and because of
25 that, we must include it within an environmental

1 If the resource is identified as a
2 commercial resource for binary or, perhaps, for a flash
3 plant, then the company will come back to us with a
4 project for a 30-megawatt power plant, a ten-megawatt
5 power plant, so many wells, and that will also go
6 through another environmental review. So there's a
7 whole series of steps that will take place even if we
8 make a decision to go ahead and lease.

9 I talked a little bit about some of the
10 laws. I don't want to give you too much information
11 here. This is just to give you some of the ideas of
12 some of the laws that this document will be involved
13 with. I already mentioned the Geothermal Steam Act of
14 1970. That's what gives the Federal government, the
15 Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management
16 the authority to lease.

17 But there's many, many other laws that are
18 coming into play here. The National Environmental
19 Policy Act, or NEPA, of 1969, that's the driving force
20 that we have to address leasing under, and that's what
21 this document is all about.

22 We get into the National Historic
23 Preservation Act of 1966, talking about cultural
24 resources, the importance of cultural resources and how
25 that will also go into the document. So this is kind

1 process.

2 Our specific regulations that deal with the
3 National Environmental Policy Act -- and I'll talk
4 about that Act in just a little bit -- is under 43 Code
5 of Federal Regulations 3200, and I do have copies of
6 those regulations on the table. In fact, I have two
7 little piles there.

8 I have this sheet that is basically a
9 reference to the Federal Register, not like people read
10 Federal Registers, but late-night reading in case you
11 want to go to sleep. But on this two-page sheet I do
12 have the website. If you have access to the computer,
13 you can access the regulations on it. If not, I also
14 have another stack that looks like this, but it's 22
15 pages long. It has regulations that address everything
16 from leasing to exploration to development.

17 It's important to remember, though, that our
18 issue here is to lease or not to lease. So if a
19 decision is made to lease -- and this document will be
20 addressing leasing or the fact of leasing or not --
21 after lease is issued, if we decide to lease, then that
22 doesn't give the company the right just to go out there
23 to start drilling or build a power plant. When a
24 proposal is submitted back to BLM for drilling, there
25 will be an environmental review done at that time.

1 of a kettle, and we put this in, the Endangered Species
2 Act of 1973. That also has to be factored into the
3 issue. We've got two Energy Policy acts under two
4 different administrations. We've got the Energy Policy
5 Act of 2001. More importantly, though, we've got an
6 Energy Policy Act of 2005, and that's what these
7 regulations are under right here.

8 The Energy Policy Act of 2005 did a couple
9 of different things. Number one, as I talk on this map
10 here, we do have three applications that have been
11 pending since 2005. Excuse me. 2002. Excuse me. I
12 stand corrected. When the Act was passed in 2005, we
13 had two different types of geothermal leasing. There
14 was non-competitive, where anybody could come out and
15 say, "I'd like to lease this land right here." And
16 then in areas where there was established production,
17 we could have competitive sale.

18 In 2005 the regulations were changed so that
19 it's all competitive. And so where this map here
20 where -- this boundary here shows the applications.
21 This area was considered to have some resource,
22 potential resources. So these people could not just
23 apply over here. So now under the current regulations
24 if a decision is made to lease, we would consider the
25 competitive lease applications but of this land here.

1 So a couple of things are going on, so I can
2 go into more detail, but I won't for right now. If any
3 of you have more questions, I'd be more than happy to
4 get into this. Again, as I mentioned, the whole
5 driving issue here is the Geothermal Act of 1970. That
6 gives us the authority to lease this.

7 Now, talking specifically, let's get down to
8 the nuts and bolts. We talk about the Haiwee
9 Geothermal Lease Area. The area covers a total of
10 24,200 acres. That's what we're looking at here. To
11 make some marks here, this is Highway 395 coming up to
12 what's called Rose Valley. South Haiwee Reservoir,
13 south through here. Little Lake area is down just off
14 the map here. For those of you who know where the Coso
15 Junction rest area is, that's right here. So we're
16 trying to put it in perspective most of what you've
17 seen from the road is in a swath.

18 That means there's tall mountains here, so
19 this part of the area would be out to the side of that,
20 just to put it in perspective. Besides the Federal
21 acreage there, we also have a State section, lands that
22 are controlled by the State of California. And, in
23 fact, this State section is about 640 acres and has
24 already been leased to a company, and BLM has issued a
25 right-of-way that cuts across public land here to

1 provide that company access to that lease. The company
2 has chosen not to do anything with the lease up to this
3 time. It had the lease up to about two years, I
4 believe.

5 And we also have private land out here,
6 private lands within the Rose Valley, about 2200 acres
7 of which we have no jurisdiction whatsoever. It's my
8 understanding one of the proponents owns the private
9 land, and what she wishes to do with the private land,
10 it will probably be up to the County to make that call.

11 So as I mentioned, we have the three pending
12 lease applications pending since 2002, covers about
13 4400 acres all together. I kind of discussed where the
14 project area is located, 13 miles south of Olancho,
15 east of the Inyo National Forest west of the China Lake
16 Naval Weapons Center. That is the area here. It's
17 kind of hard to see. The green area here is Inyo
18 National Forest and, as I said, south of the South
19 Haiwee Reservoir.

20 Purpose and need. The driving force of this
21 project is to determine whether to approve the
22 non-competitive geothermal lease applications. That's
23 one purpose. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, one
24 of the provisions was that it said for BLM's backlog of
25 applications by 2010, we had to process and lease 90

1 percent of those applications. This activity here,
2 this effort, is to do exactly that, to take a look at
3 these three applications to determine, should these be
4 leased or not? So it will address those from our
5 backlog.

6 The other aspect of the purpose here is then
7 to consider the area outside of where the applications
8 are, the other land, to determine, should these be
9 leased as well? Maybe they shouldn't. Maybe that's an
10 alternative that we would consider. A question came up
11 from the gentleman earlier as far as, why would you
12 even want to consider these acres out here? The reason
13 being, when these individuals applied, they couldn't
14 apply out here because it was what we call known
15 geothermal resource area, and according to the
16 regulations, they couldn't apply as a competitive area.

17 They were very much interested in this area,
18 as shown by the fact that they do have a lease for the
19 State of California. So the reason we wouldn't want to
20 consider these is because they believe that the
21 resource they believe is here extends under the lands
22 here.

23 So the concept would be that, if a decision
24 is made to lease, we might lease some of it, might
25 lease all of it, depending on the environmental issues

1 in that area.

2 Again I already talked about the Energy
3 Policy Act, the Desert Conservation Plan Amendment.
4 This document would amend the California Desert Plan,
5 and that's an important aspect of the documents. We're
6 looking at leasing and a Plan amendment. The original
7 Plan did talk about geothermal leasing, but there's
8 been amendments to that Plan since it was established
9 in 1980, so we're going to make an amendment to address
10 geothermal leasing and competitive leasing in this
11 area.

12 Of course, like I already mentioned, the
13 other two Energy Policy Acts. Another big issue, of
14 course, in the State of California is that Governor
15 Schwarzenegger and the Assembly and the Senate have
16 driven the point home that we need to really look at
17 renewable energy in 2010. He's asked the utilities,
18 Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electricity
19 and San Diego Gas and Electricity to come to basically
20 purchase upwards of 20 percent of their energy from
21 renewable sources. That's now being bumped up to 30
22 percent in the year 2030. Well, this could be one of
23 those areas where they could buy their energy from.

24 Do these individuals here have a contract
25 with Edison? I don't know. I don't know. But clearly

1 the utilities are being put in a position where they
2 need to get additional energy. And from things that
3 are happening with the Public Utilities Commission,
4 it's not going to be easy for the utilities to go
5 outside of the state to find that energy. So it's
6 going to have to be developed here, one way or another.
7 So lots of stuff going on. I can get into a lot of
8 details here, but I don't because it gets into a lot of
9 politics. But I'll gladly talk about that afterwards.

10 I think I'm going to turn this over to Mike.
11 Again I will be here throughout the meeting. If you
12 have any other questions, I'd be more than happy to
13 answer them. If I don't know the answer, I'll write
14 them down and make sure I get back in touch with you.
15 So with, that I'll turn it over to Mike.

16 MR. STRAND: Thank you, Sean. There's
17 really not much more to cover. He's already touched on
18 pretty much the remaining slides. I'll just click on
19 these and reemphasize some of the decisions that are
20 being made, the EIS document that we're going to be
21 assisting the BLM in writing, what that's going to
22 cover and what the project really is.

23 The project, or the proposed action, is to
24 look at the entire 22,000 acres, including these lease
25 applications, and again is to make a decision whether

1 the project, or the area, then it's going to stay the
2 same, and it's still covered underneath the California
3 Plan. The area, it would just be as that one in the
4 California Plan. Those areas for geothermal will
5 remain the same. There will be no action taken. No
6 decisions will be made on that.

7 Other alternatives that we'll look at would
8 be to lease less than the 22,000 acres. Maybe only
9 half the area will be considered open to the geothermal
10 leasing. That would be an alternative we'll look at
11 that will be addressed in the EIS.

12 And then part of what we're doing here is --
13 this is called scoping. This is a scoping meeting.
14 We're here to listen to you guys, to listen and hear
15 your comments, your suggestions. Through this process
16 we will produce a scoping report, and that's a report
17 made that will address whether it's environmental
18 issues that you're concerned about that we hear from
19 the public or the agencies or elected officials. We'll
20 address those in the EIS document.

21 There may be other alternatives we want to
22 look at as a result of scoping, as well, so this
23 scoping process -- we're right in the middle of it --
24 is going to go until November 9th. And so between now
25 and November 9th, you have the opportunity to leave

1 or not to open or close that area to geothermal
2 leasing. So one of those decisions will be made as to
3 the proposed action, open or close it. And as part of
4 that, that decision that will be made, we would amend
5 that California Desert Plan. So an amendment will be
6 made to that Plan.

7 And like Sean said, this Plan in 1980 has
8 been amended many, many times since the last 29 years.
9 There have been many Plan amendments. This will be
10 another Plan amendment specifically for this area to,
11 again, open or close it to geothermal leasing.

12 So what that means is, if it's open to
13 geothermal leasing, then the BLM will accept those
14 applications. Once those applications come in, they're
15 accepted, that would start a specific NEPA process for
16 those specific projects. So if they lease, you know,
17 four sections over here, then they want to put a
18 geothermal plant there, they're going to have to go
19 through their own NEPA, a National Environmental Policy
20 Act, process, have scoping, have meetings, write an EIA
21 or an EIS for that project, look at the details of that
22 project, proposing to lease it. So we're just looking
23 at the decision whether or not to open or close that.

24 Alternatives to that decision would be not
25 to take any action, and if we don't take an action to

1 comments here at these meetings. You can go to the
2 website or e-mail any comment. You can write a letter
3 to the BLM as well.

4 Looking at the project schedule, we're right
5 here again in October, again, the NEPA scoping
6 addressing comments and issues for the Draft
7 Environmental Impact Statement. That's going to be --
8 well, it's currently under development and will be
9 developed in the next several months. As soon as that
10 is completed, that Draft EIS will be made available to
11 the public for review and comment.

12 During that comment period there will be
13 another hearing or a public meeting, maybe something
14 similar to this, where, again, after you've had a
15 chance to review the document, you come and give your
16 verbal comments. You can also submit comments to draft
17 just like you can submit comments now during the
18 scoping period.

19 And then next spring we'll get into writing
20 the final, what's considered a Final Environmental
21 Impact Statement. And the Final Environmental Impact
22 Statement is looking at the comments we received and
23 our responses to those comments. That's really the
24 heart of the Final EIS. There may be additions or
25 clarifications made in the Draft EIS. Those would be

1 addressed in this Final Impact Statement as well.
 2 And the Final Impact Statement would also
 3 include a Proposed Plan Amendment, so it's an EIS and a
 4 Plan Amendment all in one. Again the Plan Amendment is
 5 to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. That
 6 would be included with the EIS. The language of the
 7 Plan Amendment will be in there. And then a Record of
 8 Decision late next year.

9 So again you're part of the process. We
 10 appreciate you guys being here tonight. If you have
 11 comments, please leave them with us here tonight, or
 12 again you can go to the e-mail. You can send an e-mail
 13 to the e-mail address right there or send a letter to
 14 the Moreno Valley Desert District Office as well.

15 With that, if you guys have comments or --
 16 I'm sorry -- speaker cards, I can collect those, and
 17 we'll start our comment-and-question period.

18 MS. CADAVONA: Greg Weirick.

19 GREG WEIRICK: Hi. My name is Greg
 20 Weirick. I'm an Inyo County resident and wanted to,
 21 first of all, say I support the idea of renewable
 22 energy in its concept and would like to see the
 23 opportunity for more tax revenue for the County and
 24 whatnot.

25 My concern this evening is the loss of

1 MR. STRAND: Development in the area,
 2 22,000 acres or whatever that would be.

3 GREG WEIRICK: Well, 22 acres isn't a
 4 whole lot.

5 MR. STRAND: Whatever development may
 6 occur in that area.

7 GREG WEIRICK: Right. The eventual --
 8 pardon me. If eventually the lease does grow to be a
 9 significant amount of acreage, then I just want to make
 10 sure that BLM considers the recreation loss of that.

11 MR. STRAND: Okay. Thanks. That was
 12 Greg?

13 GREG WEIRICK: That's correct.

14 MR. STRAND: All right. Tanksley?

15 DAVE TANKSLEY: That's me.

16 MR. STRAND: What's the first name?

17 DAVE TANKSLEY: Sorry. My writing is
 18 real bad. I'm an illiterate. I'm Dave Tanksley,
 19 resident of Inyo County, and I have a couple of
 20 questions. And one of them is, how long has this
 21 process been going on to get to this point where we're
 22 at right here with the BLM, because were you guys -- I
 23 mean, has it been a year, two years, six months?

24 MR. STRAND: Well, the lease applications
 25 are dated -- what?

1 motorized recreational opportunities due to this
 2 designation of these 22,000 acres, potentially up to
 3 the 22,000 acres. The 1985 through 1987 inventory of
 4 the roads that the BLM undertook and incorporated into
 5 NEMO, the Northeast Mojave Plan, is grossly inadequate,
 6 and a lot of that inventory is really flawed. Even
 7 roads that appear on BLM maps failed to reach the
 8 inventory.

9 And I need to insist that, based on the
 10 potential loss of all this motorized recreation, the
 11 BLM undertake a more thorough inventory and mitigate
 12 this loss of recreational opportunity by revisiting
 13 NEMO and potentially designating roads lost in NEMO.

14 I realize none of these roads are closed
 15 now, but they are administratively -- they were
 16 administratively closed in NEMO, and it merely hasn't
 17 been implemented yet. So I'd like to have BLM consider
 18 mitigating through revisiting NEMO and looking at roads
 19 that were not inventoried and consider them for
 20 designation and continued use.

21 MR. STRAND: Okay. And part of that
 22 comment, I think you heard you say, was, if something
 23 is developed, to mitigate the loss of that area, those
 24 roads, that access?

25 GREG WEIRICK: Yes.

1 MR. HAGERTY: 2002.

2 MR. STRAND: The lease applications came
 3 in 2002. What's the next timeframe?

4 MR. HAGERTY: The critical timeframe is
 5 basically money. We didn't have adequate money to
 6 address the environmental review of those applications
 7 or even, of course, larger applications until the
 8 passage of the 2005 Energy Act. What that Act did was
 9 that it -- it takes 25 percent of the geothermal
 10 royalties nationwide and directs that into the
 11 Department of Interior, which is then given to BLM
 12 funding, producing what you're talking about right now.
 13 So there was quite a bit of lag time where we couldn't
 14 afford to look in this direction. Now we have the
 15 money.

16 MR. STRAND: One more thing. As far as,
 17 you know, this specific process, that's really started
 18 with what's called a Notice of Intent, and that Notice
 19 of Intent is to prepare an EIS. So that starts this
 20 NEPA process. The NOI was published -- what date?

21 MS. CADAVONA: September 11.

22 MR. STRAND: Of this year.

23 DAVID TANKSLEY: This will lead to my
 24 what next question is. Sean, I believe, brought up the
 25 codes and everything, which one of the documents that

1 you comply to was FLPMA, Federal Land Policy and
2 Management Act, and in that it requires coordination
3 with County government. And in that coordination
4 process I would have thought that the BLM would have
5 notified County government prior to the Notice of
6 Intent, and I'm wondering where that ball got dropped
7 in that.

8 In any land-use planning the local
9 government is one of the entities that needs to be
10 notified. I mean, this is going to affect what is on
11 in this county. And I'd like to know why that hasn't
12 happened. And I don't know if you have that answer.

13 MR. STRAND: Okay. Do you guys want to
14 address that?

15 MR. DALTON: Sure. At this level this is
16 a Federal undertaking at this point. You're absolutely
17 right. The next step we will do is see who our
18 partners, our cooperating agencies, are and move
19 forward in that direction. It's not appropriate at
20 this level to go out and say, Hey, we are thinking
21 about doing a geothermal operation or a project area at
22 this level.

23 Right now we want to hear from everybody to
24 try to determine whether this is feasible or not. Does
25 that make sense? So as we decide to move forward, we

1 will.

2 MR. STRAND: So there's been nothing
3 happening, I guess. In the last couple of years
4 there's been no action, no decisions, no progress until
5 this point now. Now is really the point where it's
6 like, okay. County is involved. Here's where we're
7 looking at. This is the beginning stages of all that.

8 MR. DALTON: Exactly. This is the very
9 beginning.

10 DAVE TANKSLEY: Okay. I still have a few
11 more questions. We're not a big crowd.

12 MR. STRAND: Sure.

13 DAVE TANKSLEY: At what level are you
14 considering dealing with the County, the local
15 government as compared to what you have with the NEPA
16 process? How does that fit into your scope of how
17 FLPMA controls and the different CMR's, whether 30, 43,
18 tribes, which would also be included in that.

19 MR. DALTON: Well, some letters have
20 already gone out to the tribes as we speak. We have
21 obligations through our 106 process, government to
22 government. For instance they have until November 20th
23 to respond and let us know what kind of concerns they
24 have as nation. They also have the November 9th date
25 as members of the public to respond and let us know

1 what their concerns are as residents and so forth.

2 I hope you're picking up we just started
3 this process. Everyone will be invited, including our
4 partners and counties and so forth.

5 DAVE TANKSLEY: Okay. That was one of my
6 concerns.

7 MR. DALTON: Okay.

8 MR. TANKSLEY: Another one is, what's the
9 estimated generated revenues? And you can make it
10 simple. Say, a 50-megawatt plant, what percentage of
11 that revenue will actually be directed into the County
12 coffers?

13 MR. HAGERTY: Let me address that.
14 That's a good question, as well, because it goes back
15 to the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Coso operations
16 for the development there that -- at least for the
17 portion that BLM manages, which is basically 90
18 megawatts, there's a lot more production than that, but
19 the rest of the production is managed by the Navy.
20 That's Navy contract. But for our land, there's
21 roughly about \$2 million coming off those leases every
22 year for royalties. That's in general. I mean, it
23 goes up and down. It has dropped over time because of
24 a variety of issues. They take deductions on
25 depreciation of the property.

1 But of that \$2 million that is collected in
2 royalties, half of that then comes back to the State of
3 California. And of that portion 40 percent is directed
4 back to Inyo County. Thirty percent goes into the
5 Energy Commission for grants, some of the grants that
6 have been utilized by Mono County, for example, or for
7 direct use application in Mammoth Lakes. And another
8 30 percent goes into a riparian fund that's managed by
9 basically the Assembly and Senate. I won't call it a
10 slush fund, but it's hard to track where that money
11 goes.

12 But more importantly, the other half
13 collected by the Federal government under the Energy
14 Policy Act, the statute states that half of that is
15 returned to the county of origin. So not only is the
16 40 percent of the half going to the Inyo County, but
17 roughly that comes out --

18 THE REPORTER: Wait a second. There's a
19 frog near me.

20 (Pause in proceedings.)

21 MR. TANKSLEY: So roughly 45 percent of
22 the revenue generated, and that's gross?

23 MR. HAGERTY: That's the royalty. You're
24 right. Then so 45 percent of the \$2 million, or
25 roughly about \$900,000, would be coming back to Inyo

1 County. For the projects here, we have developed what
2 we call a reasonable foreseeable development scenario
3 where we are giving kind of a crystal ball where we
4 feel that perhaps two 30-megawatt power plants would be
5 developed.

6 The royalty stream from those could be
7 considered similar to Coso. So instead of two million,
8 let's call it \$1.5 million, so maybe \$750,000 a year.
9 These are just pulling things out of the air here,
10 really, folks. So that's \$750,000 a year could be
11 coming back to Inyo County.

12 DAVE TANKSLEY: Okay.

13 MR. HAGERTY: It could be more; it could
14 be less, depending on the resources. We don't know.
15 We do not have any direct knowledge of the resource in
16 this area. All we can do is basically base our
17 estimates on what's in Coso. The proponents have said
18 there's a resource now that's at 18,000 feet. My
19 professional judgment, that's an awful long way to go
20 to get to the resource. But if it's there, it's there.
21 So that's regarding whether to make the lease or not.
22 Does that answer your question?

23 DAVE TANKSLEY: Yes, it does. Thank you
24 very much.

25 Sir, I have one more. It goes back to what

1 California will need to start generating more of its
2 own renewable energy to meet these thresholds. You're
3 absolutely right. The governor did shoot down the
4 issue of not being able to go to another state, but I
5 think we are finding other states are still coming up
6 with their renewable energy portfolio saying, "We want
7 to keep energy in our own state."

8 In California conservation is important, of
9 course. I don't discount that. But the fact of the
10 matter is that we do continue to consume electricity
11 two, three, four, five percent more a year. We need to
12 make it up someplace. I do think we'll see a renewable
13 energy program.

14 DAVE TANKSLEY: Thank you very much.

15 MR. STRAND: I just want to point out,
16 too, that in the project area there's several
17 transmission lines. He mentioned a transmission
18 corridor. One of them is a lower voltage line, SCE.
19 The other two are Los Angeles lines, Los Angeles
20 Department of Water and Power. There's no major
21 station in the area, but those are the likely lines
22 that the power would be put on to.

23 DAVE TANKSLEY: In the corridor?

24 MR. STRAND: Yeah. He mentioned a
25 reasonable foreseeable development plan, which is what

1 you were saying earlier, if you want to answer it. It
2 was -- you had stated that, of course, with the 2005
3 and what Schwarzenegger signed for the renewable
4 energy, that a lot of the majority of the renewable
5 energy needs to come from the State of California.

6 But it was my understanding that
7 Schwarzenegger shot that down as allowing that to be
8 purchased from out of state. I mean that's, why that
9 BrightSource has pulled their solar. So that's
10 contrary to -- is there something that's going on
11 that's going to make it more where these things have to
12 be generated within the state of California?

13 MR. HAGERTY: I think what's going to
14 happen is, you've got an expanding population in
15 Nevada, and that's where there's a lot of geothermal
16 development going on right now. The Nevada Power,
17 Northern California and Nevada Power and Sierra Pacific
18 Power, they do not have the percentage of renewable
19 energy that they need to get into their mix as required
20 by State law.

21 So I think what will happen is, instead of
22 sending the power our way, they're going to say, "We
23 need our power first. If we have excess, we'll send it
24 to California."

25 So I think, when push comes to shove,

1 we're basing our impact analysis on. Not a huge amount
2 of power. You don't need a real large transmission
3 line to utilize that. It's not likely they would look
4 at building a large transmission line somewhere else to
5 ship that power out. It's just too expensive.

6 DAVE TANKSLEY: Thank you very much.

7 MR. STRAND: You bet. Before we go on to
8 the next person, Bob, I want to mention that over
9 behind the blue curtain are some surprises. No. Left
10 side, men's restroom; right side, women's restroom, so
11 in case you needed that.

12 So Bob is next, Bob Harrington.

13 BOB HARRINGTON: I'm the water director
14 for Inyo County. It may be fairly early in the process
15 for this, but I wanted to alert BLM staff to the need
16 for applicants or project proponents to get in touch
17 with the County Planning Department early in the
18 process to see what conditional use permits they may
19 need under the County's Geothermal Development
20 Ordinance or Groundwater Transfer Ordinance.

21 MR. STRAND: Okay. Yeah. Great. Thank
22 you. I appreciate that. Pam Mitchell.

23 PAM MITCHELL: Yeah. I was wondering
24 what type of jobs might be created from geothermal
25 exploration and then, if it's developed and utilized,

1 what type of jobs it would bring to the area.

2 MR. STRAND: Okay. Sean, do you want to
3 hit that one?

4 MR. HAGERTY: Yeah, I can touch on that,
5 and then that will be addressed in the EIS. But the
6 early part of exploration would be pretty much just
7 technical focus, you know, drilling the well and things
8 like that. And this makes the assumption that we'd
9 actually issue the lease.

10 Let's take it out. Let's be optimistic and
11 say that the lease is issued, they do find a resource.
12 If a power plant is being developed, there would be
13 quite a large number of people involved in terms of the
14 construction of that power plant. They would come and
15 go. I mean, in other words they would come in, build a
16 power plant, and then a big construction force, most
17 likely, would leave. But there would probably be in
18 excess of -- depending on type of plant and how many
19 plants, there could be 25, maybe 50 jobs in terms of
20 technical aspects of people managing the power plant,
21 managing the wells.

22 There still is quite a wide scope of other
23 types of employment. But in terms of a major, like,
24 industrial site, it's not going to generate hundreds of
25 jobs over a long period of time. The majority of the

1 jobs will be up front during the development, but there
2 will be people to manage the power plants, monitor the
3 wells, basically manage the environmental aspects of
4 that plant, skilled and unskilled.

5 MR. STRAND: Okay. Doug Hicks.

6 DOUG HICKS: Hi. I'm Doug Hicks. I'm a
7 resident of Inyo County. My questions go to, was this
8 a known geothermal resource at the time that the
9 California Desert Conservation Area Plan was
10 implemented?

11 MR. HAGERTY: Yes, it was.

12 DOUG HICKS: So this was restricted
13 knowing that there was geothermal potential. And just
14 a rough calculation. There's already been a --
15 what? -- a seven-year delay in -- these applications
16 have been sitting there since 2002?

17 MR. STRAND: Right, right, yeah.

18 DOUG HICKS: So seven years and running.
19 Exploration jobs, construction jobs, operation jobs,
20 which would be continuous throughout the life of this
21 project, which as a renewable resource could be
22 forever. In addition, two 30-megawatt plants would
23 generate about \$600 million a year for our economy.
24 I'm sorry. Sixty million a year, not 600. So given
25 it's already been seven years, by the time this thing

1 gets out of the California Desert Conservation Area,
2 you're probably looking at ten years, and we're at a
3 \$600 million impact plus the jobs.

4 You know, what my point is, the California
5 Desert Conservation Area Plan, did they do a realistic
6 economic analysis? Was this identified as a
7 potentially one-billion-dollar impact just for this one
8 little section of it? I mean, I doubt it very much.
9 But that's something that I know this county is
10 concerned about, the residents here are very concerned
11 about, the continued restriction of land in this county
12 that delays projects far more than are identified
13 during the scoping of these wilderness actions or
14 these, you know, travel management, plans or any other
15 kind of land use restriction, that they're grossly
16 underestimating the economic impacts on this county.
17 And that's my point.

18 MR. STRAND: I appreciate that. Thank
19 you for commenting. Anything in that that you guys
20 want to address at all? It's a great comment.

21 Okay. We'll move on. Linda Arcularius. I
22 hope I'm saying that right.

23 LINDA ARCULARIUS: You did good. I'm an
24 Inyo County Supervisor, and I want to go back to the
25 process of coordination and recognize that, as local

1 government, it's really not adequate to have this just
2 published in the Federal Register then have it noticed
3 in the paper that we should show up for comment.

4 Under coordination in the mandated
5 coordination, that process needs to start early on for
6 local government, and it's a government-to-government
7 relationship. It's not a partner; it's not a
8 stakeholder; it's not a commenter. So I would just
9 encourage you to get in contact with Inyo County, both
10 with our Planning Department and our Water Department
11 and our County Administrator. They all have roles in
12 this process.

13 And as this goes forward, coordination
14 mandates consistency with our General Plan. So we need
15 to be involved early as local government and be a part
16 of the process and a part of the final documentation on
17 this project, not a comment or after the conclusions
18 have been made. So I just encourage you to do that.

19 I've got my address here. We certainly are
20 a local government. You can find us anywhere. But
21 we're very, very interested and are completely
22 committed to the fact that coordination needs to begin
23 on this, and it needs to begin sooner than later. So
24 thank you.

25 MR. STRAND: Thank you. I appreciate

1 that. Last one I've got is Sally Manning. Oh, right
2 there.

3 SALLY MANNING: Yes, I'm Sally Manning.
4 I'm here representing the Big Pine Paiute Tribe. I'm
5 the environmental director. I had a question first
6 about a project we used to call Deep Rose. Was that
7 located on that 640 acres of State lands?

8 MR. STRAND: I believe so, yes.

9 MR. GUM: Section 16.

10 MR. STRAND: This right here (pointing).

11 MR. HAGERTY: And it also includes the
12 three applications that are pending just on the left
13 side there too. That's also part of the Deep Rose.

14 MR. STRAND: It's the same applicant.

15 MR. GUM: Let's not confuse her. On
16 Section 16 there is an application by Deep Rose to
17 drill a well on that State section. The State did an
18 EIR, Environmental Impact Report, on it. The Bureau of
19 Land Management did an Environmental Assessment. They
20 had to come to BLM to get rights-of-way for a road and
21 a pipeline to serve that particular location.

22 The other things that he's talking about,
23 these pending applications, the only tie they have to
24 Deep Rose is that Deep Rose is the one with the
25 applications pending, same company. But those two

1 So I'm just pointing out that the process
2 does seem to be a little bit flawed in terms of getting
3 to the people that you're supposed to get to early on
4 in the consultation process. I'm raising this concern
5 because, as you go further in this process and NEPA
6 needs to be done on further parcels, the tribes would
7 like to be notified in a timely and appropriate manner.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. STRAND: Thank you. Okay. That's
10 all for this. You've got one. Say your name.

11 JIM SCOTT: Jim Scott from Bishop. The
12 question I want to ask again of Sean is, is that Energy
13 Policy Act of '05 -- do I understand it that you guys
14 are required or mandated to take action on these lease
15 applications from '02; is that correct?

16 MR. STRAND: Yes.

17 MR. HAGERTY: That's correct, sir, yes.

18 JIM SCOTT: Can I assume or we assume
19 that without that mandate, we wouldn't be here right
20 now? There's a good chance we wouldn't be here right
21 now?

22 MR. HAGERTY: That is correct.

23 JIM SCOTT: Now, if you do not comply
24 with this mandate given to you, what happens?

25 MR. HAGERTY: There is a chance the

1 things are not tied together, not the State section and
2 the BLM applications. They are not tied together, the
3 ones on the State.

4 SALLY MANNING: Okay. My other comment
5 is similar to those made by others this evening,
6 although it's from the perspective of an Indian tribe.
7 The BLM does have, as you know, certain obligations,
8 Section 106 under Consultation Process, and I am not an
9 expert. The expert from our tribe on this, he couldn't
10 be here tonight because he's not feeling well.

11 But I did want to point out that we found
12 out about BLM's Notice of Intent from someone from the
13 public, from a friend. And we should have known about
14 it as soon as it hit the streets through this formal
15 consultation government-to-government process that you
16 are supposed to have with the tribes, all of the tribes
17 in Owens Valley area and, of course, the Shoshone. And
18 when we first got the Notice, comments were going to be
19 due this Friday, so that really didn't give much time.

20 On October 1st many of us within the tribes
21 attended a meeting locally with the BLM, which included
22 a fellow from the Moreno Valley office of BLM, and it
23 turned out that that person who is their archeologist
24 and tribal liaison also didn't know about this project.
25 We knew because of our friend notifying us.

1 funding --

2 JIM SCOTT: You guys will lose your job?

3 MR. HAGERTY: I'll retire.

4 JIM SCOTT: I'm just kidding.

5 MR. HAGERTY: Sir, I don't know. I don't
6 know. The chances are the funding we are currently
7 receiving to do this project and to look at other
8 projects in the Imperial Valley could be minimized, and
9 that would bring our process to -- it would slow our
10 process down.

11 JIM SCOTT: I'm trying to understand
12 that. Now, if you get slowed down, then our economy
13 could potentially get affected right here. That
14 process would not be a penalty to you, but it would be
15 a penalty to our county and to the --

16 MR. HAGERTY: Conceivably, yes.

17 JIM SCOTT: Okay. Now, if someone
18 else -- going along with that policy and the mandate,
19 if someone else puts in -- applies for a lease, what is
20 the time limit on them, like if someone wants to do it
21 after '010? Do you have a year, or do you go through
22 this procedure where we get another Energy Policy
23 around 2011 or 2012 or so and then you get a ten-year
24 job on that? You see what I'm saying?

25 MR. HAGERTY: Absolutely.

JIM SCOTT: I don't know how that policy is worded, but if that's a mandate to you, things ought to be -- what I'm saying is, this shouldn't happen if you're in the business of producing energy, if you are in the commercial business of doing this. And you're not the only entity that our county gets involved with on this. But I'm just asking questions that I think need to be addressed.

MR. STRAND: Well, I'm sure you guys can give some history maybe on this, but let me just make one point to your second comment. Once this decision is made to open or close, that will help greatly with those applications in the future that come in, right?

So let's just say the decision is made to open the entire 22,000 acres to geothermal leasing. Those applications will come in, be processed, start their own NEPA process for that project. This should happen just as soon as they can process that application in.

If it makes sense, they will start that NEPA process. There shouldn't be any foreseeable delays in that. This decision will help that, you know -- what I'm saying is, in the future they have to slow down, stop, look at the entire area and say, do we want to open that up for geothermal leasing? They may say they

they're running up to their end time right now. And that's part of the issue that's pushing them to try to get this mandate, if I may jump in for just a second.

Well, it's funny, this 2005 Energy Policy. You know, oftentimes we in BLM get given directions by the Congress and the people of the United States to go do something, and most of the time it comes with no dollars attached to it. And so things languish because, how are you going to do an environmental impact statement that may run you half-a-million to a million-and-a-half dollars when you don't have two dollars, yet alone a million or a million-and-a-half?

So that's kind of where this runs down here. Why do things languish like that? We could wind up being in the same mode, just like you say. Even though Mike up here says yes, if we decide to open these up to leasing and we get an application in, remember those acres that are outside the area that is designated as the non-competitive lease -- those are the ones Deep Rose applied for -- those will all be under competition. So you might have the Lone Pine Tribe decide to compete for a lease, and somebody else out here -- you, as a person -- might want to compete for a lease. You get into bidding process.

Now, after you've got that lease awarded to

want to close it.

JIM SCOTT: Okay. Another question, that blue State lease there, can you explain what the State lease is, or what is that?

MR. HAGERTY: Sure. Independent of BLM, of course, there's lands in the State of California that are managed by the State, specifically the State Lands Commission. When California became a state, there were two sections in every township, 36 sections that were awarded to the State of California. Section 16, in that case, and Section 36, unless the sections were already previously encumbered with something.

So in this case the company Deep Rose, since it is a State section, applied to the State Lands Commission for an actual lease to explore, and the State of California went through their own environmental process independent of us to process whether they should issue a lease or not. The final decision was that they issued a lease for -- how long? How many years is it? Thirteen years?

MR. GUM: From the time that their approval was made, I thought they had -- I think it's two years. It might be three years. I'm not sure. And I think it's actually three years, because I think

you, now you've got to come in with an application to do all this stuff we're talking about doing: developing that field, drilling those wells, making that power plant. And we've got to go through that environmental process again for each one of those sites specific to that location. So you could be seeing quite some time pass if we don't have the resources assigned to us to be able to conduct those types of analyses.

To be sure, we are now in cost-recovery mode, which means, when an applicant comes in, we sit down first with them one time, give them a free shot at us, and we'll tell them what all is going to be required of them. And then the very next thing we do is, we create a memorandum of agreement between us and that company, and we let them know, you're going to have to pay for every hour of our time we spend on this. You're going to have to hire third-party contractors to go out and do the biological study, to do the cultural study, to create the environmental document, just like we're doing for this leasing. So we pass the cost mostly on to those applicants at that point in time, but they've still got to have BLM to do that and issue their right-of-way grant. So it's quite a package overall.

1 It would not be unusual to see an
2 application coming in, if these are leasable, to take
3 anywhere from a year and a half to maybe three years to
4 work through a process to get a permit and go out and
5 start. So just be aware.

6 MR. STRAND: These guys, like you said,
7 they can drill out here tomorrow, and they're not.

8 MR. GUM: They sure can, and they could
9 have since -- 2006 is when they got their permit, and I
10 think it's three years they had to turn it to the
11 right.

12 JIM SCOTT: After that three years
13 they've got to --

14 MR. GUM: They've got to go back and do
15 it again.

16 JIM SCOTT: Okay. Thank you very much.

17 MR. STRAND: Any other questions?
18 Anybody want to hit us up with anything else? We'll be
19 here for a little while longer. Take a look these a
20 little closer if you want, the boards. If you want to
21 ask us specific questions one on one, we're happy to do
22 that.

23 PAM MITCHELL: What's next after the
24 Monday, November 9th, you know, the scoping thing
25 that -- when is the next?

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1 I, DIANE CARVER MANN, a certified shorthand
2 reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages
3 comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the
4 proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing
5 in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of BLM Scoping
6 Meeting for the Haiwee Geothermal Project

7 Dated this 20th day of November, 2009, at
8 Chino, California.
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DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008

1 MR. STRAND: This is the second scoping
2 meeting. We had one last night in Lone Pine. There
3 will be a third one tomorrow night in Ridgecrest. Next
4 Tuesday, the 20th, there will be one in Death Valley
5 and then scoping comments.

6 We're asking you to submit your scoping
7 comments to us. If you gave them to us tonight,
8 they're already in, or if you haven't given them to us
9 tonight, if you want to submit anything else, give them
10 to us by November 9th, please.

11 PAM MITCHELL: Thank you.

12 MR. GUM: We also want to let you know
13 that, although we'd like to have them by November 9th,
14 as we go through this process, we'll open and willing
15 to take those comments all along. We're looking at
16 them by November 9th so we can focus our effort to
17 create this document.

18 PAM MITCHELL: Sure.

19 MR. STRAND: Absolutely. Thank you guys.

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21 (The proceedings were concluded at 6:57 p.m.)
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able 3:16 12:2 40:4 53:8 about 4:21,25 5:19 6:22 7:4,5,21 8:2,10 8:11,24,25,25 9:1,1 9:11 10:9 11:22,23 11:24,25 13:23 14:1 14:2,3,6,10 15:9 16:9 16:13,15,17,20 17:7 18:16 19:4 20:9,21 20:23 22:8,23 23:3,6 23:12 25:2,7 26:9 28:18 33:12 34:21 36:21 37:25 43:23 44:10,11 46:6,22 47:12,13,24 53:2 above 8:13 15:25 17:10 18:10 absolutely 34:16 40:3 49:25 55:19 accept 27:13 accepted 27:15 access 8:5,8 11:23 12:19 13:24 19:12,13 23:1 31:24 accessed 9:23 according 24:15 acreage 22:21 32:9 acres 13:17,17,23 14:1 14:10,11,15,17,19,23 16:11,17 22:10,23 23:6,13 24:12 26:24 28:8 31:2,3 32:2,3 46:7 50:15 52:18 across 13:11 22:25 Act 18:23 19:3,4 20:13 20:19,23 21:2,5,6,8 21:12 22:5 23:23 25:3 27:20 33:8,8 34:2 36:15 37:14 48:13 action 4:21 18:24 26:23 27:3,25,25 28:5 35:4 48:14 actions 44:13 activities 3:14 activity 24:1 acts 21:3 25:13 actual 4:21 13:14 14:3 14:12 51:16 actually 8:12 10:22 12:20,24 18:1 36:11 42:9 51:25 addition 43:22 additional 26:2 additions 29:24 address 5:2 19:15 20:20 24:4 25:9	28:17,20 30:13 33:6 34:14 36:13 44:20 45:19 addressed 5:7 28:11 30:1 42:5 50:8 addressing 19:20 29:6 adequate 11:16,17 33:5 45:1 adequately 5:7 administrations 21:4 administratively 31:15 31:16 Administrator 45:11 affect 34:10 affected 49:13 afford 33:14 after 5:1,11 6:21 19:21 29:14 45:17 49:21 52:25 54:12,23 afternoon 9:18 afterwards 26:9 again 10:22 16:24 17:6 18:21 22:4 25:2 26:11,25 27:11 29:5 29:5,14 30:4,9,12 48:12 53:5 54:15 agencies 28:19 34:18 agenda 4:13 agreement 53:15 ahead 3:7 12:2 20:8 air 38:9 alert 41:15 all 3:8 5:8,23 10:11 14:1,11 16:25 18:17 20:21 21:19 23:13 24:25 30:4,21 31:10 32:14 35:7 38:16 44:20 45:11 47:16 48:10 52:20 53:2,13 55:15 allow 12:23 allowing 39:7 alone 52:12 along 49:18 55:15 already 18:14 20:13 22:24 25:2,12 26:17 35:20 43:14,25 51:12 55:8 also 3:14 6:12 19:13 20:5,25 21:2 22:21 23:5 29:16 30:2 35:18,24 46:11,13 47:24 55:12 alternative 24:10 28:10 alternatives 27:24 28:7 28:21 although 12:10 47:6 55:13 am 3:10,11 47:8	amend 25:4 27:4 amended 27:8 amendment 25:3,6,9 27:5,10 30:3,4,4,7 amendments 25:8 27:9 amount 9:12 32:9 41:1 an 5:5 6:5,18 11:16,17 11:19 13:15,19 15:14 18:2,25 19:25 21:5 24:9 25:5,9 27:5,20 27:21,25 28:10 30:3 30:12,20 32:18 33:19 38:19 39:14 44:23 46:16,17,19 47:6,8 51:16 52:9,17 53:1 53:11 54:1 analyses 53:9 analysis 41:1 44:6 Angeles 40:19,19 another 19:14 20:6 25:13 26:6 27:10 29:13 36:8 37:7 40:4 49:22 51:2 answer 4:9 5:3 6:18,23 26:13,13 34:12 38:22 39:1 answers 5:5 any 8:4 18:3 22:2 26:12 27:25 29:2 34:8 38:15 44:14 50:21 54:17 anybody 21:14 54:18 anything 23:2 44:19 54:18 55:9 anywhere 18:5 45:20 54:3 appear 31:7 applicant 46:14 53:11 applicants 41:16 53:22 application 14:14 37:7 46:16 50:19 52:17 53:1 54:2 applications 3:13 14:9 14:10 21:10,20,25 23:12,22,25 24:1,3,7 26:25 27:14,14 32:24 33:2,6,7 43:15 46:12 46:23,25 47:2 48:15 50:13,16 applied 24:13 51:15 52:20 applies 49:19 apply 21:23 24:14,16 appreciate 30:10 41:22 44:18 45:25 appropriate 34:19 48:7 approval 51:23 approve 23:21 archeologist 47:23	Arcularius 44:21,23 are 5:6 6:9 8:1 9:4 10:24 12:24 16:10 17:8 20:17 21:7 22:1 22:22 24:8 26:1,3,19 31:14,15 32:25 34:18 34:20 35:13 36:1 38:3,9 40:5,5,19,21 41:9 44:10,12 45:19 45:21 46:12 47:1,2 47:16 48:14 49:6,6 50:4 51:7 52:9,18,19 53:10 54:2 area 4:19 10:2 13:16 16:14,16 21:21 22:9 22:9,13,15,19 23:14 23:16,17 24:7,15,16 24:17 25:1,11 27:1 27:10 28:1,3,9 30:5 31:23 32:1,6 34:21 38:16 40:16,21 42:1 43:9 44:1,5 47:17 50:24 52:18 areas 7:9,24 21:16 25:23 28:4 around 6:5 7:9 14:23 14:24 17:24 49:23 as 3:17 4:3,8 6:4,14,19 7:7,17,17 9:2,3,11,13 15:16,16,23 18:7,22 20:1 21:9 22:4 23:11 23:18 24:9,11,11,16 24:18 27:2,3 28:3,22 28:22 29:3,9,9 30:1 30:14 33:16,16 34:25 35:15,20,24,25 36:1 36:14 39:7,19 43:21 44:6,25 45:13,15 47:7,14,14 48:5 50:18,18 52:18,23 55:14 ask 5:4,9,12,16,20,22 5:24 11:4 48:12 54:21 asked 25:17 asking 14:15 50:7 55:6 aspect 11:24 24:6 25:5 aspects 4:23 42:20 43:3 Assembly 25:15 37:9 assess 11:20 Assessment 46:19 assigned 53:8 Assistant 3:14 assisting 26:21 assume 48:18,18 assuming 11:18 assumption 42:8 at 4:14,19,21,22 6:12 7:7,9,15,25 8:9,10	10:1,6,17 13:21 14:14 15:25,25 16:3 16:23 17:24 18:6,10 19:25 22:10 24:2 25:6,16 26:24 27:21 27:23 28:7,10,22 29:1,4,22 31:18 32:22 34:15,16,19,21 35:7,13 36:16 38:18 41:4 43:8 44:2,2,20 49:7 50:24 53:12,22 55:15,21 56:6,9 atmospheric 17:14 attached 52:8 attended 47:21 authority 20:16 22:6 available 29:10 average 13:15 15:2 awarded 51:10 52:25 aware 54:5 awful 38:19
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October 13, 2009

Bureau of Land Management Scoping Meeting - Lone Pine, CA

Printed on: November 22, 2009

Job #: 68507DM

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCOPING MEETING
HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: Boulder Creek RV Resort
2550 South Highway 395
Lone Pine, CA 93545

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 13, 2009
5:40 p.m. to 6:58 p.m.

REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR
CSR NO. 6008

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<div>Page 2</div> <div>1 APPEARANCES</div> <div>2</div> <div>3 LINN GUM - Lands and Minerals Branch Chief</div> <div>4 JOHN DALTON - Planning and Environmental Coordinator</div> <div>5 SEAN HAGERTY - Geothermal Expert</div> <div>6 MIKE STRAND - Project Manager</div> <div>7 KAREN CADAVONA - Public Involvement Coordinator</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div>	<div>Page 4</div> <div>1 develop this Environmental Impact Statement/</div> <div>2 Environmental Impact Report. And back here in the</div> <div>3 back of the room standing is Karen Cadavona, who is</div> <div>4 the public relation specialists with Power Engineers.</div> <div>5 Is that close?</div> <div>6 MS. CADAVONA: Yes.</div> <div>7 MR. GUM: Okay. With that I'd like to</div> <div>8 introduce Mike, who will go over our agenda and our</div> <div>9 ground rules for the meeting, and we'll proceed.</div> <div>10 MR. STRAND: Well, the first part of the</div> <div>11 meeting we'll just have PowerPoint slides prepared for</div> <div>12 you guys, and it's going to take us through the</div> <div>13 background of the project, why we even have an EIS</div> <div>14 project to look at. It will take us through that.</div> <div>15 The purpose of the meeting and need will be discussed</div> <div>16 for the project, the EIS, the proposed action, the</div> <div>17 alternatives. And Sean will be presenting most of</div> <div>18 that information, as well as just some geothermal</div> <div>19 information, geothermal as a resource, geothermal</div> <div>20 plants, just some basic information on that.</div> <div>21 Then we'll go through some of the</div> <div>22 environmental laws, the EIS follows -- that we'll have</div> <div>23 to follow as we're developing the EIS and then the</div> <div>24 schedule, the NEPA process we'll be following, as</div> <div>25 well. Myself and John Dalton will be going through</div>
<div>Page 3</div> <div>1 LONE PINE, CA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009</div> <div>2</div> <div>3 PROCEEDINGS</div> <div>4</div> <div>5 -000-</div> <div>6</div> <div>7 MR. GUM: Good evening, and welcome to</div> <div>8 our public scoping meeting. My name is Linn Gum. I'm</div> <div>9 the Assistant Field Manager and Lands and Minerals</div> <div>10 branch chief in the Ridgecrest BLM field office, and</div> <div>11 I'd like to introduce this team. We're here to talk</div> <div>12 to you about a proposal for leasing some 22,000 acres</div> <div>13 of public lands for geothermal exploration,</div> <div>14 production, development.</div> <div>15 Next to me is John Dalton. He's the</div> <div>16 project coordinator/program manager for this</div> <div>17 particular EIS effort. He's out of our Moreno Valley</div> <div>18 office from the California Desert District. Next to</div> <div>19 him is Sean Hagerty --</div> <div>20 MR. HAGERTY: Hi.</div> <div>21 MR. GUM: -- who is our geothermal</div> <div>22 resource program leader from our State office in</div> <div>23 Sacramento. And next to him at the end of the table</div> <div>24 is Mike Strand, who is with our third-party</div> <div>25 contractor, Power Engineers, Inc., that's helping us</div>	<div>Page</div> <div>1 some of that information.</div> <div>2 Yes, sir.</div> <div>3 RICHARD CERVANTES: For the record I'm</div> <div>4 County Supervisor of the Fifth District of the</div> <div>5 southern part of Inyo County, and this is Janice</div> <div>6 Roberts, who's representing the Tribe too.</div> <div>7 MR. GUM: Mr. Cervantes, could you give</div> <div>8 the court reporter -- we're getting all this taken</div> <div>9 care of here -- your name fully.</div> <div>10 RICHARD CERVANTES: My full name is</div> <div>11 Richard Cervantes.</div> <div>12 JANICE MC ROBERTS: Janice McRoberts.</div> <div>13 It's J-a-n-i-c-e M-c R-o-b-e-r-t-s.</div> <div>14 MR. GUM: And you are representing which</div> <div>15 tribe?</div> <div>16 JANICE MC ROBERTS: The Lone Pine Tribe.</div> <div>17 MR. GUM: Thank you so much.</div> <div>18 MR. STRAND: I appreciate you guys being</div> <div>19 here. A couple of housekeeping items to go through.</div> <div>20 After the presentation is done -- it's going to only</div> <div>21 take about 15, 20 minutes to get through. You guys,</div> <div>22 when you walked in, if you don't have one, they are</div> <div>23 over by the door, speaker cards. If you could just</div> <div>24 write down your name on there, and then I'll collect</div> <div>25 those from you guys. Afterwards you'll be able to</div>

1 give a comment, ask a question. The court reporter is
2 here to take that down verbatim.

3 And if we can answer the questions, we're
4 going to do that here tonight. If we can't answer the
5 questions, we'll let you know and address it in the
6 EIS. There's also a back sheet with some basic
7 information on the project, a map, as well. And then
8 some notices that have been posted for the EIS are
9 available over there, as well, and this notice on the
10 front here is just to point out that the scoping time
11 has been pushed out from -- I believe it was
12 October 16th. That's been pushed out to --
13 November 9th is the time period where we're collecting
14 scoping comments.

15 So we'll collect comments here tonight, or
16 if you'd rather, you could go and send an e-mail, or
17 you could write a letter. And all that information is
18 here for you, as well as how you can read those
19 comments.

20 So when I collect your speaker cards, if
21 you want to leave a comment or ask a question, if you
22 want to do what you just did, which is state your name
23 and then speak loudly and clearly so the court
24 reporter could hear you, we would appreciate that.

25 Okay. Shall we get started, Sean?

1 MR. HAGERTY: Good evening. My name is
2 Sean Hagerty. I'm the geothermal program lead with
3 BLM in the Sacramento office. So my title is
4 "geothermal expert" on the card. I'm clearly not an
5 official expert. I have been in the program for about
6 29 years. I've worked in the Imperial Valley on
7 projects at East Mesa. I've been involved on projects
8 at Geysers, Mammoth Lakes, at Coso and also Northern
9 California at Glass Mountain.

10 I'm just going to go over some brief stuff.
11 I won't go into any real particular detail. I will be
12 around later on after the presentation, so if you ask
13 specific questions, I'll be more than happy to answer
14 them the best I can.

15 Geothermal energy. Again we're talking
16 about heat of the earth. We are talking about heat
17 that's within the crust of the earth. It's natural
18 heat coming from radioactivity down deep. The
19 resource that we're hoping is out here is both a
20 combination of heat in the rock, as well as water. So
21 water is very important because it is the water that
22 actually conveys the heat from the rock to the
23 surface.

24 We know that it's geysers, fumaroles, mud
25 pots, other manifestations. In this project here,

1 though, we don't see any manifestations. There may be
2 something at depth. We don't know for sure, but
3 clearly in this case there is no surface manifestation
4 like you see at Yellowstone.

5 To access that resource, wells would have
6 to be drilled in order to get down to that level,
7 whatever that level might be. It could be over
8 several thousand feet; it could be over 10,000 feet.
9 We don't know for sure. But before anybody would do
10 that, we'd have to approach the leasing aspect.

11 Benefits of geothermal energy. Of all of
12 the renewable resources --

13 THE REPORTER: Can you speak up, please.
14 The birds are loud.

15 MR. STRAND: The birds are a little
16 loud.

17 RICHARD CERVANTES: Could you speak up,
18 please.

19 MR. HAGERTY: One of the greatest
20 benefits of geothermal energy compared to solar or
21 wind is that it's what they call a base load. You
22 turn the power plant on, and it stays on. Solar is
23 really good when the sun is shining. Wind energy is
24 great when the wind is blowing. But those two energy
25 sources do have basically an oil type of energy curve,

1 whereas geothermal, it stays flat. And that's what
2 the utilities are looking for, because that's what's
3 really important in the power mix. It's reliable. As
4 I said, once you turn the plant on, the plant normally
5 will stay on unless there's mechanical problems. So
6 it's accessible locally.

7 Again it's a resource that we believe is
8 here. It goes immediately into the grid. There's no
9 other conversion necessary. Solar, you basically have
10 to step up the power. Geothermal the turbine actually
11 turns at 60 cycles and can produce power directly into
12 the grid.

13 And it's sustainable. The heat of the
14 earth is there. Issues with water, of course, those
15 are things that may be utilized, but the heat of the
16 earth will remain. A case in point is that at the
17 Geysers, which have been operating for over 40 years,
18 the overall temp of the rock has only dropped about
19 five degrees. There's a tremendous amount of heat.
20 And we all know that, if you've been camping and you
21 have a campfire and the stones circling the fire to
22 protect the fire from getting out, even in the morning
23 most likely, you touch the rocks and the rocks are
24 still warm; they retain the heat for a long, long
25 time.

1 In terms of what do we think could happen,
 2 if a decision is made to lease -- and that is a
 3 decision to lease or not to lease -- we'll get into
 4 that a little more -- is, how do they access that
 5 resource? Well, the first action that we probably
 6 would see is that the company would want to drill a
 7 well, drill a well down through the earth much like a
 8 water well but much, much bigger, to drill down
 9 thousands of feet. It could be three, could be four
 10 or 10,000 feet. We don't know because we don't know
 11 exactly where this resource is in relationship to the
 12 surface because, again, there's no surface
 13 manifestation of this there.

14 But if a resource is identified, then the
 15 project proponent and the lessee may come forward with
 16 a project for building a power plant. That power
 17 plant could be of various sizes. In our assessment we
 18 have identified up to two 30-megawatt power plants.
 19 Each megawatt is capable of providing energy for about
 20 a thousand people, so about 60,000 people is what we
 21 feel is something we might be able to go by.

22 At that stage, when the project proponent
 23 comes forward, we would undergo another level of
 24 environmental review. So first we're talking about
 25 this environmental review just to decide to lease or

1 not to lease. If the decision is made to lease and
 2 the project proponent is granted the lease and they
 3 come forward with a project to drill, then that will
 4 undergo another environmental review and so on and so
 5 on.

6 It's important to remember that, because
 7 some people feel this is the only environmental review
 8 to be done. No. This is just a make a decision to
 9 lease or not to lease. And once a power plant is
 10 constructed, of course, then we're actually utilizing
 11 the resource.

12 Normally the hot water or mixed hot water
 13 and steam is brought up. It's flashed into steam,
 14 more additional steam. It turns the turbine, which
 15 turns the generator, which produces electricity, and
 16 out it goes. As far as any power plant, coal fire or
 17 gas fire or other fires, basically we're using the
 18 heat of the earth as the energy source. Once we've
 19 heated the water up, basically it's the same as any
 20 other power plant. It's basically using some sort of
 21 motor force that turns the turbine that turns a
 22 generator that produces electricity.

23 Just a real quick little sketch as far as
 24 what we believe to be at depth there. There it goes.
 25 Okay. We're talking about the heat of the earth. It

1 could be down maybe 10,000, 15,000 feet. It will heat
 2 up rock above it. Here is a magma source, and clearly
 3 in the coastal area history has shown that there has
 4 been magmatic activity in the past, thousands of years
 5 ago. That's why you see some of the hills in the
 6 area, some domes. Magma has come up to the surface.
 7 It's actually seen south of Little Lake here. That's
 8 the salt. And actual lava has come out so that the
 9 heat of the earth has been injected up through these
 10 rocks here.

11 Water is percolated down, gets through the
 12 rocks. And in order to access that heat and that
 13 water, people will drill down through a cap rock that
 14 keeps the water at depth and then it brings it up.
 15 It's flashed into steam. It's cooled back down and
 16 reinjected back into the reservoir.

17 This is simple, kind of common to look at.
 18 We do show some faults in here. Unlike oil and gas,
 19 which oil and gas has reservoirs that are pretty much
 20 permeable, like a sponge, so lots of little holes that
 21 are connected. So geothermal, that access to water is
 22 all controlled by fractures. The more fractured, the
 23 more permeability, how the water flows through the
 24 rock. Very rarely will we actually have a geothermal
 25 resource that is like a sponge. Normally it will be

1 like a fractured rock.

2 The three main types of power plants for
 3 current technology as we know it: We've got binary
 4 plants, flash plants and dry steam plants. We'll go
 5 into a little detail here. Binary plant basically
 6 takes hot water out of the ground, sends it through a
 7 heat exchanger, like a radiator in a car, and it heats
 8 up a secondary fuel, isopentane or isobutane or some
 9 other fuel. That vaporizes, turns the turbine, which
 10 turns the generator, which turns into electricity.
 11 The cooler water, then, after it's gone through the
 12 heat exchanger, is injected back into the ground.

13 For a flash plant, depending on the
 14 temperature, if it's above, say, 350 degrees Fahrenheit
 15 for the hot water coming up, it's brought up to the
 16 surface, and it's put into a bigger container to allow
 17 the steam to flash. An example is my mom. We had a
 18 pressure cooker, and she was cooking vegetables and
 19 things like that. Water under pressure will have a
 20 higher temperature before it boils, but if you were to
 21 take that lid off the pressure cooker quickly, you'd
 22 have that water boiling.

23 And that's what's happening here for the
 24 flash plants. The water that is under pressure, we
 25 call it hydrostatic head under pressure. When you

1 bring the water up to the surface, that pressure is
2 relieved and the boiling point increases, flashes into
3 steam, and that's what happens in the flash plant.

4 For dry steam there's only a couple of
5 places in the world we actually find dry steam. For
6 these other plants they drill a hole into the ground,
7 bring up hot water, but places like Larderello in
8 Italy, there's actually just dry steam. There's hot
9 steam. It's above 212 degrees Fahrenheit. It's a
10 perfect resource that you just drill into a rock,
11 allow steam to come out, turn the turbine, turn the
12 generator, and it's electricity.

13 But most likely what we expect here at this
14 resource would be something amenable to a flash plant,
15 maybe to a binary plant. It always depends on the
16 economics of the project.

17 Leasing of geothermal resources. It's a
18 major action, and that's what's triggering off the
19 requirement for the National Environmental Policy Act,
20 the document that we're going to prepare, the EIS.
21 The Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3200. I do have
22 copies of the regulations back on the table there. I
23 have a full copy of the regulations. If you would
24 like to take a copy, please do.

25 If you have access to a computer, I also

1 have a website that you can actually go and at your
2 leisure pull up the regulations. One has two pages;
3 the other one has about 30 or 40 pages.

4 If the decision is made to lease -- and
5 that's the pivot point here for this document -- if a
6 decision is made is lease, then once a lease is issued
7 and then the company comes forward, to do anything,
8 there will be a subsequent environmental review
9 conducted. So the actual lease document itself
10 conveys the right but not the right to access the
11 land. It gives them the right to access the
12 geothermal resource but only after environmental
13 reviews have been done.

14 Here's just a laundry list, and I'll step
15 out of the way here. These are some of what will be
16 addressed in the EIS. As I already mentioned, the
17 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. That's
18 basically the umbrella document that we are operating
19 under. We've got the National Historic Preservation
20 Act of 1966, Endangered Species Act of 1973, the
21 National Energy Policy Act of 2001 under previous
22 administration.

23 I'd like to make a note of the Energy
24 Policy Act of 2005. That Act created a new set of
25 regulations that addressed geothermal, and those are

1 the regulations I have on the table at the back there.

2 So that Energy Policy Act also allowed for the
3 nomination of lands, a variety of things.

4 The other important thing that's driving
5 this is that we do have three applications that are
6 pending. On the map here there's three modifications
7 that were filed back in 2002. And that is the driving
8 force for this document, because in the Policy Act of
9 2005 it says, BLM, for your backlogged applications of
10 geothermal, you must basically process 90 percent of
11 those by 2010. And we're approaching it, so the
12 driving force for this project basically are the three
13 applications that are pending.

14 We also included a larger area outside just
15 because, in case there is a resource in that area,
16 we'd want to sweep out the rest of the resource, just
17 so we could address it under one document as opposed
18 to piecemealing it under several documents, which is
19 not appropriate under NEPA.

20 So again applications in 2002, Energy
21 Policy Act of 2005. Money is coming in as a result of
22 variety of issues of Congress, and we're moving ahead
23 with this document. And of course, the Geothermal
24 Steam Act of 1970, that's what covers the regulations.
25 That's what gives the authority for the Department of

1 the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management, whom
2 we work for, the authority to lease.

3 Just talking again, the size of the entire
4 project area covers a little bit more than 24,000
5 acres. Of that a little over 22,000 are public lands.
6 We do have some State lands involved. That one State
7 section, 640 acres, currently is leased. The
8 California State Lands Commission has commissioned a
9 lease to a company. They have taken no action on that
10 at this time. And there's also about 1220 acres of
11 private land that we don't have any authority over.
12 Again I mentioned the three pending applications
13 covering about 4400 acres of the 22,000 acres that we
14 have.

15 Project map. We won't go any detail here.
16 That map is also on the back table, if you'd like a
17 copy of that. It's nicely colored, and on the back of
18 that map is the legal descriptions of all the parcels.

19 Purpose and need. I'm going to let John.
20 John, would you like to address that.

21 MR. DALTON: Or would you?

22 MR. STRAND: Sure. Yeah. Like Sean
23 said, the purpose is really to determine whether or
24 not the area will be open to geothermal lease. The
25 entire 20,000 acres, as well as the three applications

1 that the BLM has received, those were non-competitive
2 leases that they've received those applications. The
3 decision within this document, the proposed action
4 will be to approve those applications and open up the
5 entire area to geothermal leasing. Once that happens,
6 then those individual projects would go through their
7 own separate NEPA analysis, which is what we're doing
8 here today. Yeah.

9 RICHARD CERVANTES: Would you give us an
10 idea, orientate the map to some landmark or something
11 so that we could kind of have an idea of where it is.

12 MR. STRAND: Yeah. You know what? I've
13 got another.

14 MS. CADA VONA: This is a little better.

15 MR. STRAND: I'm trying to think of a
16 spot on here. There's Little Lake. It's just, I
17 believe, off the map, just south of this southern
18 border of the map. That doesn't really help too much.
19 This line here going through is the highway. You see
20 this vertical line. There's also some power lines
21 that are parallel here.

22 MR. HAGERTY: Coso Junction, if that's
23 familiar, there's a rest stop there and a Chevron gas
24 station.

25 MR. CERVANTES: Okay. So it's north of

1 the actual Energy Act that came out in 2005.

2 So that's the purpose and need for the
3 project, and I kind of skipped ahead here. I was
4 talking about the proposed action, as well, here. But
5 the proposed action would be to, again, open those
6 entire areas, open up to geothermal leasing the entire
7 22,000 acres, approve the applications on the three
8 geothermal projects. It wouldn't approve the
9 projects; it would just approve the applications. And
10 there would be an amendment to the California Desert
11 Conservation Plan, as well.

12 And then also according to NEPA, we would
13 look at alternatives to the proposed action, and we
14 have two. We've got a no action, and we've got a
15 second alternative. And John, do you want to explain
16 the no action one.

17 MR. DALTON: Yeah. The no action
18 basically would be consistent with our Land Use Plan.
19 So I won't go into great detail on that. So we have
20 the no action. We're most likely going to have to
21 lease only those pending lease applications, lease all
22 of the lands to geothermal exploration or close the
23 lands to geothermal exploration. So again an
24 amendment to the California Desert Conservation Plan,
25 so that is our proposed action. The no action, which

1 Coso Junction?

2 MR. STRAND: Correct, yeah.

3 MR. HAGERTY: There's a rest stop up
4 over here.

5 MR. STRAND: Yeah. The Haiwee Reservoir
6 is up in this land here. Little Lake is off the map.
7 Coso Junction, right there. And so he's talking about
8 the Coso geothermal areas. Those are right over in
9 this area here by China Lake there. Most of those
10 roads lead to that area.

11 So geothermal, in general, is going to do a
12 couple of other things. Of course, the State of
13 California has renewable portfolio goals. That was
14 just in the news again last week with the governor
15 signing into laws these renewable portfolio goals. So
16 much percentage that the utilities of the state needs
17 to meet in their overall mix by 2010. So for opening
18 up additional areas to more renewable resources,
19 geothermal is a great one that allows utilities to tap
20 into the developers' projects and bring that
21 geothermal and that renewable energy load to the load
22 centers, Los Angeles, San Diego, wherever it may be.

23 And it also implements, like Sean
24 mentioned, too, the energy policies from the Bush
25 administration that were set in place 2001 and then

1 is a requirement through NEPA, will be to be --
2 nothing would change. It would be consistent with our
3 current Land Use Plan.

4 And like I said, we hope to develop more
5 alternatives, especially through the comments. We
6 hope to get more and be able to analyze the comments
7 through this process.

8 MR. STRAND: Okay. And so that's a good
9 lead into what we're doing here tonight, which is
10 scoping. And scoping is just a way for us to hear
11 public comments. It's not just public but also agency
12 comments, elected officials' comments on the project
13 itself. And like John said, it does a couple of
14 things. It will help shape the Environmental Impact
15 Statement, the EIS that we're setting off to write.
16 Right now we're getting ready to start those
17 environmental studies. And that will package in the
18 alternatives that we have listed up here tonight, the
19 proposed action plus the alternatives here.

20 If we hear comments about other
21 alternatives that we should, perhaps, address in the
22 EIS, we will consider those, and those will be
23 addressed in the document. So all of your scoping
24 comments that you give to us tonight between now and
25 November 9th would be addressed in some way in the

1 Environmental Impact Statement, again, tonight,
2 e-mail, written letters, however, you may send those
3 in.

4 And so looking at the timeline of the
5 project, the calendar here, we're just really at the
6 beginning stages of the project, of the EIS, scoping.
7 That's us here tonight, and that will continue for
8 another few weeks. We've got several more meetings
9 planned this week and one next week, and then that
10 leads us right into developing what we consider a
11 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And this is all
12 NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act, language,
13 which spells out an EIS, when an EIS needs to be
14 prepared, what should be included in an EIS. So we're
15 really at the beginning stages of that. There's
16 several more opportunities for public comment.

17 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: Can I ask a
18 question?

19 MR. STRAND: Sure.

20 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: My name is Steve
21 McLaughlin. What exactly is the project?

22 MR. STRAND: The project. "Project" is
23 not the best word, really, for it, because we're not
24 necessarily proposing to build anything with this, you
25 know, in the normal sense of what you consider a

1 project. But in this case the project is -- or the
2 actions, really -- the Federal action, really, on this
3 is to open up this entire area, this 22,000 acres
4 that's within this boundary, open that up to accepting
5 geothermal lease applications.

6 So if a developer wants to set up a
7 geothermal power plant within those boundaries, what
8 this process will do, if the proposed action is
9 selected, it would accept that application. It would
10 open it to geothermal leasing. And once that be
11 application is accepted, then that project would
12 undergo its own environmental review and a separate
13 approval process.

14 But this is really just to amend the Area
15 Plan to set aside this area to accept geothermal
16 applications. It would also approve the three
17 applications that we've already received in this area.
18 That's what these three are.

19 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: Thank you.

20 MR. STRAND: So that's what the action
21 of this would approve.

22 Yeah. You had one question. Could you say
23 your name.

24 KATHY GOSS: Kathy Goss. I live in
25 Darwin. I'm sorry. I apologize for getting here

1 late. I just heard about the meeting. I thought it
2 started at six.

3 Have you provided us with a description of
4 the geothermal resources that you are talking about
5 here, what's there, what's known to be there and also
6 whether you plan to inject cold water into that area
7 as is being done at the Coso plant and what the
8 consequences of that might be?

9 MR. STRAND: Okay. Can I do one thing?
10 Can I just hold your question for just another five
11 minutes, and if you have -- do you have a speaker
12 card? What we're asking people to do is to fill out a
13 speaker card. Another two or three minutes, I'll call
14 on you. That's a great question. We'll be happy to
15 address it. In a couple minutes we'll get to those
16 very specific questions. Thank you.

17 Let me just finish this off. I've got one
18 more slide after this, and we'll be done. Then we'll
19 get into the good stuff, the questions.

20 So Draft Impact Statement, that will be
21 developed over the winter, 2009 into early winter,
22 2010. It is projected to be available spring, 2010,
23 so the next, you know, April, May timeframe it will be
24 ready. And there will be notices that will go out
25 that will say it's available for public review.

1 During that public review period, that's another
2 chance for you guys to participate, to review it, to
3 give comments back to us on the document itself, some
4 very specific questions that, you know, you're talking
5 about, the environmental review that was done on the
6 project, the alternatives that were addressed on the
7 project, whatever you want to address.

8 There will also be another meeting,
9 probably something very similar to this, that you can
10 attend, and again notices will go out on those. You
11 can attend those and give comments on the draft
12 itself. Part of that draft document, you mentioned
13 that we're going to amend the Area Plan, that
14 California Desert Conservation Area Plan. That Plan
15 amendment will be attached to that document, included
16 within that document.

17 After the public comment period we'll issue
18 out a Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the
19 Final Environmental Impact Statement will include any
20 changes that were made to the Draft Impact Statement
21 that you'll have a chance to review, and then it will
22 also have the public comments received during the
23 public period on the draft and then responses to those
24 comments.

25 So that's really -- the meat of the final

1 is really the comments and the responses to the
2 comments and then any particular changes that were
3 made to the document itself.

4 And then after that there will be a
5 decision made on the project, and we're expecting that
6 all to occur in 2010. So late 2010 we should expect a
7 Record of Decision, or a ROD, it is referred to, and
8 that will also refer to that proposed Plan amendment.

9 So again there's lots of ways to be a part
10 of this process. We hope you want to be part of the
11 process. There's e-mail. There's a physical address
12 you can send a letter to. There's website set up;
13 we'll post project updates on that. We'll also post
14 the project documents on that website as well.

15 So thanks, you guys. That's all we had
16 planned for the presentation. We can jump into any
17 specific comments you want to ask. If you guys want
18 to hand me your speaker cards, I'll take those, and
19 I'll just call you up as I grab them here just
20 randomly. Any more? Okay. Did you have any more
21 comments?

22 RICHARD CERVANTES: Yeah. I had some
23 questions. I've been involved with geothermal for a
24 long, long time, and being a County Supervisor going
25 on six years, have toured the plant. And I understand

1 notorious for evaporating water. And so the
2 condensing process, it cools liquid back for
3 reinjection, takes quite a bit of water.

4 So the aquifer -- can the aquifer support
5 more geothermal plants in that area? So that's a
6 question that I have. That's a technical question
7 that only the geologists and hydrogeologists would be
8 able to answer. I don't know.

9 So but basically the other question I had
10 is, would it be possible for the Tribe to put in a
11 plant, to obtain a lease and then through a
12 subcontractor put in a geothermal plant? All of the
13 plants that we're talking about are under 50-megawatt
14 plants?

15 MR. HAGERTY: Yes.

16 RICHARD CERVANTES: They're all under 50
17 megawatts? Well, you know, Coso plant is 250
18 megawatts. You know, that's a big -- one of the
19 biggest plants in the state.

20 And so, I had another question, too. I
21 wanted to ask, does a developer have to have a buyer
22 of his product before he can go ahead and develop? In
23 other words does he have to have a utility along the
24 line that's going to say, yeah, we'll buy all your
25 capacity? I tried to find that out, but utilities

1 the basic workings of it. I'm totally familiar with
2 the mechanical engineering part in that in my business
3 career, my company -- we made central plants. We
4 built central plants throughout California. So I
5 understand that process.

6 My question that I have is that there have
7 been other permits, I believe, issued. One that I was
8 involved with was Deep Rose. I don't know if you guys
9 remember that one.

10 MR. HAGERTY: Yes.

11 RICHARD CERVANTES: Went up and toured
12 the site on Deep Rose, and I don't think it ever went
13 anywhere. One of the questions that I have that I
14 would like to ask is, are prospective developers
15 required to prove financial responsibility? In other
16 words are they adequately capitalized to do the
17 project of which they want to do? Or can anybody, you
18 know, take out a lease, anybody that can pay the fees
19 to get a lease? So that was one question that I had
20 to ask.

21 The other question involves the
22 de-aquifering of Rose Valley. It's been -- we've had
23 a lot of controversy on that, and you know, there is
24 water -- whenever you run condensers, you have to have
25 make up water to the condensers because they are

1 wouldn't tell me because they said it was privileged
2 information. So they wouldn't tell me what they would
3 pay or if they would buy it or anything about it, you
4 know. It was proprietary information, according to
5 them. So that's another question that you might come
6 up with an answer for at some point in time.

7 MR. STRAND: Okay.

8 RICHARD CERVANTES: That's basically
9 what I had. The County of Inyo is very interested in
10 the development of geothermal energy and alternative
11 energy of, you know, photovoltaic and solar towers and
12 all of the new technologies coming out when we have
13 some locations that could possibly be good locations.
14 One is Dry Lake. There is also a possibility of
15 utilizing part of that for solar collecting.

16 Geothermal, it works night and day. With
17 solar, its location is critical, you know. It can't
18 be in the shadow of the mountains. You've got to have
19 the most solar hours on it that you can. It's very
20 interesting. That's all I have.

21 MR. STRAND: Do you want to address it
22 specifically, or shall we just --

23 MR. HAGERTY: I can.

24 MR. GUM: Sean, why don't you start, so
25 much as we're capable.

1 MS. CADAVONA: Just so that you guys
2 know -- I'm sorry, I'm Karen Cadavona. I'm just
3 taking quick little notes, along with the court
4 reporter, of topics.

5 MR. GUM: We're going to try and give
6 you an answer here as best we can.

7 RICHARD CERVANTES: Some of them.

8 MR. HAGERTY: And some of the answers I
9 don't know for sure. The capitalization of the
10 company, if a lease is issued, before we will allow
11 the company to go out on the land, we will bond the
12 company. There's a requirement for the performance
13 bond, and that's not the same as insuring that the
14 company is capitalized to cover the project.

15 What we have done in other areas,
16 especially up north, is that the scientist looking at
17 a performance bond, which may be as minimal as \$10,000
18 for a single lease, we have looked at reclamation
19 bonds where, as the company increases the amount of
20 activity out at the land, a couple of wells or
21 whatever, we'll increase the bond to cover those
22 activities in case the company decides that they no
23 longer are interested and it leaves the public with
24 basically the responsibility to plug and abandon those
25 wells.

1 So to answer your question specifically,
2 no, we do not address the capitalization. It often is
3 difficult to do that. There's nothing in regulations
4 that require us to basically have a threshold of what
5 a company can or cannot do. But through reclamation
6 bonding, we can require that before they take on a
7 project and move forward, they must have that bonding
8 in place. So I'm not sure if that's what you're
9 looking for.

10 The offer for the use of the water, I don't
11 have an answer for that. Clearly another project in
12 Rose Valley, there was a lot of discussion that
13 involved utilization of that water. There was a model
14 proposed that will be used to see that the pumping,
15 when it does occur, how that model will react.

16 Clearly the use of water in geothermal is
17 important. There are situations where air cooling can
18 be utilized. Back in Mammoth in Mono County, the
19 three power plants there actually use air cooling.
20 But air cooling is dependent upon ambient temperature,
21 or ground temperature. If it's too warm, a company
22 can't cool the exhaust of the turbine down low enough,
23 and so it doesn't work. Thermodynamically it just
24 won't work. So while it would be easy to say that air
25 cooling is a possibility, the economics I don't know.

1 RICHARD CERVANTES: I've looked into the
2 air-cooling part. Air-cooling condenser would work
3 fine for half of the year, and then you could go with
4 a water cool condenser for the other half of the year.
5 It would require the additional expense of another
6 condenser, where you'd have two condensers, one air
7 cooled and one water cooled. Right now, you know, an
8 air cooled would be working fine right now. It would
9 be wonderful.

10 MR. GUM: Today.

11 RICHARD CERVANTES: We have below
12 freezing temperatures at Coso and Rose Valley for
13 quite a few months. We have 80-some -- 85 nights
14 below freezing typically in the area. So that's
15 beautiful for air cooling.

16 MR. HAGERTY: So that's a possibility.
17 That wouldn't be addressed at a project level to
18 determine what is a company proposing and then in
19 terms of alternatives or mitigation what would be
20 required. It might become a fine line as far as what
21 the company can do and how much mitigation can be
22 applied.

23 It's like I don't have a specific answer
24 for how much water could be withdrawn from Rose
25 Valley, how much more geothermal can support. That's

1 something I don't know for sure.

2 Can the Tribe apply for the a lease?
3 Absolutely. The Tribe can nominate lands for
4 geothermal. Certainly the Tribe could actually
5 acquire their own lease. There are special provisions
6 under our regulations that would allow a tribe and
7 another municipality-type entities to acquire a lease,
8 so that is an opportunity.

9 If the decision is made to lease here for
10 lands that are outside of the three applications that
11 are pending, covering about 4,000, acres the remaining
12 17,000 acres would be put up for competitive bid. So
13 clearly the tribes could bid on that. But
14 specifically if the tribes were interested in a direct
15 use, where they're utilizing the hot water for
16 heating, actually a direct lease could be issued to
17 the tribe.

18 I can talk more about that later. I didn't
19 want to go into too much detail because I'm afraid I'm
20 going to confuse myself. But I can talk more about
21 that.

22 RICHARD CERVANTES: Maybe if you could
23 give us a contact, I work with the Tribe very closely.
24 I'm on the fire safety council, Paiute-Shoshone Tribe,
25 and currently we're working on a project to build a

1 firebreak completely around the line with --

2 THE REPORTER: Pardon me.

3 KATHY GOSS: With stimulus funds.

4 MR. HAGERTY: I will be the contact. I
5 will gladly give my card, and at your convenience I'll
6 be more than happy to go into details as far as
7 acquiring a lease. But that certainly is something
8 the Tribe could do.

9 Does a lessee need to have a buyer for the
10 prior development? No, they don't. They don't
11 require that, but usually the company will have a
12 power sales agreement with utility, because that's
13 where the money is going to come from. Without that
14 power purchase agreement, a company will probably have
15 a very difficult time obtaining funding, obtaining a
16 loan from the bank to build a project because, if they
17 can't sell the power, they're not going to make any
18 money.

19 RICHARD CERVANTES: That's a critical
20 issue. It's my understanding -- and I may be wrong --
21 that the City of Los Angeles is not interested in
22 purchasing power.

23 MR. HAGERTY: Perhaps not.

24 RICHARD CERVANTES: They have their own,
25 and they'll give you credit for any energy that you

1 and especially those that are located in the
2 southwest, where they have available a lot of solar
3 days. So maybe you might want to have their own
4 geothermal plant.

5 MR. HAGERTY: Part of the proposal at
6 Coso, the Navy One Power Plant, which is made up of
7 three turbines, three 30-megawatt turbines, the first
8 turbine is actually dedicated to the Navy. The power
9 is sold to Southern California Edison, but the
10 agreement between the Navy, the contractor, Terra-Gen
11 and Edison is that, should Edison's power go down, the
12 first turbine there -- it may be one uniform one --
13 would be directed to go into the base. The base has a
14 requirement of about 27 megawatts. That turbine would
15 more than cover the base.

16 This is a side note, though. Apparently
17 some time ago when Edison did go down and the relays
18 were supposed to kick in to provide power to the base,
19 something went wrong, and the base went down, too. So
20 anyway, all the best things sometimes don't work out
21 well.

22 MR. GUM: Part of the withdrawal orders
23 on the Naval Air Warfare Station, as well as Edwards
24 Air Force Base, say that, so much as they can, they
25 are encouraged to become energy independent, supply

1 generate for your own use, but as far as purchasing
2 bulk power, they're not interested in doing that.
3 PG & E is, and Southern California Edison is. I
4 attended the meetings down in -- where was it? --
5 Victorville, and they had representatives there, and
6 they were making agreements with various people,
7 Solar One, solar people there.

8 MR. HAGERTY: All the power being
9 generated at Coso is being sold to the Southern
10 California Edison. All the power being generated up
11 in the Mammoth Lakes area is also being sold to
12 Edison. In fact, a lot of power proposed to be
13 generated in Nevada will also be sold to Southern
14 California Edison. So SCE is quite a purchaser of
15 renewable energy power.

16 That was it, I think. Was there another
17 question?

18 RICHARD CERVANTES: The other is just an
19 observation. We had a lieutenant colonel come before
20 the board from Nellis Air Force Base, and they have
21 their complete solar system for the base, and it's a
22 possibility I'm going to meet with the base commander
23 for the Naval Weapons Station at China Lake. It may
24 be going that way, where they want to have the
25 redundancy of alternate energy on our military bases

1 their own needs. And that's why you're seeing some of
2 these major solar applications as you're seeing at
3 Nellis. There's also one interior to Edwards Air
4 Force Base at this point.

5 MR. STRAND: Okay.

6 RICHARD CERVANTES: It's an exciting
7 time.

8 MR. STRAND: Kathy, do you want to ask
9 us your question.

10 KATHY GOSS: Okay. I'm going to say a
11 little bit more than I was going to say because my
12 friend, Sam, here is more knowledgeable on some of
13 these questions. But first of all, I'd like to ask
14 how you notified the public about these meetings,
15 because I just heard about it today and not through
16 public noticing. So I wondered how you made the
17 public aware that you were holding these meetings.

18 MR. DALTON: Yes. We did it through the
19 news releases, BLM news releases, which went through
20 our entire database that consists of 5,500 names and
21 addresses of public, elected officials, the media,
22 tribal members. It's quite a large database. It's a
23 consistent database that we use for all of our
24 projects. It also was posted in the Federal Register
25 Notice, which was Friday, September the 11th.

1 KATHY GOSS: Okay. This date was listed
2 in there?

3 MR. DALTON: Yes.

4 KATHY GOSS: Thank you. And then I just
5 wondered if you had a formal description of the
6 geothermal resources that are known in the project
7 area that you're considering, what kinds of surveys
8 have been done, what's known about fault lines in that
9 area and questions like that.

10 MR. HAGERTY: Good question. We don't
11 know much about the area. What's prompting this are
12 the three applications that have been pending since
13 2002. I do have a copy of what we put together. It's
14 called reasonable foreseeable development scenario.
15 It's our best guess as far as what might happen, what
16 best type of resource might be there and how it might
17 be developed. This is my only copy, but I can send
18 you a copy of it.

19 Clearly there haven't been any wells
20 drilled in this 22,000-acre area. Our estimates are
21 based upon the Coso field itself. Deep Rose, the
22 applicant on the three applications, has inferred that
23 there's a resource down maybe 12,000 feet, maybe
24 deeper. In talking to the Coso people, the Terra-Gen
25 people, they don't necessarily agree. Whenever you

1 So that's a very good question, and those types of
2 studies have been done at the Geysers in Northern
3 California.

4 That is something that's catching a lot of
5 attention right now is, what happens when you take
6 cold water or cooler water and inject it into rock
7 that might be 400 degrees Fahrenheit, much like if you
8 had very hot piece of glass and dropped it in the
9 water, the glass is going to crack. And most likely,
10 when you inject water at a temperature that's lower
11 than rock temperature, the rock is going to fault, or
12 going to crack. How far will it crack depends on the
13 differential in temperature. But it's a very good
14 question.

15 KATHY GOSS: Am I hearing now that this
16 would not necessarily be part of the Draft EIS? It is
17 something that will come down further down the line if
18 specific projects were going to be implemented?

19 MR. HAGERTY: If the decision is made to
20 lease the entire area or these applications or some
21 mixture, if the project were to be proposed, that
22 would be a specific issue that would have to be
23 addressed at this time. At this level it's more of a
24 large umbrella. Because we know so little about the
25 resource, it's hard to develop mitigation to protect

1 get a couple of geologists in the room, everybody is
2 going to have their own opinions.

3 In terms of faults, no, we don't. It's
4 just speculative, because there is no surface resource
5 that's there. There's no mud pots. There's no
6 thermal features of whatever. So because of the
7 Energy Policy Act of 2005, which is directing us to
8 address these applications, we're moving forward. But
9 the answer is specifically no, we don't have any
10 concrete evidence as far as what's at depth.

11 KATHY GOSS: And how extensively would
12 the environmental impact -- I forget what level of
13 review you're talking about for this, but for the
14 environmental study, whatever it would be, to what
15 extent would there be some assessment of potential
16 consequences along unknown earthquake faults?

17 MR. HAGERTY: The reasonable foreseeable
18 development scenario in which we addressed up to two
19 30-megawatt power plants, identify that each plant
20 conceivably would have about 20, 22 wells drilled, 15
21 production, seven injection. As a result of that
22 study, we would have to consider pretty much at the
23 project stage, though, in terms of faulting in the
24 area, what would happen with injection associated with
25 that vaulting? Would we create additional seismicity?

1 what's out there because we don't know what the
2 company might come in for.

3 We were hoping that with the State section,
4 with the company that still is Deep Rose, they would
5 drill a well in an area and give us some data that we
6 could then work with. So far they've chosen not do
7 that, so we're a little bit blind in this case.

8 MR. GUM: They have had their approval
9 from the State of California to drill that year for
10 three years, something of that nature, and they still
11 haven't done it. We have issued them a right-of-way
12 for them to access Section 16, as well as a
13 right-of-way for a pipeline to deliver five acre-feet,
14 I think it is, a year of water for their use during
15 the drilling process. And their application was with
16 a total depth of 20,000 feet.

17 RICHARD CERVANTES: That brings up a
18 good question. Is a 30-megawatt plant economically
19 viable when you're talking for each borehole that they
20 drill \$4 million, \$4 million a borehole. So you're
21 going to have 20 boreholes. Then that doesn't even
22 build a plant. So, you know, the geothermal plant,
23 Coso's plant, that's a billion-and-a-half-dollar
24 investment.

25 MR. HAGERTY: That's a very good

1 question, sir, and that is a question that we don't
2 have an answer for. But you're absolutely right. In
3 fact, I would be -- I think that's a very conservative
4 amount. I would say that, if you're drilling down to,
5 say, 15- to 18,000 feet, I'm saying you're probably
6 looking at closer maybe to \$10- or \$15 million for the
7 well.

8 This is a question that we've had on our
9 minds, too. That's why we were hoping that for the
10 State section that they would drill there just to
11 determine -- they have a hypothesis that the resource
12 is down around 18,000 feet. It's as good of a theory
13 as anybody's. And, you know, until you actually drill
14 into something like that, we don't know.

15 But clearly those wells would be very
16 expensive. And we feel that it's going to take, say,
17 15 wells for just the production side. Well, let's
18 see. Fifteen times ten is \$150 million on your
19 drilling, and that's an awfully expensive amount.

20 So that's why, in terms of the
21 capitalization, our reclamation bonding would be
22 commensurate with how much money they're going to put
23 into those wells, because we want to make sure -- if a
24 decision is made to lease and a proposal is made to
25 drill, if they decide they don't want to keep the

1 original Coso plants were evaluated, so I don't know
2 if part of their project description was needing 5,000
3 acre-feet per year at some unspecified date in the
4 future or not. But if that's going to be the case
5 with any of these projects, I think that needs to be
6 spelled out explicitly in the project description.
7 And if a company is going to tell you they're not
8 going to need it, then I think they would be
9 forfeiting the right to future water appropriations.

10 If you are going to be appropriating water,
11 I think it also needs to be covered in detail in the
12 EIS where is that water going to come from, and what
13 are the impacts of that water withdrawal? And in our
14 opinion that was never adequately done in the case of
15 Coso. When you withdraw these water sources, whether
16 they're surface water or groundwater, you're going to
17 have an impact on wetland habitat.

18 The hydrological model that you referred to
19 for the Coso thing actually explicitly states that
20 there will be a drawdown that will result in the
21 drying up of Little Lake and possibly that it would be
22 indicated that that could -- that as soon as 14 months
23 there may be a significant drawdown in those
24 monitoring wells to indicate that, over the life of
25 the project, all those wetlands would be very

1 wells, we want to make sure the wells are plugged
2 properly.

3 RICHARD CERVANTES: Just off the top of
4 my head, it doesn't sound like it would be
5 economically feasible in that the return on capital
6 investment would be so far out that no one would want
7 to take that big a risk. Usually they want a return
8 of three years. They want a return capital.

9 MR. HAGERTY: Good point.

10 MR. STRAND: Thank you, Kathy and
11 Richard.

12 Steven McLaughlin. Do you have a comment?

13 MR. MC LAUGHLIN: Yeah.

14 MR. STRAND: What's your last name?

15 MR. MC LAUGHLIN: Stephen McLaughlin. I
16 live in Big Pine, and I'm associated with the
17 Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant
18 Society. We were also involved in discussions about
19 Coso Thermal Plant and their recent application to
20 withdraw all of the annual recharge from the Rose
21 Valley to keep their plant going. And we're mostly
22 concerned about the water issues that may be
23 associated with additional geothermal development in
24 this area.

25 I didn't live here at the time when the

1 seriously impacted.

2 In the case of that project, no surveys
3 were ever done of the wetland areas. We have no idea
4 what is potentially going to be impacted, and I think
5 that needs to be covered very explicitly in any EIS
6 that's on future water development.

7 And again it's important to remind you that
8 the entire annual recharge for Rose Valley has already
9 been appropriated. County gave it to a Coso operating
10 company. So even for expiration, if you're going to
11 start handing out five acre-feet here, ten acre-feet
12 here, you're just going to accelerate whatever
13 negative impacts could occur down at Little Lake and
14 associated wetlands. We need to know what those
15 impacts are going to be and when they're likely to
16 occur.

17 MR. GUM: Okay. I'd like to address, so
18 much as I'm capable, your comment. My name is Linn
19 Gum, L-i-n-n. G-u-m is my last name. I'm with BLM.
20 The understanding that you express as to the
21 hydrologic monitoring and mitigation plan for the Coso
22 project is somewhat skewed. When you say that they're
23 taking the entire recharge for the Rose Valley in the
24 5,000 acre-feet a year, first of all, they weren't
25 authorized to take 5,000 acre-feet; they were

1 authorized to take 3,000 acre-feet. And the recharge
2 that you're referring to, remember, comes from this
3 water model that deals with this hydrologic
4 maintenance and monitoring plan.

5 The hydrologic model only considered
6 precipitation that falls on Rose Valley that's 4500
7 feet in elevation and greater. It does not take into
8 account all of the precipitation that falls on Rose
9 Valley at 4500 feet in elevation and less. In the
10 Rose Valley on an annual basis you get about six
11 inches worth of rain; okay? Each acre has a half an
12 acre-foot. I don't know how many hundreds of
13 thousands of acres are totally encompassing the Rose
14 Valley. But none of that water that falls on that
15 portion of the valley was used in the water model to
16 predict how much water may come into the valley or go
17 out of the valley on an annual basis.

18 That was done for a very specific reason.
19 That was done to make sure that the estimate was a
20 conservative estimate when we considered water that
21 was going to be put into the pipeline to go over to
22 Coso and help recharge that reservoir.

23 We have data that goes back nearly 30 years
24 that talks about certain conditions within the Rose
25 Valley aquifer. Overall estimates show that there's

1 as much as five million acre-feet of water within the
2 Rose Valley aquifer. Five thousand acre-feet versus
3 the five million acre-feet that's available, you could
4 do the math. It's minuscule in regards to how much
5 annually actually is being used by that one particular
6 operation.

7 Now, we also devised within the HMMP
8 certain trigger levels that we would monitor, and
9 we've got a whole series of monitoring wells
10 throughout the valley between where Coso Hay Ranch is
11 all the way down to Little Lake. And true, we
12 identified under worst-case scenario conditions, if we
13 pumped theoretically this amount and we only had this
14 recharge of 4500-foot elevation and above, we could
15 potentially at a certain rate or time hit that trigger
16 mechanism that would say at Little Lake itself there
17 may be noticeable change at the surface level of the
18 lake.

19 What was determined to be within normal
20 annual range was 10-percent reduction in the surface
21 acres of the lake itself versus what could possibly be
22 taken and not impact the lake significantly. Each of
23 those trigger levels along those monitoring wells all
24 down the valley assure that, if that is ever reached,
25 pumping terminates. And that will make sure that that

1 cone of depression, as it travels down the valley over
2 the years, will never result in a significant impact
3 to the surface waters that are expressed at Little
4 Lake. So we're not going to dry it up.

5 Now, right now we also have a program.
6 Over the next two years, as we are monitoring those
7 conditions in the pumpage of that water when it does
8 begin there at Coso Hay Ranch. And we have times all
9 through these next couple years -- and we'll continue
10 to monitor after that -- where we will gather that
11 data and refine, recalibrate and break that model so
12 we get a greater around more accurate picture of
13 what's occurring in the pumpage of that water.

14 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: The 3,000 could be
15 increased with 4800 feet.

16 MR. GUM: It could.

17 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: And that is the
18 entire end of the recharge. Granted, the model did
19 not include rainfall in Rose Valley, but it also did
20 not include transportation by plants in Rose Valley.

21 MR. GUM: It also did not include water
22 that comes up from the subsurface. We believe that
23 there are deeper waters that are contributed. For
24 example, the waters that are present at Little Lake
25 have a total dissolved solid content of about 1100

1 parts per million. The water that's picked up out of
2 the discharge from Rose Valley to the Indian Wells
3 Valley at the nearest measurement point to Little
4 Lake, once you're into Indian Wells Valley, is only
5 200 parts per million.

6 There's clearly some kind of barrier or
7 something that's going on that's keeping some of that
8 recharge or discharge into the Rose Valley, and it's
9 not making its way to the Indian Wells Valley.

10 So there's a number of factors that were
11 not included in saying how much makeup water actually
12 is coming into that aquifer that supports the Rose
13 Valley on an annual basis. And again, we did that
14 specifically to make it a conservative model. We
15 don't want to damage that resource. We have no desire
16 to.

17 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: I hope the model is
18 conservative. I am not a hydrologist, but I've talked
19 to them, and I think that the yield figure of
20 30 percent that goes into that, isn't that considered
21 to be a rather optimistic parameter? If that's wrong,
22 if it's 20 percent or 10 percent, then those trigger
23 points are going to be reached a lot quicker than 14
24 months.

25 MR. GUM: That's why we have monthly

1 monitoring being done by Inyo County Department of
2 Water.

3 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: Well, I'm very
4 hopeful that, if the hydrological mitigation and
5 monitoring plan does show we're reaching the
6 mitigation levels, that it will be implemented, but I
7 disagree when you say it's assured because, as many
8 times as I read through the EIR, I didn't see anything
9 that actually required turning off of pumps.

10 MR. GUM: If ever we reach a trigger
11 point, the very first option is shut down pumping, the
12 very first thing. It's right in the HMMP.

13 So anyhow, we're kind of off base here as
14 far as this present project that we're talking about,
15 trying to just determine whether or not we should even
16 lease these grounds. Certainly the water issues that
17 you raise will be addressed within this document.

18 STEVEN MC LAUGHLIN: That's all we're
19 asking.

20 MR. GUM: Absolutely.

21 MR. HAGERTY: In this document also,
22 taking you one step further, again, I don't mean to
23 repeat myself, but I will. If the decision is made to
24 lease -- and that is a decision. We may not lease.
25 But if a decision is made to lease and a project is

1 proposed, clearly, as you say, sir, if water is being
2 proposed to be consumed, that's going to be a key
3 issue.

4 MR. GUM: Absolutely.

5 MR. HAGERTY: And that's where
6 mitigation in terms of maybe other alternative types
7 of cooling may be required. You know, clearly our
8 intent here is -- as Linn is saying, we don't want to
9 damage that aquifer at all. And the model will bear
10 out as far as hopefully what the Hay Ranch pumping
11 will do. So if any company comes along with their
12 lease and says they want to use so many acre-feet,
13 that is going to be something that is going to be very
14 carefully scrutinized --

15 MR. GUM: Absolutely.

16 MR. HAGERTY: -- to the point it could
17 reach where we will deny the project because the water
18 balance will not be there.

19 MR. STRAND: Again the specification
20 will be at that very specific project level, not in
21 this EIS.

22 STEVE MC LAUGHLIN: Right.

23 MR. STRAND: Okay. We've gone through
24 the three speaker cards, so if we can now -- oh,
25 you've got one. I'm sorry.

1 MR. GUM: Sam had one.

2 MR. STRAND: Okay. One more, and then
3 after this -- we're scheduled to be here until 9:00.
4 So as long as you guys want to hang out, we're happy
5 to mix and mingle and answer questions one on one and
6 grab some coffee or whatever. Sophia.

7 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you. I notice that
8 the first Federal Register that came out 9-11-09, it
9 has a deadline of this Friday as far as comments go.
10 Considering the fact that you scheduled some meetings
11 after deadline, I was wondering if you had extended
12 the schedule, and is it located in the Federal
13 Register?

14 MR. STRAND: It is. I'm sorry. It's
15 not in the Federal Register, but we attached it to our
16 information that you received at the door. I
17 mentioned this earlier before you came, but we noticed
18 that that was, you know, obviously not going to make
19 it. We have a meeting after October 16. So we have
20 extended to out November 9th.

21 SOPHIA MERK: November 9th?

22 MR. STRAND: That's right. That will be
23 the end of the scoping.

24 SOPHIA MERK: Are you going to put that
25 in the Federal Register?

1 MR. STRAND: We talked about that. What
2 we're going to do is make a correction in the Federal
3 Register. It's going to address, actually, the
4 project area boundaries, which was a mistake in the
5 Federal Register, as well. By the time this posting
6 gets into Federal Register, that meeting will already
7 occur, so we're not planning on addressing this
8 specific November 9th date in the Federal Register,
9 just the project area lands.

10 SOPHIA MERK: Okay. I have a couple
11 more.

12 MR. STRAND: Okay.

13 SOPHIA MERK: The links on your Federal
14 Register, they do not work, and I read through -- I
15 tried to write to Mr. Bolton, I guess it was.

16 MR. GUM: Dalton?

17 SOPHIA MERK: Dalton.

18 MR. DALTON: It sounded close enough.
19 I'm not going to volunteer.

20 SOPHIA MERK: I'm sorry. I sent an
21 e-mail to you. You never responded, sir, so I was
22 wondering, have you corrected that?

23 MR. DALTON: Well, let me back up. And
24 I apologize. I've been on travel for the last two
25 weeks, so if this is something you sent since then,

1 then I apologize. To answer your question in regards
2 to the link itself, is that --

3 SOPHIA MERK: The links. There was
4 three of them listed in the Federal Register. None of
5 the three worked.

6 MR. DALTON: Well, we need to look into
7 that, then, because that's something that between the
8 district and the field office --

9 SOPHIA MERK: But I don't understand --

10 THE REPORTER: Wait. You need to let
11 him finish talking. You're talking over him. Go
12 ahead.

13 MR. DALTON: I'll try to work with the
14 district office and the field office to correct those
15 links, because we're both trying to take the lead on
16 who's going to be managing this website.

17 SOPHIA MERK: Okay. I have a couple of
18 more questions. The geology fracturing that is
19 prominent up in the Geysers area -- and they're having
20 earthquakes and whatever -- they haven't really
21 measured everything. But what I was wondering is,
22 instead of doing a mitigation after the fact to the
23 companies, isn't there some way that you can build
24 into this Plan amendment before the fact that it needs
25 to be explored, it needs to be explored by USGS?

1 MR. HAGERTY: Part of the document here
2 will be to take a look at the seismic activity,
3 seismic history of the area to determine, what is the
4 baseline? How much seismicity has occurred over time?
5 Quite frankly we don't know what would occur by
6 injecting water into this area.

7 Clearly at Coso there has been fracturing.
8 There has been some seismicity. The thing with the
9 Geysers, though, it is a different reservoir. There
10 has been ongoing seismicity even before
11 geo-development occurring up there. What would occur
12 here, we don't know, but at least we will have a
13 baseline from which to go.

14 If this resource is down as far as the
15 proponent is claiming it is, at, say, 18,000 feet,
16 just from a professional opinion, I would doubt that
17 we would see much at the surface in terms of
18 seismicity. If most of the seismicity within the
19 Geysers is within, say, 3- to 7,000 feet, if these
20 gentlemen want to drill down 18,000 feet, I don't
21 think there would be much activity at the surface.

22 I'm just saying at the standpoint of what
23 we know today. We don't know exactly if there's
24 faulting in this area. We do know, of course, there's
25 the Sierra thrust fault that basically allows for the

1 Eastern Sierras to move. How that might be involved,
2 I don't know.

3 MR. GUM: We know in that area there's
4 literally thousands of microtremors on an annual
5 basis, things that you and I don't normally detect,
6 you know, Level One and Level Two-type seismic events.
7 And G.S. has been monitoring those for years and years
8 and years, as has, I think, probably the Coso
9 Geothermal Office there.

10 So we do have some knowledge of it. Major
11 events -- you've lived in the area longer than I have,
12 you know. There's been half a dozen major events
13 since about 1991 or '92 up and down here that
14 measured -- I guess the biggest one was 7.4 down at
15 Landers, and we had a couple near here within that
16 three-mile-deep zone, epicenters on the base that
17 ranged in the five category. I don't think we have
18 had anything over six and lots of them, thousands, in
19 the two, one and less category.

20 SOPHIA MERK: Okay. Thank you. I have
21 two more questions. I notice that in some of the
22 documents I was able to download and get from the BLM
23 office that the concerns for the Native Americans were
24 going to be addressed, but I have something else that
25 probably needs to be addressed, too, for the Native

1 Americans, and that's the access for the Native
2 Americans.

3 I mean, you can say, "Okay. You can go in
4 that area," but without access to that area, they
5 really have a problem. So I would like to see that
6 also addressed in the Plan amendment.

7 And then the final one is, if this does
8 come in as a Plan amendment, would companies just have
9 to do mitigation instead of a complete EIS?

10 MR. STRAND: No. In an individual
11 project, once the application is approved, then that
12 individual project would go through its own separate
13 NEPA evaluation.

14 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you.

15 MR. STRAND: Scoping meetings, noticing,
16 draft documents, final document, same thing.

17 MR. HAGERTY: I have a question, then.
18 In terms of access for the Native Americans, are you
19 referring to just this project area, because I know
20 that there's an issue, of course, within the base
21 but --

22 SOPHIA MERK: There is an issue on the
23 base but for this area.

24 MR. HAGERTY: I'm not aware that there's
25 any restrictions.

1 MR. GUM: The only restrictions we have
2 in the area is maintaining your vehicular access to
3 existing roads and designated trails through the
4 system. And, as you would know from being in the
5 area, there's not many of them out. There's Coso Gill
6 Station Road and Pumice Mine Road, and then there's a
7 road that goes to McCloud Flats, and that's it.

8 MR. HAGERTY: Are you asking for
9 additional access?

10 SOPHIA MERK: No. I was just wondering
11 if those were going to be left open even if this goes.

12 MR. GUM: Yes, absolutely.

13 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you.

14 MR. STRAND: Okay. Well, thank you all
15 for coming. We really appreciate your time. We
16 appreciate your questions and concerns and just
17 patience with the process. Like I said, we'll be here
18 a little while longer, and we'll just hang out. If
19 you want to ask additional questions one on one, we'll
20 be happy to do that.

21 If you can, there's also comment cards you
22 can fill out and take with you. And you can leave
23 them here with us tonight or mail them in. We'll
24 accept it either way. Thank you guys.

25 MS. CADAVONA: I just have to clarify,

1 too, for the folks that have the Federal Notices as
2 well as these comment forms. I know everyone said the
3 links weren't working, but I know for sure that the
4 links that I placed right here down below where it
5 says "BLM.gov," it's not a project-specific website.
6 It brings up all the documents and things that the
7 Ridgecrest field office has, so that's where the
8 information is going to be available at. And I know
9 this is a functional link. And they also have for the
10 Haiwee project a project-specific e-mail address.
11 It's also on this little notice.

12 SOPHIA MERK: But it wasn't in the
13 Federal Register?

14 MS. CADAVONA: No, it was not in the
15 Federal Register.

16 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you.

17 MR. GUM: Thank you very much.

18 (The proceedings were concluded at 6:58 p.m.)

19 -000-

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, DIANE CARVER MANN, a certified shorthand
4 reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages
5 comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the
6 proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing
7 in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of the BLM Scoping
8 Meeting for the Haiwee Geothermal Project.

9 Dated this 21st day of November 2009, at
10 Chino, California.

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DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SCOPING MEETING
HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: Ridgecrest Parks and Recreation Dept.
Pinnacle Room
100 West California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, October 15, 2009
5:44 p.m. to 7:02 p.m.

REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR
CSR NO. 6008

JOB NO.: 68509DM

<div>Page 2</div> <div>1 APPEARANCES</div> <div>2</div> <div>3 LINN GUM - Lands and Minerals Branch Chief</div> <div>4 JOHN DALTON - Planning and Environmental Coordinator</div> <div>5 SEAN HAGERTY - Geothermal Expert</div> <div>6 MIKE STRAND - Project Manager, Power Engineers</div> <div>7 KAREN CADAVONA - Public Involvement Coordinator</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div>	<div>Page 4</div> <div>1 project. Next to him is Sean Hagerty. He's the</div> <div>2 geothermal program lead out of our Sacramento BLM</div> <div>3 State office. And the gentleman at the end is Mike</div> <div>4 Strand. Mike is with our third-party contractor,</div> <div>5 Power Engineers, and he is the program engineer that</div> <div>6 will assist us in developing this EIS. And last but</div> <div>7 certainly not least is Karen Cadavona. She's the lady</div> <div>8 in the rear who is the public information specialist</div> <div>9 with Power Engineers that helps us pull all this</div> <div>10 together.</div> <div>11 With that, I'd like to turn this over to</div> <div>12 Mike.</div> <div>13 MR. STRAND: So tonight, just to give</div> <div>14 you an idea of what we're going to be going through</div> <div>15 here, Sean is going to get up and go through a number</div> <div>16 of slides. He's going to be discussing geothermal</div> <div>17 resource, geothermal energy power plants just in</div> <div>18 general touching on what it is that we're looking at</div> <div>19 as far as an energy source. Then he's going to touch</div> <div>20 on a little bit about the project itself, a little bit</div> <div>21 of history, why we're here, why we're looking at this</div> <div>22 area for geothermal resourcing, and then I'll get up</div> <div>23 and talk a little bit more about the NEPA process and</div> <div>24 the scoping process that we're conducting right now.</div> <div>25 So if you can, you guys, you could have</div>
<div>Page 3</div> <div>1 RIDGECREST, CA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009</div> <div>2</div> <div>3 PROCEEDINGS</div> <div>4</div> <div>5 -000-</div> <div>6</div> <div>7 MR. GUM: Good evening. I feel like I'm</div> <div>8 one of those guys in the radio that's talking into the</div> <div>9 echo chamber. We anticipated having a few more folks</div> <div>10 here tonight, but since we don't, let's proceed.</div> <div>11 My name is Linn Gum. I'm with the Bureau</div> <div>12 of Land Management here in Ridgecrest, California.</div> <div>13 I'm a supervisory geologist. Specifically I'm the</div> <div>14 branch chief of Lands and Minerals and an assistant</div> <div>15 field manager. The reason we're asking folks to come</div> <div>16 into the scoping meeting is that we have a Bureau of</div> <div>17 Land Management proposal to consider some acres up by</div> <div>18 the Coso area for leasing for geothermal exploration</div> <div>19 and development.</div> <div>20 And with that, I'd like to introduce you to</div> <div>21 who's here with me to bring this presentation and</div> <div>22 answer your questions. First we have John Dalton. He</div> <div>23 is from the Moreno Valley office of the California</div> <div>24 Desert District. He's a planning environmental</div> <div>25 coordinator, and he's our project coordinator for this</div>	<div>Page 3</div> <div>1 grabbed one of these when you walked in, a speaker</div> <div>2 card. I'm going to ask you guys to just fill that out</div> <div>3 while we're giving this presentation.</div> <div>4 This presentation is going to last about</div> <div>5 15, 20 minutes. When we're done with this, I'll</div> <div>6 collect these cards, and I'll just call you up</div> <div>7 randomly. You can just stand up at your seat --</div> <div>8 there's not a lot of us here tonight -- and just ask</div> <div>9 your question, give us your comment.</div> <div>10 And, you know, like I said, I'm not going</div> <div>11 to keep you guys to a time limit by any means, but</div> <div>12 we'd like to get through it so everyone has a chance</div> <div>13 to speak. If we get to the end of the speaker cards,</div> <div>14 I'll ask if anyone has questions or comments. And</div> <div>15 we're free to stay as long as we need to to answer</div> <div>16 questions tonight.</div> <div>17 One thing I would ask is that, if you can</div> <div>18 stand up, if you can address the court reporter we</div> <div>19 have tonight, state your name, speak clearly and</div> <div>20 slowly so she could get everything down verbatim for</div> <div>21 your comment and then our responses to your comment as</div> <div>22 appropriate.</div> <div>23 Okay. Thanks, you guys. Does anybody need</div> <div>24 a speaker card right now before we get started,</div> <div>25 anyone? Can you give him one.</div>

1 MS. CADAVONA: Oh, yeah. Right here.
 2 MR. STRAND: I've got him one.
 3 MR. HAGERTY: Well, good evening. My
 4 name is Sean Hagerty. I'm the geothermal program lead
 5 in the BLM California State office in Sacramento. My
 6 position basically oversees the leasing and
 7 utilization of geothermal resources within the state
 8 on Federal Lands. So they have my card as saying I'm
 9 a geothermal expert. I'm far from that. I've been in
 10 the program for 29 years, but there's still -- a
 11 little higher?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you back
 13 here.

14 MR. HAGERTY: Let me speak up a little.
 15 I've been in the program for 29 years, and I started
 16 out in the El Centro office down in Imperial Valley.
 17 There was quite a bit of activity down there back in
 18 the early '80s and even more activity right now. So I
 19 have some background, but clearly I don't know it all,
 20 and if there are questions that come up tonight that I
 21 don't know, I'll quite frankly say I don't know, but
 22 I'll do my best to find out the answers for you.

23 What I'm going to do tonight is talk
 24 basically just very briefly over, what is geothermal?
 25 What is the resource? How do we find it? What do we

1 Sierras. So anyway, that's a normal way of convecting
 2 that energy to the surface.
 3 The other way to get it is to drill for it,
 4 taking a -- not a water well drilling operation
 5 because that's too small. You're drilling down to
 6 well below a thousand feet, maybe 5,000 feet. So
 7 drilling rigs will take you down maybe a mile down
 8 into the ground. That's a big piece of equipment.
 9 But by drilling down into the earth, you can access
 10 where the hot rock is and hopefully where the water is
 11 too.

12 And again, by pulling that water up, the
 13 purpose, at least for what we see here in this
 14 project, is to produce electricity. The hot water can
 15 be used for other resources too: drying vegetables,
 16 raising fish. It's real popular in the Imperial
 17 Valley, raising tilapia. But for the resources up
 18 here, most likely it will be quite hot and more
 19 amenable towards producing electricity.

20 Benefits of geothermal. There's quite a
 21 few. It's a clean energy source. Basically there's
 22 no gases that come out of it. There is usually some
 23 carbon dioxide that comes up with the water but a very
 24 small percentage compared to, say, natural gas or coal
 25 or some other fuel source. It's reliable source of

1 do with it when we do find it and then the laws that
 2 are involved with what applies to the leasing, what
 3 applies to the utilization of that resource. So it's
 4 all going to be real brief.

5 I'm not going to go into a lot of detail
 6 about the reservoir, so there's some experts in this
 7 room who will kind of smile because I'm just going to
 8 talk about cartoons and things like that. But I'll be
 9 here after the meeting, and if you have any questions
 10 that you'd like to ask me of detail, I'm more than
 11 happy to at least address those questions. Again I
 12 might not know the answer, but I can get that answer
 13 for you.

14 Let's start out with geothermal energy.
 15 What is geothermal energy? We talk about the heat of
 16 the earth, hot rock, hot rock at depth, how far down?
 17 Maybe 5,000 feet, maybe 10,000 feet, maybe even
 18 deeper. It's a combination of both having hot rock
 19 and then water in that rock, because it's the water in
 20 the rock that actually conveys the energy to the
 21 surface.

22 And when we see the hot water coming to the
 23 surface, we normally call it, like, a fumarole or a
 24 geyser or mud pot or something you'd see at
 25 Yellowstone or some other places, hot springs on the

1 energy. It's a source of energy that, unlike, say,
 2 solar and wind that's cyclic -- the solar works great
 3 when the sun is shining, and the wind power is great
 4 when the wind is blowing, but when the sun sets and
 5 the wind stops, that energy source stops as well.
 6 Now, that's not to say there's anything wrong with
 7 that energy source. It's just that it's a source that
 8 is cyclic.

9 Geothermal energy is a type of energy that
 10 basically, once you turn the power plant on, it stays
 11 on, and it produces energy throughout the life of the
 12 project. It does shut down for maintenance, things
 13 like that, but overall you turn it on, and it runs at
 14 30 megawatts or whatever, and it stays on.

15 Geothermal power that is accessible
 16 locally. I mean, here's an energy source that we
 17 don't have to go overseas to find, we don't have to go
 18 outside of our country to find, in fact, we're hoping
 19 in this case that we don't even have to go outside of
 20 the county to find. And there already is a project
 21 nearby, Coso project, that is already producing
 22 geothermal energy, so it's likely that there's energy
 23 nearby in this project area as well.

24 Sustainable. Well, what is sustainable?
 25 If a resource is found, can it be produced for a long

1 time? In most cases, yes. The heat of the rock will
2 stay with the rock for a long, long --

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sorry. You're being
4 overridden by the gym class next door.

5 MR. HAGERTY: I want to make sure you
6 can hear.

7 MR. STRAND: Do you want to use the
8 microphone?

9 MR. HAGERTY: Yeah. Let me use the
10 microphone.

11 Is this better?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's better. We can
13 hear you.

14 MR. HAGERTY: Okay. I don't want to
15 blow anybody out here. Let me use this, then.

16 So what we're talking about is sustained
17 resource, a resource that can go on for a period of
18 time. I will use again an example of the Geysers of
19 Northern California about 70 miles north of the city
20 of San Francisco. Their production has gone on for
21 almost 40 years, and the temperature of the rock, the
22 actual reservoir rock that they're extracting the
23 water from, has only changed a few degrees. It's
24 about 475 degrees Fahrenheit, and the temperature has
25 only dropped a few degrees. So with sustainable, the

1 rock will still be hot.

2 Now, if you're pulling water from the
3 resource and not injecting enough back in, that's
4 another issue and certainly something that would need
5 to be discussed. But as far as the heat source, the
6 heat source is something that will be there for a
7 long, long time. How long depends on how quickly
8 we're extracting energy, but normally we're looking
9 well in excess of 30 years, so a long, long process.

10 Okay. So in terms of energy development,
11 what actually occurs? If we actually decide to lease,
12 if a decision is made that we will lease a portion of
13 this land or all of the land, what's going to happen
14 on there? Well, we've developed a reasonable
15 foreseeable development scenario based upon the best
16 information we have right now. There's no wells that
17 are in the area right now, so we don't know exactly
18 what is the temperature of the resource, if it doesn't
19 even exist.

20 We have some applications that have been
21 applied back in 2002 that the applicants feel that
22 there is a resource, and so that's the driving force.
23 And I'll get into more of that a little bit later as
24 far as the purpose and need.

25 But the issue being is that, if the leases

1 are issued and the company wants to access that
2 resource and drill for it, what will first happen is
3 that they'll drill at least one well. They'll drill
4 it out there to determine, what is the depth of the
5 resource?

6 Okay. So if they do discover a resource at
7 depth and they produce it up and it turns out to be
8 commercial -- in other words, there's enough fluid
9 that comes up through the well and enough heat to
10 warrant building a power plant -- then we've got a
11 couple of different things that can go on.

12 Clearly, if the decision is made to lease
13 and then a proposal is made to drill the resource, the
14 drilling of that resource will also require another
15 environmental review. The environmental review that
16 we're going through right now is just to make the
17 decision basically to lease or not to lease. Once
18 that decision is made and if a decision is made to
19 lease, then subsequent operations on that lease will
20 also undergo a separate environmental review.

21 And that's important to remember because
22 there's a lot of issues out there. Clearly water is
23 one of them. Cultural resources is another. Visual
24 is a whole slew of issues that will come into play.
25 But for this demonstration for this example, let me

1 just say that we're moving on. They've drilled a
2 well. They've found a resource. Now what are they
3 going to do? Well, most likely they'll come in with a
4 proposal to build a power plant.

5 Okay. With that power plant they'll also
6 say how many wells they'll need to sustain the power
7 plant. There will be production wells and injection
8 wells. Also there will need to be access roads to get
9 into where the power plant is going to be built, as
10 well as where the wells are going to go.

11 There will be transmission lines because
12 you need to get the power out of the area to sell it
13 to a utility, and that's basically where they're going
14 to make money, is selling that electricity. And then
15 finally, as I said, there's utilization. That's where
16 they turn the power plant on and it's now producing.

17 So we have identification of the resource
18 by drilling down to the hot water and rock. We have a
19 proposal coming in to build a power plant. I'll get
20 into more detail on that but kind of conceptual. Then
21 we have exploration, drilling, development and then,
22 finally, utilization.

23 This is just a little cartoon, very, very
24 simple as far as what we might expect in a perfect
25 world as far as geothermal resource. Let me get over

1 here. There's supposed to be a pointer on this thing.
2 Oh, it's still here. Okay.

3 At the bottom here we've got a hot rock
4 heat source. Those could be magma, could be liquid
5 rock. Probably it's not liquid, but it's a very, very
6 high-temperature rock. That rock is conveying heat
7 upwards as it cools off. It's coming into this area
8 here, where it's full of fractures.

9 In most situations we've got fractures that
10 are coming in from the surface as well. We've got
11 rainwater that percolates down into the fracture, hot
12 rock on both sides here. Again this is a cartoon.
13 This isn't how it really works, but it's close enough
14 for this presentation.

15 Once the water is in the rock here, of
16 course, as it gets hotter, it gets lighter, and it
17 will normally come to the surface as a hot springs, a
18 fumarole, a geyser. But in most cases there's some
19 sort of restriction, some sort of barrier rock or cap
20 rock. In most reservoirs because of the chemicals in
21 the water -- like calcium carbonate, iron, other
22 things -- the fractures that have allowed the water to
23 come into the reservoir in the first place often get
24 plugged up, just like your plumbing in the house. If
25 you have well water, if you have to replace a pipe, I

1 mean, you'll find that there's some deposits that are
2 in the pipe -- not necessarily bad, but it will
3 eventually clog the pipe.

4 Okay. So in this case these cracks will
5 normally see a level -- and then this darker material
6 rock will become what we call a cap rock, sealing in
7 the hot water, so it's like a steam kettle with a cap
8 on, and the heat continues to come up and heat that
9 water up.

10 What was I talking about earlier about
11 exploration? Then what a company will do is that
12 they'll drill down into that hot rock, accessing the
13 hot water. The hot water will be brought to the
14 surface. This type of power plant is called a binary
15 plant.

16 I'll get into the different types of power
17 plants, but for this purpose the water is brought up
18 to the surface. It goes through a heat exchange, much
19 like the radiator in your car. The water goes through
20 the radiator, and there's another working fluid that
21 picks up the heat. It's an isobutane or some other
22 fluid that absorbs the heat, turns into a vapor, which
23 turns the turbine, which turns the generator and turns
24 it into electricity.

25 In this case the water is never allowed to

1 reach the atmosphere and never goes out in the open.
2 I doesn't flash. It's cooled down because energy is
3 taken out of it, and then they inject the water back
4 into the reservoir but not necessarily the same depth.
5 But it's important to inject the water back in there
6 because they want to maintain reservoir pressure.

7 This is a quick schematic, and after this
8 meeting if you have a question as to how this action
9 works or geology issues, I will be more than happy to
10 talk about them.

11 Okay. In this last part, you may have
12 heard talk about a binary power plant. Well, there's
13 three different types of power plants that we find.
14 Any one of them could be used, depending on the type
15 of resource that we find. The first one is, as I
16 mentioned, that we've got a binary power plant.
17 Binary means two, two fluids, binary, two. You've got
18 the fluid that comes up from the rock. It's hot.
19 They send that fluid through a heat exchanger, which
20 absorbs the heat, and that heat is conveyed to another
21 working fluid -- again, isobutanes, et cetera, propane
22 and that sort of thing. That's what boils, turns into
23 a vapor, turns the turbine, turns the generator,
24 produces electricity. Then the water is ejected.

25 The second type that is commonly used is a

1 flash plant. The difference between a flash plant and
2 a binary plant is that the primary issue here is that
3 for the flash plant the water normally that comes up
4 out of the well is over 330 degrees Fahrenheit. Now,
5 you'd say, well, gee, why isn't it boiling? Well, the
6 reason it isn't boiling is -- and you don't really
7 want it boiling -- is because it's under pressure.

8 I used this example the last couple of
9 nights, but think of an old-time pressure cooker, the
10 kind my mom used to use. You cook vegetables in
11 there, and the reason why it cooks faster is because,
12 as the pressure increases in the pressure cooker, the
13 boiling temperature of that water increases, as well.
14 That's why pressure cookers are very dangerous,
15 because, should a child open the pressure cooker while
16 it's still cooking, much like taking a soda can and
17 shaking it and popping it open and taking the cap off,
18 suddenly you release that pressure, and the boiling
19 point drops immediately. Well, if the water is at 250
20 degrees Farenheit and somebody is taking that top off,
21 now you have got water that's been boiling immediately
22 scalding. So you don't see pressure cookers anymore.

23 Same here in the flash plant. They want it
24 to have it. They bring the water up, send it into a
25 large vessel that's at atmospheric pressure. Then it

1 boils into flashes of steam. The steam then turns the
2 turbine, which turns the generator, which creates
3 electricity.

4 So I kind repeat myself in terms of this
5 turbine-generated electricity, but you see, it's just
6 an energy source that's turning something that's
7 producing electricity. It's the same in a coal plant,
8 same in a nuclear power plant, just a different energy
9 source that's turning that generator.

10 Finally a dry steam plant. These are not
11 common. Luckily in California we're blessed to have
12 one resource north of San Francisco called the
13 Geysers, where we actually find dry heat. In most of
14 the reservoirs throughout California and throughout
15 the West, when you drill into the rock, you go down a
16 mile or so, what you find is actually hot water, very,
17 very hot water, 400, 500 degrees, 650 degrees
18 Fahrenheit.

19 In the Geysers what they find is, it's just
20 dry steam. Geologists believe that there still is a
21 pool of water boiling way down in depth 13-, 15-,
22 maybe 18,000 feet down. But so far they haven't found
23 it. It's just dry steam, which makes it perfect
24 because you don't have to convert it through anything.
25 You don't have to send it through a big pot to get a

1 flash. It already has a flash. So the only thing you
2 need to do is, basically it turns the turbine that
3 turns the generator that produces electricity.

4 And those plants with the Geysers are
5 fairly good sized, somewhere upwards of 130 megawatts
6 in size, so they're pretty good. But unfortunately
7 there's only a few places in the world where there's a
8 real commercial resource like that. One is at the
9 Geysers. One is in Italy about 50 miles to the north,
10 northwest of Rome.

11 So when we talk about leasing of Federal
12 Lands, we consider the leasing action, this issue to
13 lease or not to lease, to be a major Federal action on
14 our part. Therefore, since it is a major Federal
15 action, then that National Environmental Policy, NEPA,
16 comes into play, and that's what this whole process is
17 about, basically taking that action, the action of
18 deciding to lease or not to lease, and analyzing it,
19 analyzing it for what could happen if we lease. And
20 it's a Federal action, so under NEPA we have to
21 address it.

22 The specific regulations that deal with
23 geothermal are Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations,
24 Part 3200. I do have copies of the regulations back
25 on the table. I also have a website that should work.

1 So if you have access to a computer, you're more than
2 welcome to take the full booklet of regulations. But
3 if you don't want to have all that paper and want to
4 save some paper, then the website will give you access
5 to where those regulations are.

6 If a decision is made to lease and a lease
7 is issued, then the lease conveys the right to drill
8 for, explore, utilize the resource. But it doesn't
9 convey the right that they can go out there right
10 away. As I mentioned earlier, if they're going to do
11 some exploration, that exploration is also going to
12 have to undergo a NEPA review. If through that
13 exploration they determine there is a commercial
14 resource, then they come back in with a proposal for a
15 power plant and the power plant will also undergo
16 another NEPA review. So we're conveying the right to
17 access the resource but not until the necessary NEPA
18 review has been completed.

19 Here's just kind of a laundry list of some
20 of the laws that are coming into play and will be
21 addressed in this document. I already mentioned the
22 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. That's the
23 document that triggers off our responsibility in terms
24 of this document.

25 Also other factors that will come into play

1 that will add to and supplement NEPA. One is the
2 National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, addressing
3 issues associated with cultural resources, Native
4 American issues, a wide variety of issues here.

5 We also have the Endangered Species Act of
6 1973. What species are out there? Are they
7 sensitive? Are they threatened? Are they in danger?
8 Under this act we can find that out, and if this
9 decision is made to lease, what could be the impact on
10 those animals?

11 We have a couple of Energy Policy Acts that
12 are involved here too, two under different
13 administrations. Under the Bush administration we
14 have got the Policy Act of 2001, which basically is
15 encouraging the utilization of renewable energy, so it
16 talked about gas and a lot about that, but it also
17 encouraged the Federal government to pursue and allow
18 access to Federal Lands for renewable energy.

19 The second Energy Policy Act of 2005 –
20 this is under the current administration, and it gave
21 us greater incentive, basically. It said that by 2010
22 that the backlog of geothermal lease applications must
23 be reduced by 90 percent. That's across the board
24 through all Western United States. So part of the
25 issue here, part of the driving force, is that in the

1 study area we have three pending lease applications,
2 and they're part of the backlog, and so our issue here
3 is to address that backlog. I'll get into that a
4 little bit more, but that's an important issue.

5 And, of course, lastly, the Geothermal
6 Steam Act of 1970. That is the act that gives the
7 authority to the Department of the Interior and to the
8 Bureau of Land Management to issue geothermal leases
9 in the first place. Some of you will say, well, why
10 can't the Forest Service issue leases, or why can't
11 another agency issue leases? Because only the
12 Department of Interior under this NEPA act is
13 authorized to issue leases.

14 Let me go back. Okay. One of the more
15 important issues here is -- of course, this is all
16 under the umbrella of the California Desert
17 Conservation Plan. I need to talk about that. And
18 also one act that's not on here, but some astute
19 person the other night brought it up, the Federal Land
20 Policy Management Act of 1976, which talks about
21 coordination. That talks about addressing public
22 lands and ensuring that resources are being used. So
23 that's not on that list, but it's important.

24 Let's get specific. Let's get down to the
25 brass facts, or let's boil this down here a little

1 bit, if I can use a little bit of a pun here. We're
2 talking about the Haiwee Geothermal Lease Area. It
3 covers about 24,000 acres, of which about 22,000 acres
4 are public lands.

5 Let me stand right here so you can see.
6 These might be easier to take a look at a little later
7 on. It's too hard to see right now. But in essence
8 we've got a little over 22,000 acres of Federal Lands,
9 of which about 4,000 are currently encumbered by three
10 geothermal lease applications. We have also have
11 640 acres, or a section, of State land. And that land
12 is actually already leased through the State Lands
13 Commission. And we also have about 1200 acres of
14 private land, mostly in Rose Valley itself.

15 So for the private land we have no
16 jurisdiction over, and on the State lands we have no
17 jurisdiction over. The only thing that this document
18 is going to address are the 22,000 acres, roughly, of
19 Federal Lands, and that's where this comes into play
20 under the Geothermal Steam Act. As I mentioned,
21 pre-pending applications, about 4,400 acres have been
22 pending out there since 2000.

23 Project area map. We've got two maps up
24 here. This is kind of an aerial-type map for
25 locations. Let me bring your attention to where I'm

1 pointing here. For those who are familiar with Coso
2 Junction off of Highway 395, Coso Junction is
3 approximately in this area right here. So the Little
4 Lake riparian area is to the south just off the map.
5 The South Highway Reservoir shows up here. 395 is
6 running pretty much north-south, and then you have
7 several transmission lines that are cutting across the
8 area too. So the darker area to my right here, that's
9 the China Lake Naval Weapons Center. You can see
10 there's pretty much a boundary on the southeast side.
11 There's a buffering here.

12 Purpose and need for the project. Again
13 one of the key issues here is to determine whether to
14 approve geothermal leases or not, whether we're going
15 to have the land open to geothermal leasing or not.
16 That's the critical issue because, later on, if we do
17 decide to lease and a project is being proposed, then
18 there will be other decisions: Should we approve the
19 project? Should we modify it? Should we deny it? So
20 that's a whole other set of issues with a lot of
21 detail further down the road.

22 The other issue is basically two issues
23 when it comes to leasing. Should we offer the three
24 pending leasing applications? Should those be leased?
25 Should we consider the other 18,000 acres out here for

1 leasing or maybe a mix of someplace in between? Maybe
2 instead of 18,000 acres, maybe we should consider
3 10,000, maybe more, maybe less. So I'm just trying to
4 get you to think that there's alternatives that will
5 be coming into play here, and those alternatives will
6 be based on issues coming up from this meeting as well
7 as from the draft document.

8 We've got the California Desert
9 Conservation Plan that this is a Plan amendment. So
10 this document will amend the California Desert Plan,
11 and that's important. There's been a lot of
12 amendments to the Plan since 1980, and so this is an
13 amendment going way back to the initial Plan back in
14 1980.

15 Again, the consideration of leasing here,
16 two presidents' energy plans of 2001 and 2005. Then
17 finally, if a decision is made to lease, then the
18 issue here is that we're leasing. We're helping the
19 State of California hopefully reach its renewable
20 energy portfolio goal for 2010. It's currently at 20
21 percent. The Governor has said something over the
22 last couple of years where in 2020 it's supposed to be
23 bumped to 30 percent. So with renewable energy coming
24 from this area, if we decide to lease and if a
25 resource is found, it will go toward that goal.

1 I'm going to at this point turn it over to
2 Mike, and again I'll be here for the rest of the
3 evening. If you have any questions about geology,
4 about leasing, I'd be more than happy to talk to you.
5 With that, I'll give it to Mike.

6 MR. STRAND: Thanks, Sean.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Do you have a volume
8 knob on your microphone? We're competing with the
9 dance.

10 MR. STRAND: I don't see a volume on
11 here. Is it okay? Can you hear me?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: A little better, yeah.

13 MR. STRAND: Okay. Well, Sean has
14 already really gone through everything that we need to
15 know at this point. Let me just touch on a couple of
16 items here. Then we'll open it up to comment and
17 questions. He talked about the proposed action, and
18 that is to amend the California Desert Plan. And
19 again that's a decision that's either to lease or not
20 to lease this project area over to geothermal
21 resources.

22 One of the alternatives to that is a no
23 action. Under the no action, there would be no Plan
24 amendment and the lands within the project area will
25 remain the same, will be managed the same as they are

1 a copy of it. You can review that. There will be a
2 public review period. You can submit comments on the
3 draft, and during that time period we'll also conduct
4 some public meetings.

5 Once we're through that, the Final EIS --
6 the bulk of the Final EIS is really just your comments
7 and the responses from the Agency regarding your
8 comments. There may also be changes or clarifications
9 in the draft itself. That will all be published as a
10 Final EIS, and that Final EIS will then go to the BLM
11 decision makers. They will make a decision on the
12 project, and that's when we'll issue the Record of
13 Decision, what we commonly refer to as a ROD. And if
14 there's a Plan Amendment, then that will be the Final
15 Plan Amendment with that ROD.

16 Again I just appreciate you being part of
17 the process. I appreciate you guys being here
18 tonight. Let me mention one thing. The Notice of
19 Intent had a date for scoping to be completed by
20 October 16th. That's tomorrow. That's not going to
21 happen, so we're extending that out to November 9th.
22 So we encourage you guys to have your comments in to
23 us by November 9th so it can be clear in the EIS.

24 However scoping is an open process
25 throughout the development of the EIS, so we will take

1 right now within the current Plan. There will be no
2 Plan amendment.

3 Other alternatives that we have, like Sean
4 mentioned, is a combination of approving those
5 applications that we already have plus some
6 combination of the 22,000 acres. And we're here for
7 scoping. We're here to hear your guys' comments, and
8 through the scoping process there may be additional
9 alternatives that could be developed.

10 NEPA scoping. That's what we're doing
11 right now. NEPA requires scoping. We're conducting
12 these scoping meetings. We're collecting your
13 comments here tonight, and you can also fill out the
14 form. You can mail it in to us. There's an e-mail
15 address. You can send comments in through e-mail, so
16 there's lots of ways to participate in scoping.

17 As far as the project timeline is concerned
18 for developing the EIS, we're right here in this
19 October section here of scoping. The Draft
20 Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Plan
21 Amendment will be completed this winter, early winter,
22 2010. And then once that's out and completed, it will
23 go out to the public for review. It will be on the
24 websites. There will be notices out to where you can
25 view that, where you can get copies of it if you need

1 your comments past November 9th, as well, but at some
2 point there will be a cutoff because we've got to get
3 the thing printed and put out to you guys for review.
4 So we just encourage you guys to get it in as soon as
5 possible, your scoping comments.

6 So again thank you guys for being here, and
7 if you guys could just hand me your speaker cards,
8 then I'll collect those, and we'll continue. I think
9 I'll hand you guys another microphone. That way the
10 court reporter can hear us.

11 MS. CADAVONA: Hello. The first one,
12 Chris Ellis.

13 CHRIS ELLIS: Good evening. I just had
14 a question, and I know we're early in the process.
15 And this is related to a decision whether or not
16 you're going to lease. My question is probably a
17 little bit further down the road. How does a decision
18 to lease and ultimately make a decision to produce or
19 attempt to produce or explore for geothermal power --
20 how is the BLM going to make decisions relative to
21 groundwater usage? And do these leases include a
22 provision for groundwater associated with potential
23 drilling and then potential future recharge if a
24 geothermal reservoir is found?

25 MR. HAGERTY: Yeah. Good question,

1 Chris. And this came up actually in the first meeting
2 we had in Lone Pine.

3 The decision here, besides the Plan
4 Amendment, is just to decide to lease or not to lease.
5 In terms of the water budget for the Rose Valley and
6 getting into the issues there, while this document
7 will talk about the need for addressing water, it will
8 talk about the model that was developed for the Hay
9 Ranch pipeline. We're not going to get into an issue
10 of how much water could be used or may be used or
11 whatever until after that decision to lease is made.

12 At that point the project comes in to
13 drill, and they plan to use -- let's say they need to
14 use an acre foot of water for the drilling. It will
15 be at that point that we'll address, where is the
16 water going to come from? Are we planning to take
17 from Rose Valley or someplace else? If it's coming
18 from Rose Valley, then these are the consequences.

19 If we take it a step further, if we find
20 it's a commercial resource, then the same thing will
21 apply with even more scrutiny. Obviously a lot of
22 issues, a lot of concerns. So we want to make sure
23 they're addressed, but at this level it's too
24 premature because there's a variety of issues that
25 come into play.

1 Dry cooling can be a factor. Will it be a
2 flash plant, a binary plant? Will they find water
3 someplace else? There's a multiple of issues we could
4 address, but we'll be shooting in the dark. So all
5 we're going to address at this point is the decision
6 to lease or not to lease.

7 But clearly the applicants that already
8 have their hands in the fire, they know water is going
9 to be a big issue.

10 MR. STRAND: Dan Burnett.

11 DAN BURNETT: Yeah. Actually I don't
12 have any comment.

13 MR. STRAND: Okay. Tom Budlong.

14 TOM BUDLONG: Yeah. I don't have any
15 comments. I have questions. Mike, can you explain
16 who you are and where you're from. I'm confused.

17 MR. STRAND: Absolutely. Good question.
18 I had it last night too. Why are we here? Someone
19 asked me last night. I'm with Power Engineers. I'm
20 an environmental project manager with Power Engineers,
21 working in the Environmental Division, and we've been
22 hired by the BLM to assist them in developing and
23 writing this Environmental Impact Statement, so we're
24 working as an extension of the BLM staff.

25 TOM BUDLONG: Okay. Thanks. If you

1 actually get together on making a plant, what's the
2 typical life of a plant like this?

3 MR. HAGERTY: Normally, sir, they would
4 be built with the expectation of producing at least
5 for 30 years. That's in terms of financing. But
6 normally the plant would probably go a long way, way
7 beyond 30 years. Some of the projects I talked
8 about -- the Geysers, for example -- some of the
9 operations up there have gone beyond 30 years. So
10 it's more of an issue of the resource. What is the
11 life of the resource?

12 Management can go way beyond 30 years, but
13 in terms of mechanical issues, the plant will keep
14 running. But just like your house, where you get a
15 loan for 30 years, these power plants normally have a
16 loan for 30 years. So after it's all paid off, it's
17 all written off, but there's no reason to shut them
18 down. They will continue. With the resources there,
19 they'll continue.

20 TOM BUDLONG: The resource is basically
21 infinite; it could be on forever?

22 MR. HAGERTY: It could. There's factors
23 that become involved. If you're actually expecting
24 energy faster than it's being replaced within the
25 rocks, you may cool the rocks down. Also the water

1 issue we touched on, if you pulled out too much water,
2 it's the water that's sustaining the energy from the
3 hot rock to the surface. So you want to make sure
4 you're not extracting the water and basically taking
5 it out so that you're not drying the reservoir. But
6 that's another series of issues as well.

7 TOM BUDLONG: Somebody said there was an
8 applicant in 2002?

9 MR. HAGERTY: Yes, sir.

10 TOM BUDLONG: Who was that, and is that
11 applicant still around?

12 MR. HAGERTY: The applicant is still
13 around. There was three applications for leasing that
14 were filed, I think, back in February of 2002.
15 Mr. Metcalf, or Terry Metcalf, is one of the
16 individuals. He's associated with a group called Deep
17 Rose, and I was kind of hoping that somebody from Deep
18 Rose would be here tonight. However I don't think he
19 is. I don't think there's anybody in the audience
20 from Deep Rose, but they are still around, yes.

21 TOM BUDLONG: And all three are Metcalf,
22 are they?

23 MR. HAGERTY: They are associated with
24 Mr. Metcalf. They co-owned the group with the name of
25 Deep Rose, but Mr. Metcalf actually has one of the

1 leases under his name, and the other two lease
2 applications are under Maxx, M-a-x-x, Incorporated,
3 but I believe they're all associated under a Deep Rose
4 group.

5 TOM BUDLONG: How deep do you think the
6 initial well will go? We talked about Deep Rose
7 before, and they were talking about going down a long
8 ways.

9 MR. HAGERTY: Yes, sir. They have told
10 us that they believe the resource is down somewhere
11 approximately 15- to 18,000 feet down. In my own
12 opinion, I mean, that's a tremendous amount of depth.
13 That's a tremendous amount of cost. All I could say
14 is that it will be a very costly endeavor to go that
15 far down.

16 TOM BUDLONG: And that's what you're
17 talking about with this initial process that, before
18 you decide whether to amend the Plan or not, is going
19 down that deep?

20 MR. HAGERTY: If the decision is made to
21 lease, if we issue the leases, that will be up to the
22 lessee to come forward with a project to explore. If
23 they do plan to drill at that depth, we'll scrutinize
24 it as far as casing and types of metals, surface area,
25 things like that. But it will be very costly on their

1 part to drill at that depth if that is the target.

2 TOM BUDLONG: I've heard rumors that
3 there are a lot of cultural resources in this area.
4 Anything about that?

5 MR. HAGERTY: I'm going to defer to Linn
6 Gum on this one.

7 MR. GUM: There are a lot of cultural
8 resources in this area.

9 TOM BUDLONG: Answered that question.
10 The answer was "yes." You could have just said "yes."

11 MR. GUM: Yes.

12 TOM BUDLONG: Yeah. Why 20,000 acres
13 instead of just the initial part that the three lease
14 applications? Why such a big area?

15 MR. DALTON: The reason for this is that
16 we're going to process these three applications. If
17 indeed we do process these three applications, we may
18 get requests for additional with the competitive lease
19 applications, so we decided to include the 22,000
20 acres potentially for geothermal development.

21 TOM BUDLONG: Do you think other
22 applicants could show up and want to get the same
23 area?

24 MR. HAGERTY: Just to kind of go a
25 little bit further than what John said, when these

1 applications were filed back in 2002, the current
2 regulations at that time said that for areas that are
3 outside of a known geothermal resource area, or KGRA,
4 there is a KGRA area called Coso KGRA. You could
5 apply for lands outside of the KGRA without
6 applications, and that's what these gentlemen did here
7 with the three applications. They couldn't apply for
8 lands inside the KGRA because that's competitive. So
9 while they were much very much interested in applying
10 and they did get a lease, Section 16 -- they did get a
11 lease from the State Lands Commission. We felt that
12 instead of piecemealing this, instead of addressing
13 the three applications, since they were interested
14 beyond the KGRA, we felt would be good to at least
15 address the larger area of the 18,000 acres beyond the
16 4,000 acres here.

17 As it is right now under the 2005
18 recommendation, all this will now be leased
19 competitive. We have done away with the issue of
20 KGRA. We no longer have non-competitive applications.
21 Much like our boiling gas program, all of the lands
22 now have become competitive, so if somebody were to
23 nominate the land even outside of our boundary area,
24 then we now all become competitive.

25 TOM BUDLONG: Thanks. Let's see. You

1 talked about the 640 State is already leased to Deep
2 Rose?

3 MR. HAGERTY: Yes, sir.

4 TOM BUDLONG: All right. That's all I
5 have right now.

6 MR. HAGERTY: We're doing great.

7 MR. STRAND: Sophia -- Sophia Merk.

8 SOPHIA MERK: My name is Sophia Merk,
9 NPL News. Thank you. In the 1872, a little while
10 ago, we had a 7.4 earthquake in Lone Pine, California,
11 which is not that far up the road from Deep Rose, this
12 area. What I was wondering about, there's been recent
13 reports on increased seismic activities in Europe and
14 Northern California. Some say it is the result of
15 fracturing geothermal development projects.

16 And I will follow up further with a letter,
17 but I was wondering if -- would you seriously consider
18 analyzing this issue in this part, not after the 90
19 days when we go into the other part, but during this
20 part, if you will really look at the fracturing at
21 this point.

22 And I was also wondering, you say that
23 you're going to have other alternatives in this part,
24 but I haven't seen anything in writing so far. And
25 it's just verbatim. And since I know that things are

1 flying pretty fast and things have changed since the
2 first meeting, I know now that you've incorporated
3 other public -- other scoping meetings with the
4 Timbisha, and I just wonder if maybe you shouldn't
5 start with another Federal Register Notice and put it
6 out there for the full 90-day review.

7 Since this is a land use, it's going to be
8 an amendment. It's not just an EIS. It's an
9 amendment. So I was wondering if you could really
10 seriously look at the fracturing part of this.

11 I also was wondering, there's some land
12 that's being designated under WEMO for disposal. Is
13 any of this in that area, Linn?

14 MR. GUM: Yeah. The lands that were
15 under WEMO that were just entered for disposal were at
16 the northern end of Haiwee not subject to this area.

17 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you. I wasn't sure
18 exactly where it was. It wasn't real close.

19 MR. GUM: Up by the North Haiwee Dam in
20 the section that is immediately adjacent to it, is
21 where that land is.

22 SOPHIA MERK: Okay. And I just have one
23 more thing that I would like to add to my comments,
24 and that is, what other tribes have you contacted
25 besides the Timbisha?

1 MR. GUM: I'd like to call Don Storm.
2 He's our archeologist, and he can talk about exactly
3 which tribes will be contacted.

4 MS. MERK: Thank you.

5 MR. STORM: Thank you. I'm Don Storm,
6 archeologist for BLM in Ridgecrest. And last week I
7 sent out five formal private consultation letters to
8 Timbisha Shoshone Tribe in Death Valley, for one.
9 Four tribes in Owens Valley were in this: Lone Pine,
10 Fort Independence, Paiute Tribe -- Big Pine Paiute
11 Tribe and the Bishop Paiute Tribe. And there are
12 still advisory letters that I'm going to be sending
13 out to several of the federally unrecognized tribes in
14 Kern County, Lake Isabella and Tehachapi probably next
15 week regarding this.

16 The formal consultation went to the five
17 recognized tribes, and we'll be following with other
18 communications and correspondence letters to other
19 Federally unrecognized Indian communities in Kern
20 County.

21 SOPHIA MERK: Have you scheduled formal
22 meetings with those tribes?

23 MR. STORM: Next Tuesday, the Timbisha,
24 next Tuesday. That was scheduled not by me, but
25 that's one of the four scoping meetings, and if other

1 tribes would like to have a presentation about the
2 project, we will most likely -- management will
3 probably schedule it with them.

4 SOPHIA MERK: And since they are public
5 meetings, they will be open to the public also?

6 MR. STORM: That I don't know. These
7 will be government-to-government consultation from the
8 Federal government to the Indian tribe on their
9 reservation, their property, and anything public would
10 be through them, only if they -- you know, I presume
11 that they would allow it. But that kind of a meeting,
12 if they request it, would be government to government
13 and not the general public.

14 SOPHIA MERK: Thank you, and that's all
15 I have.

16 MR. STRAND: Jeff Aardahl.

17 JEFF AARDAHL: Good evening. I'm Jeff
18 Aardahl. I represent Defenders of Wildlife. I'm from
19 the Defenders of Wildlife office in Sacramento,
20 California. My title is California Representative,
21 and I have a number of questions similar to the way
22 Tom Budlong began, and then I also have a few general
23 comments, or I suppose you might label them issues or
24 concerns I'd like to just briefly state. And then I
25 will follow up when I return to my office with a

1 detailed written document for you.

2 But just to begin with some questions,
3 could you identify where the boundary of the Coso KGRA
4 is and let me know, going back to -- let's see, '80,
5 '90 -- almost 20 -- 29 years now, were any leases
6 issued in the KGRA for Coso that expired because of
7 non-development or non-plan of development? Is part
8 of this area here within that former Coso KGRA?

9 MR. HAGERTY: That is correct. The KGRA
10 itself, the boundary came up to just to the east side
11 of where the applications are pending right now. It
12 also moved down to the south, came out to the west a
13 little bit. A little nub came out and went back, and
14 basically everything to the far side of my hand here
15 was in the Coso KGRA.

16 There were applications. There were leases
17 that were issued back -- several geothermal
18 competitive lease sales were held in the 1980s. One
19 was held, I believe, in 1981. There was another one
20 in 1985 where leases were issued, and there were some
21 leases that were issued, part of the sales that no
22 activity ever occurred on. The names of those -- I
23 have a complete record of all of them, but you were
24 correct. There were leases that were issued where no
25 activity was taken. The leases dropped -- fell by the

1 wayside.

2 The rest of the boundary of the KGRA goes
3 off the boundary to the east, so way out there.

4 JEFF AARDAHL: Okay. So are any of
5 these decisions from the Coso Geothermal Record of
6 Decision back in 1980 or '81 going to be carried
7 forward as still valid today if it overlaps the same
8 land within this Haiwee zone? In other words could
9 you just bring forward decisions from the previous
10 geothermal effort there rather than go through the
11 whole process again to address the same piece of
12 property?

13 MR. HAGERTY: We'll have to go through
14 the process all over again. Whatever was developed
15 back in 1981 certainly will be utilized as a reference
16 for the new document. But in terms of Endangered
17 Species Act issues, in terms of National Historic
18 Preservation Act issues, all that, many things have
19 occurred since '81 that need to be readdressed.

20 If there are recommendations from the
21 Record of Decision at that time that are still
22 pertinent, I would imagine they would be incorporated.
23 But since it's been such a lapse of time and since
24 normally we have a document that we would be making a
25 determination of NEPA adequacy, clearly the 1981

1 document for this area, we need to do it again, at
2 least for this area.

3 JEFF AARDAHL: Okay. During the process
4 will we be able to get a copy of the 1980 -- the
5 decision so we can kind of track and kind of see how
6 things are changing with regard to proposals for
7 leasing?

8 MR. HAGERTY: The document will,
9 absolutely. It's a public document. I'm sure there's
10 a copy in the Ridgecrest office. If not, I know I've
11 got a copy in my office, so I'm sure it's available.
12 They will let you see that. I can make sure that it's
13 available if anybody wants to see it.

14 JEFF AARDAHL: Okay. Thanks. And
15 somebody, I think, in the introduction mentioned --
16 maybe it's you, Sean -- that you're working on a
17 reasonable development scenario for this particular
18 area. And will we be able to see what is a reasonable
19 foreseeable development scenario for this area before
20 our scoping comments are due?

21 MR. HAGERTY: Sure. And at the previous
22 meetings Sophia asked for a copy, and I can make a
23 copy available. What we did, myself as well as
24 petroleum engineer, Rich Estabrook in our Ukiah
25 office, is, given the data available -- and there

1 isn't any drilling data out there, so all we can do is
2 look at the geology and look at the Coso operation as
3 it is today and make some assumptions that there is a
4 volcanic field here. It most likely is of a certain
5 temperature and depth that we don't know how deep; we
6 don't know the exact temperature.

7 Rich and I came up with a proposal that we
8 would consider up to two 30-megawatt power plants.
9 They would be dual flash type plants similar to what
10 we see in Coso. We made the assumption that the
11 entity would have to drill down anywhere between 8- to
12 10,000 feet to reach a resource but just a developable
13 model, and then from that model that we look at how
14 many surface acres are going to be impacted.

15 So we said for each power plant we would
16 look at about 25 acres for the power plant itself.
17 Each power plant then would need an addition -- it
18 would have up to 22 wells, 15 production wells,
19 approximately seven injection wells that would add to
20 the total of the impact, now taking it up to over
21 50 acres per power plant.

22 In addition to that, then you have access
23 roads, transmission lines. Again that's all described
24 in the RFD, and I can make sure that's available to
25 you as well. But it's just a guess. I ask you that,

1 in reading this, to understand that we're taking a
2 crystal ball, because from that and then through the
3 NEPA document we'll see what sort of impacts will
4 occur at about, say, 200 acres of that impact in this
5 area or that area or whatever. So it's just our best
6 guess. If we had more data, we could fine tune it,
7 but we don't.

8 JEFF AARDAHL: Okay. Those are the
9 questions I had. And should I hand it over to
10 somebody else? And I would like to, before I close,
11 come back and just make a few observations at a later
12 time.

13 MR. STRAND: Okay. Lee Sutton.

14 LEE SUTTON: Hi. I'm Lee Sutton. I'm
15 vice president of Kern Pres. Audubon Society. I'm
16 primarily interested in the subsurface water resource
17 in Rose Valley and participated and followed the Hay
18 Ranch Pipeline controversy significantly. I
19 understand -- and I may be wrong on this, but I think
20 the cognizant agency for the subsurface water is Inyo
21 County, and if that's so, I'm wondering when you will
22 involve Inyo County in this process.

23 MR. DALTON: Yes. We've just now begun
24 the scoping process, as you're aware. We have sent
25 letters out to the County. I spoke last night with an

1 individual in regards to the Planning Department, so
2 we want to seek out our partners early on. That's
3 presently where we're at.

4 So while scoping is going on, besides the
5 letters going to local government and tribal members,
6 our cooperating agencies, they certainly will be
7 brought in as a group. And we're starting to put
8 together core groups. That's the next step in this
9 process. Does that answer your question, more or
10 less?

11 LEE SUTTON: Yes. That's my only
12 question.

13 MR. STRAND: Is that your only question?
14 Okay. Dick Arruda. Arruda?

15 DICK ARRUDA: Dick Arruda. You touched
16 on it a little bit. Just wanted a little bit further
17 clarification on the non-competitive leases that are
18 in for those three. I'm trying to understand. Right
19 now you're proposing that to include the whole area,
20 the 22,000-some-odd acres that includes those three
21 competitive leases. If something in the scoping
22 process, you know, comes up and there's issues and you
23 don't go forward with that, how will you move forward
24 with the three non-competitive leases that you have
25 applications for?

1 MR. HAGERTY: As part of the process,
2 again, some of the discussions on alternatives have
3 come up already. The three non-competitive
4 applications we have pending since 2002, in the
5 process conceivably we could address to offer them --
6 or not to offer them or -- because of the
7 environmental concerns, we can actually deny them.
8 But that is a separate decision there.

9 The other decision that would be put
10 together for the other 18,000 acres -- 18 plus four;
11 that would be 22,000 -- is that, should we offer this
12 as competitive? So there's a whole mixture of
13 alternatives that could be involved, depending on
14 reasonable foreseeable development scenario, how much
15 acreage would be impacted here and what sort of
16 service resources will be impacted as a result of that
17 development. So it encompasses those things.

18 But through this process, again, we could
19 issue this. We could deny it. Or in the case of the
20 no-action alternative, we just won't do anything with
21 it. It will just sit there. But as I mentioned
22 earlier, under the 2005 Act we do have the deadline of
23 August, 2010 to eliminate -- to process 90 percent of
24 our backlog lease applications in the Western United
25 States. And so we're being asked to address all of

1 our backlog.

2 MR. STRAND: Those are all the speaker
3 cards we have. Did you want to make a few more
4 comments, then?

5 Yeah. Let's go here first. Then we'll
6 come back to you.

7 TOM BUDLONG: You're so quiet back
8 there. It's not on. You're so quiet; I didn't know
9 you were here. Could you describe the cultural
10 resources in this area.

11 MR. STORM: Yes. There are quite a few
12 cultural resources, as they're called. For the
13 history, we've got the Southern Pacific Railroad and
14 Work Camp associated with the Southern Pacific
15 Railroads from Mojave to Lone Pine. There is the
16 Los Angeles Aqueduct, both the first and the second
17 aqueduct and the various labor camps, certain camps
18 associated with those. And there is some homesteading
19 out in Rose Valley.

20 Prehistorically Rose Valley is the primary
21 obsidian reduction quarrying area, making a hole in
22 the ground or a piece of rock from an outcropping.
23 Basically it's not only for California but Nevada and,
24 to a certain extent, the Western United States. And a
25 major project for archeologists working in the region,

1 they are trying to delineate the historical sequence
2 that went on for about 3- to 5,000 years of people
3 living, working in Rose Valley, going through these
4 obsidian crops, which mostly occur on China Lake Naval
5 Weapons Station, and bringing them back to their
6 villages and reducing them down to hand-size pieces of
7 obsidian called biofacies, and then these biofacies
8 were taken by craters across the Sierra east across
9 the desert to the southwest into Nevada, Utah and all
10 through most of Southern and Central California as the
11 main obsidian source, tool source for the prehistoric
12 peoples.

13 So there are a number of large village
14 sites that have what's called midden, m-i-d-d-e-n,
15 soil deposits and much lithic scatter. So as it
16 pertains to this particular project, there will be,
17 you know, a cultural resource survey, a
18 field-intensive survey of probably what's called a
19 Class One literature search, and then perhaps a
20 Class Two sampling of the area within the proposed
21 leasing boundary for the EIS preparation to judge what
22 the extent of the universe of known information sites
23 that are out there. And then from that, eligibility
24 potentials and then leasing potentials.

25 And with large plants such as this, there's

1 also, then, usually a standard where, you know, the
2 broader, you know, umbrella, that this is a sensitive
3 area, and if there is any specific project
4 construction projects like a geothermal electrical
5 production plant, then that specific proposal will
6 then get its own, you know, very detailed, very
7 intensive survey of the area of their footprint, as
8 it's called.

9 But for the planning right now, any
10 fieldwork will probably be in a sampling scientific
11 sample to ascertain, you know, the general overall
12 pattern. But it's understood there is a lot there.

13 MR. GUM: I said that in three words.

14 TOM BUDLONG: It gives me a good idea.

15 MR. STORM: Anything else?

16 MR. STRAND: Jeff, did you want to ask
17 some questions?

18 JEFF AARDAHL: Just one more. Then I
19 want to make observations. Since the decision coming
20 out will be whether or not to issue leases here within
21 this boundary, would it be perhaps appropriate to
22 refer to this area as a geothermal leasing study area
23 rather than to state that it is a leasing area at this
24 time? Just to clarify the terminology, is this really
25 a study area rather than a leasing area?

1 MR. DALTON: We're certainly open to
2 that, so thank you.

3 JEFF AARDAHL: Okay. Okay. Good. And
4 I just wanted to make a couple of statements here
5 about recent BLM California Desert Conservation Area
6 Plan commitments to the public.

7 The first one goes back 29 years ago to the
8 1980 Desert Plan. The most recent ones that I believe
9 occurred in 2006 with the West Mojave amendments to
10 that 1980 plan, and I just want to bring up the
11 relationship of those decisions to the Mojave ground
12 squirrel viability and long-term conservation.

13 In 1980 BLM dedicated an area of about
14 18,000 acres in Rose Valley as the Mojave Ground
15 Squirrel Habitat Management Area. It was referred to
16 as the Rose Valley Mojave Ground Squirrel Area.
17 Unfortunately that management plan was never written.
18 When the BLM does write that plan, it requires the
19 full participation of the State Fish and Game office.

20 And I was up in the study area today in a
21 number of places, and I mapped that Rose Valley
22 Habitat Plan Area, that commitment from 1980, and
23 it -- oh, I think it overlaps just under half of this
24 particular study area, roughly. I think this study
25 area is about 22,000 acres of Federal land, and I

1 think the Mojave Ground Squirrel Habitat Management
2 Area from 1980 is at about 10,000 acres.

3 Now, complementing that, in 2006 the West
4 Mojave Amendment also established a much larger ground
5 squirrel conservation area. The primary decision
6 there was that anywhere within this zone, Federal
7 land, if a project were to occur, it would require the
8 habitat replacement or compensation at a ratio of five
9 acres to one acre disturbed. And for the life of the
10 plan, which is 30 years, the limitation on habitat
11 disturbance within this greater conservation area for
12 the ground squirrel is limited to one percent.

13 I just want to bring that up just so that's
14 factored into the analysis that we're going to be
15 seeing. And that concludes everything I have tonight,
16 and I thank you very much for the opportunity.

17 MR. DALTON: Thank you, Jeff.

18 MR. STRAND: Yes. Go ahead. Can you
19 state your name again.

20 DICK ARRUDA: Dick Arruda. One thing
21 that comes to mind when you're looking at plan
22 development and looking at cooperation with utilities
23 et cetera, what are we thinking in regards to
24 transmission? You know, we can have all kinds of
25 resources out there. Are we thinking down the road

1 about -- you know, we already have problems with
2 transmission through this area, and if we put
3 something in out there, other things are going to have
4 to happen. You know, it would be a shame if something
5 did come to be developed out there, and now we're
6 going to bump into another wall, and that's
7 transmission and the ability on your lands -- BLM
8 lands all the way down to L.A. Are we thinking any
9 about that or what's happening in that regard?

10 MR. STRAND: I'll say something real
11 quick of what I know, and I'll let Sean speak to it.
12 South of here there are current proposals: The Barren
13 Ridge area south, transmission lines that are being --
14 they're in the planning stage right now and looking at
15 being under construction in the next couple of years.
16 So between here, this area, and that Barren Ridge
17 area, I know of no current proposals. But certainly
18 that would be something that we would have to look at
19 to get the energy out.

20 MR. HAGERTY: And that's an excellent
21 question because last night during our public scoping
22 meeting in Bishop, of course, is the consideration of
23 a 500-kV line coming in through the center of Nevada
24 basically tying into Bishop someplace that would carry
25 forth a lot of energy from Nevada going into Edison's

1 territory.

2 So it's a domino effect. In other words,
3 if that project is to proceed and it does reach
4 completion over the next, you know, four or five
5 years, then the existing 230-kV lines that Edison has
6 in the Rose Valley area, I believe that just won't
7 make it. So as part of this project, certainly that's
8 consideration as far as what transmission could be
9 utilized.

10 But again our decision here is primarily on
11 the issue of leasing. If the decision is made to
12 lease and somebody comes forward, it's part of our
13 coordination effort to make sure that we are in
14 contact with the various entities. But we are going
15 to leave that up to the operator.

16 And again the question that also came up
17 from previous nights, do the gentlemen that have the
18 applications right now -- do they have power purchase
19 agreement? I don't know. I don't know. So there's a
20 lot of issues there too. So that's a very good
21 question.

22 Certainly we don't want to approach the
23 bottleneck on the transmission lines, because
24 obviously, if we do have a viable resource here, we
25 want to make sure it gets out and becomes part of the

1 renewable energy portfolio for California.

2 MR. STRAND: Any other questions?

3 TOM BUDLONG: I could ask one.

4 MS. CADAVONA: Name?

5 TOM BUDLONG: Tom Budlong. When Terry
6 Metcalf, I guess, talked to the steering committee
7 some number of years ago he, was talking about the
8 State section only, and now he's talking about these.
9 Do you know if he's given up on the State section, or
10 is this easier for him to deal with because it's
11 closer to the road? Do you have any idea why he
12 moved?

13 MR. STRAND: I understand he has a
14 current lease on the State section and he has an
15 approved right-of-way for an access road for the BLM
16 to access that State property. I don't have
17 information on these current leases or these
18 applications.

19 MR. GUM: He has actually two
20 rights-of-way, one for the road to access the State
21 section, another for a pipeline to carry water to that
22 State section for the drilling purposes. Why Deep
23 Rose has chosen not to drill at this point in time,
24 you need to talk to Deep Rose and find out what they
25 have to say. I know they're interested in trying to

1 get those non-competitive leases to tie up those
2 acres, and I don't know that if they do, then that
3 means they'll actually drill or not. So that's
4 speculation on our behalf to try to say why it is they
5 haven't stepped forward.

6 MR. STRAND: Okay. Thank you guys again
7 for coming. What we're going to do is, we're going to
8 be here for as long as you guys are here. If you have
9 more questions, feel free to look at the boards, ask
10 more questions one on one. And again thank you guys
11 for coming. We appreciate your guys' participation.

12 (Applause from the audience.)

13 (The proceedings were concluded at 7:02 p.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, DIANE CARVER MANN, a certified shorthand
4 reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages
5 comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the
6 proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing
7 in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of the BLM Scoping
8 Meeting for the Haiwee Geothermal Project.

9 Dated this 18th day of November, 2009, at
10 Chino, California.

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DIANE CARVER MANN, CSR NO. 6008

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47:10 told 34:9 Tom 31:13,14,25 32:20 33:7,10,21 34:5,16 35:2,9,12,21 36:25 37:4 40:22 48:7 50:14 55:3,5,5 tomorrow 28:20 tonight 3:10 4:13 5:8 5:16,19 6:20,23 27:13 28:18 33:18 52:15 too 8:5,11,15 21:12 23:7 24:8 30:23 31:18 33:1 54:20 tool 49:11 top 17:20 total 44:20 touch 4:19 26:15 touched 33:1 46:15 touching 4:18 toward 25:25 towards 8:19 track 43:5 TRANSCRIPT 1:7 transcription 57:5 transmission 13:11 24:7 44:23 52:24 53:2,7,13 54:8,23 tremendous 34:12,13 tribal 46:5 tribe 39:8,10,11,11 40:8 tribes 38:24 39:3,9,13 39:17,22 40:1 triggers 20:23 true 57:5 try 56:4 trying 25:3 46:18 49:1 55:25 Tuesday 39:23,24 tune 45:6 turbine 15:23 16:23 18:2 19:2 turbine-generated 18:5 turn 4:11 9:10,13 13:16 26:1 turning 18:6,9 turns 12:7 15:22,23,23 15:23 16:22,23,23 18:1,2 19:2,3 two 16:17,17,17 21:12 23:23 24:22 25:16 34:1 44:8 49:20 55:19 tying 53:24 type 9:9 15:14 16:14,25 44:9 types 15:16 16:13	34:24 typical 32:2 U Ukiah 43:24 ultimately 29:18 umbrella 22:16 50:2 under 17:7 19:20 21:8 21:12,13,20 22:12,16 23:20 26:23 34:1,2,3 36:17 38:12,15 47:22 51:23 53:15 undergo 12:20 20:12 20:15 understand 45:1,19 46:18 55:13 understood 50:12 unfortunately 19:6 51:17 United 21:24 47:24 48:24 universe 49:22 unlike 9:1 unrecognized 39:13,19 until 20:17 30:11 up 3:17 4:15,22 5:6,7 5:18 6:14,20 8:12,17 8:23 12:7,9 14:24 15:8,9,17,21 16:18 17:3,24 22:19 23:23 24:5 25:6 26:16 30:1 32:9 34:21 35:22 37:11,16 38:19 40:25 41:10 44:7,8,18,20 46:22 47:3 51:10,20 52:13 54:15,16 55:9 56:1 upon 11:15 upwards 14:7 19:5 us 4:6,9 5:8,9 21:21 27:14 28:23 29:10 34:10 usage 29:21 use 10:7,9,15,18 17:10 23:1 30:13,14 38:7 used 8:15 16:14,25 17:8,10 22:22 30:10 30:10 usually 8:22 50:1 Utah 49:9 utilities 52:22 utility 13:13 utilization 6:7 7:3 13:15,22 21:15 utilize 20:8 utilized 42:15 54:9 V valid 42:7 Valley	3:23 6:16 8:17 23:14 30:5,17,18 39:8,9 45:17 48:19 48:20 49:3 51:14,16 51:21 54:6 vapor 15:22 16:23 variety 21:4 30:24 various 48:17 54:14 vegetables 8:15 17:10 verbatim 5:20 37:25 very 6:24 8:23 13:23 13:23 14:5,5 17:14 18:16,17 34:14,25 36:9 50:6,6 52:16 54:20 vessel 17:25 viability 51:12 viable 54:24 vice 45:15 view 27:25 village 49:13 villages 49:6 Visual 12:23 volcanic 44:4 volume 26:7,10 W walked 5:1 wall 53:6 want 10:5,7,14 16:6 17:7,23 20:3,3 30:22 33:3 35:22 46:2 48:3 50:16,19 51:10 52:13 54:22,25 wanted 46:16 51:4 wants 12:1 43:13 warrant 12:10 was 6:17 15:10 30:8 33:7,10,13,17 35:10 37:12,17,22 38:9,11 38:18 39:24 41:15,19 41:19,25 42:14 51:15 51:17,20 52:6 55:7 wasn't 38:17,18 water 7:19,19,22 8:4 8:10,12,14,23 10:23 11:2 12:22 13:18 14:15,21,22,25 15:7 15:9,13,13,17,19,25 16:3,5,24 17:3,13,19 17:21,24 18:16,17,21 30:5,7,10,14,16 31:2 31:8 32:25 33:1,2,4 45:16,20 55:21 way 8:1,3 18:21 25:13 29:9 32:6,6,12 40:21 42:3 53:8 ways 27:16 34:8 wayside 42:1	Weapons 24:9 49:5 website 19:25 20:4 websites 27:24 week 39:6,15 welcome 20:2 well 6:3 8:4,6 9:5,23,24 11:9,14 12:3,9 13:2,3 13:10 14:10,25 16:12 17:4,5,5,13,19 22:9 25:6 26:13 29:1 33:6 34:6 43:23 44:25 wells 11:16 13:6,7,8,10 44:18,18,19 WEMO 38:12,15 went 39:16 41:13 49:2 were 33:14 34:7 36:1,9 36:13,22 38:14,15,15 39:9 41:5,16,16,17 41:18,20,20,21,23,24 41:24 48:9 49:8 52:7 56:13 west 1:16 18:15 41:12 51:9 52:3 Western 21:24 47:24 48:24 we'd 5:12 we'll 26:16 28:3,12 29:8 30:15 31:4 34:23 39:17 42:13 45:3 48:5 we're 3:15 4:14,18,21 4:21,24 5:3,5,15 9:18 10:16 11:8,8 12:16 13:1 18:11 20:16 23:1 24:14 25:18,18 26:8 27:6,7,10,11,12 27:18 28:5,21 29:14 30:9 31:5,23 35:16 37:6 45:1 46:3,7 47:25 51:1 52:14 53:5 56:7,7 we've 11:14 12:10 14:3 14:9,10 16:16 23:8 23:23 25:8 29:2 31:21 45:23 48:13 what 4:14,18 6:23,24 6:25,25 7:2,2,15 8:13 9:24 10:16 11:11,18 12:2,4 13:2,24 15:6 15:10,11 16:22 18:16 18:19 19:16,19 21:6 21:9 27:10 28:13 32:10 34:16 35:25 36:6 37:12 38:24 43:18,23 44:9 45:3 47:15 49:21 52:23 53:11 54:8 55:24 56:7 whatever 9:14 30:11	42:14 45:5 what's 11:13 32:1 49:14,18 53:9 when 5:1,5 7:1,22 9:3,4 9:4 18:15 19:11 24:23 28:12 35:25 37:19 40:25 45:21 51:18 52:21 55:5 where 8:10,10 13:9,10 13:13,15 14:8 18:13 19:7 20:5 23:19,25 25:22 27:24,25 30:15 31:16 32:14 38:18,21 41:3,11,20,24 46:3 50:1 whether 24:13,14 29:15 34:18 50:20 which 15:22,23 16:19 18:2,2,23 21:14 22:20 23:3,9 37:11 39:3 49:4 52:10 while 5:3 17:15 30:6 36:9 37:9 46:4 who 4:8 7:7 24:1 31:16 33:10 whole 12:24 19:16 24:20 42:11 46:19 47:12 who's 3:21 why 4:21,21 17:5,11,14 22:9,10 31:18 35:12 35:14 55:11,22 56:4 wide 21:4 Wildlife 40:18,19 will 4:6 7:7 8:7,18 10:1 10:18 11:1,6,12 12:2 12:14,19,24 13:7,8 13:11 14:17 15:2,4,6 15:11,13 16:9 20:4 20:15,20,25 21:1 22:9 24:18 25:4,5,10 25:25 26:24,25 27:1 27:21,22,23,24 28:1 28:9,10,11,14,25 29:2 30:7,7,14,20 31:1,2 32:13,18 34:6 34:14,21,25 36:18 37:16,20 39:3 40:2,2 40:5,7,25 42:15 43:4 43:8,12,18 45:3,21 46:6,23 47:16,21 49:16 50:5,10,20 wind 9:2,3,4,5 winter 27:21,21 with 3:11,20,21 4:4,9 4:11 5:5 7:1,2,14 8:23 9:6 10:2,25 13:3 13:5 15:7 19:4,22 20:14 21:3 24:1,20
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APPENDIX E: SCOPING HANDOUTS

Fact Sheet

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



SCOPING MEETINGS • OCTOBER 2009

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing the leasing of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Inyo County, California for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization. The area encompasses approximately 22,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands that also include three pending lease applications covering approximately 4,500 acres.

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is approximately 13 miles south of Olancho, California. The project area is east of the Inyo National Forest, west of the Naval Weapons Center, and south of the South Haiwee Reservoir.

Geothermal Resources

Geothermal resources are underground reservoirs of hot water or steam created by heat from the earth. Geothermal steam and hot water can reach the surface of the earth in the form of hot springs, geysers, mud pots, or steam vents. These resources can be accessed by wells, and the heat energy can be used for generating electricity.

Geothermal fields produce only about one-sixth of the carbon dioxide that a relatively clean natural-gas-fuel power plant produces, and very little if any, of the nitrous oxide or sulfur-bearing gases. Geothermal energy is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Geothermal power plants may be the most reliable of all energy production methods, because they do not require purchase or transport of fuel, or waste disposal, and have no intermittency or dispatchability problems.

Geothermal energy is a renewable resource, because its source, the Earth's core, provides an almost unlimited amount of heat. Tapping into clean, renewable geothermal energy will help reduce greenhouse gas emission associated with other types of power plants.

Purpose and Need

The development of domestic energy resources, particularly renewable resources, has become a national priority. President Bush issued Executive Order 13212 in May 2001 that directed Federal agencies to increase production and transmission of energy in an environmentally safe manner. In response to the executive order, the BLM issued a National Energy Policy Implementation Plan in June 2001, which directed the BLM to process geothermal leases in a timely manner in order to help support efforts to increase energy production from federal minerals, while preserving the health of the public lands.

In August 2005, President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that encourages energy efficiency and conservation, promotes alternative and renewable energy sources, reduces our dependence on foreign sources of energy, and increases domestic production. It made significant changes to the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, to encourage leasing and development of geothermal resources from public lands.

The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan provides overall regional guidance for management of the public lands in CDCA and establishes long-term goals for protection and use of the California Desert. The BLM directly administers about 10 million acres of the CDCA, which includes the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. Congress directed the BLM to prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of public lands within the CDCA. The plan is based on the concepts of multiple use, sustained yield, and maintenance of environmental quality. The plan would be amended to allow the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area lands to be leased for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization.

The BLM received three noncompetitive geothermal lease applications for approximately 4,500 acres of BLM-managed lands within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and must determine whether to approve the applications. Adjacent public lands occupying approximately 18,000 acres have also been identified for competitive leasing of geothermal exploration, development, and utilization and BLM must decide whether to offer competitive leases for geothermal resources in the leasing area.

Although this is a Federal action taking place on Federal land, this proposal will also assist the State of California with its Renewable Portfolio Standard goals that call for 33 percent of California's energy to be derived from renewable sources by 2020.

Project Description

BLM is proposing leasing of geothermal resources in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, which consists of approximately 22,500 acres of BLM-managed lands; this area also includes the three lease applications for approximately 4,500 acres of BLM-managed lands. The BLM-managed lands considered for leasing are located in the Mount Diablo Meridian and occupy the following 37 sections:

Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Sections 11-14, 23-26, 35-36
Township 21 South, Range 38 East, Sections 7-10, 15, 17-22, 27-34
Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Sections 1-2, 11-12
Township 22 South, Range 38 East, Sections 5-8

The proposed action is to amend the CDCA Plan to allow project area lands to be leased under the authority of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

The approval to issue geothermal leases could have indirect environmental impacts because such leasing represents a commitment of resources, and it is reasonably expected that subsequent exploration, development, production, and decommissioning activities would occur. A lease for geothermal resources allows the right to future exploration and development of geothermal resources within the lease area; however, subsequent activities involving surface disturbance or other extensive operational activities specific to a project will require additional NEPA analysis.

Environmental Review

Issuing leases for the exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal resources is considered a Federal action and may have a significant adverse impact to the environment. The BLM will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify, analyze, and disclose potential environmental effects of leasing geothermal resources.

BLM is conducting scoping for the proposed leasing of geothermal resources to identify issues to be addressed, and identify the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in-depth in the EIS. The anticipated release of the Draft EIS/Draft Plan Amendment to the CDCA is Winter of 2009. The publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register will announce the release of the report and start of the 90-day comment period. Formal public meetings will also be conducted during this time. The Final EIS/Proposed Plan Amendment is expected in Fall of 2010 and another Notice of Availability will be published to announce the release, as well as start of 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's Consistency Review. A Record of Decision to open or close leasing of geothermal resources in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and amendment to the CDCA is expected in Winter 2010.

Public Outreach and Communication

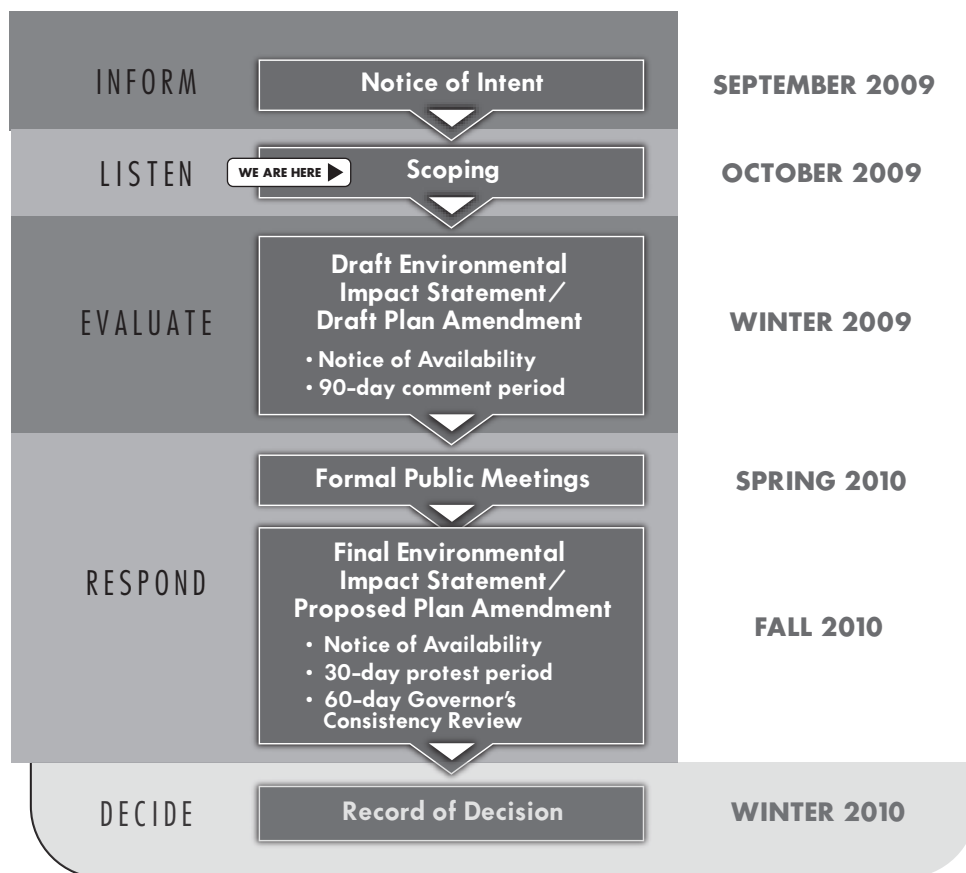
The project team welcomes comments and involvement throughout the project and appreciates your feedback. Comments concerning the scope of the environmental analysis are requested by close of business Monday, **November 9, 2009**. If you have questions or comments about the project, or would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact the project team in one of the following ways:

- Attend one of the public scoping meetings
- Visit the project website www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ridgecrest.html
- Send an email to cahaiwee@blm.gov
- Send written comments to:

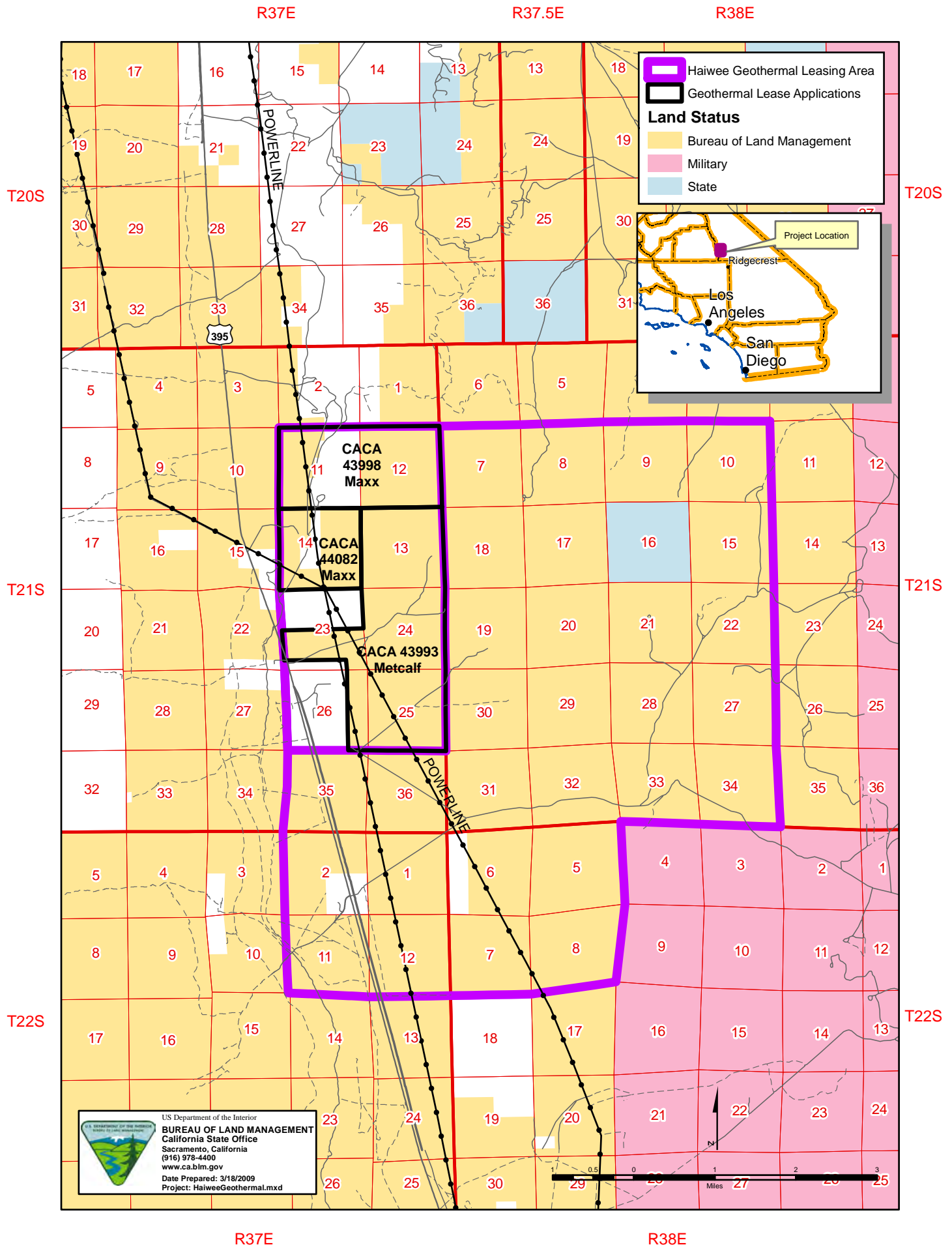
Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office,
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Coordinator
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553

Disclaimer: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Project Timeline



Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area



Comment Form

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) thanks you for your interest in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. Scoping meetings are being conducted to share information regarding the proposed action and the decision-making process, and listen to the public views on the range of issues to be considered during the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Plan Amendment. Please take a moment to answer the questions below and return this sheet to the comment table or mail to the address on the back of this form.

We encourage you to provide your comments by filling out and submitting this comment form to the address on the opposite side, or you may e-mail your comments to cahaiwee@blm.gov. All comments (letters and emails) for consideration in preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be received by close of business **Monday, November 9, 2009**.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL (optional): _____

Would you like to be added to this project's mailing list to receive future project-related information? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please indicate your affiliation by checking one of the following boxes:

- ☐ Individual (no affiliation)
- ☐ Private Organization
- ☐ Citizen's Group
- ☐ Federal, State, or Local Government
- ☐ Elected Representative
- ☐ Regulatory Agency

Name of organization, government, group, or agency (if applicable)

If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently in your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please describe any issues that should be considered during resource studies and in environmental resource document preparation.

Please describe any environmental concerns regarding geothermal development. If applicable, please relate these concerns to specific locations, features (landmarks, water bodies, historic or tribal sites, etc.) or resources (plants, animals, water quality, air quality, etc.).

HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL LEASING AREA



Please provide any additional comments that you may have on the project.

Fold Here

Fold Here

**HAIWEE GEOTHERMAL
LEASING AREA**



BLM, California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal
Leasing Area Coordinator

**POSTAGE
REQUIRED**

BLM, California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal
Leasing Area Coordinator

APPENDIX F: SCOPING LETTER TO NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.blm.gov/ca/ridgecrest



OCT 07 2009

In Reply Refer To:
8120 (P) CA-650.22

Return Receipt Requested: 7008 1830 0002 2907 6450

Mr. Monty Bengochia, Tribal Council Chair
Bishop Paiute Tribe
50 Tu Su Lane
Bishop CA 93514-8058

Ref: Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Proposal

Dear Mr. Bengochia:

It is a pleasure to invite the Bishop Paiute Tribe to consult with the Ridgecrest Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as part of our government to government responsibilities regarding a recent geothermal energy leasing initiative being undertaken by BLM in northeast Rose Valley, Inyo County. We would like to apprise you of this proposed project so that any Tribal concerns or issues regarding them can be identified and discussed at the earliest opportunity in the application review process.

The undertaking is known as the Haiwee Proposed Geothermal Leasing Project, and involves the potential leasing of 22,060 acres of BLM managed public lands for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared, and a series of public meetings and a public comment period are being scheduled.

The geographic location is generally east of US Highway 395 between the Caltrans Rest Stop at Coso Junction on the south and the South Haiwee Dam locale to the north. The eastern boundary is the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS).

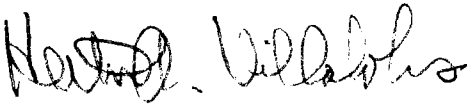
The legal locations of the proposed leasing area are: Township 21 South, Range 37 East and Range 38 East; and Township 22 South, Range 37 East and Range 38 East; Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The 7.5 minute topographic quad sheets for the area are: Coso Junction and Haiwee Reservoir.

BLM is initiating the NEPA environmental review of this proposal by holding a series of public meetings between October 13 and 20, 2009. A meeting notice is enclosed with details, but briefly, meetings will be held near Lone Pine on Oct. 13, Bishop Oct. 14, Ridgecrest Oct 15, and Furnace Creek Ranch/Timbisha Tribal Offices in Death Valley NP on Oct. 20, 2009. BLM will also utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to satisfy the public involvement process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470F) as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3).

If you or other members of your Tribe has any comments or concerns regarding the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Project, we would appreciate receiving any responses by mid-November, 2009. A suggested deadline date for receipt of comments would be Friday November 20, 2009. Responses by letters or email would be acceptable.

In closing, thank you for your considerations regarding this consultation request. If there are any questions, please contact myself, at (760) 384-5400, email Hector_Villalobos@ca.blm.gov; or John Dalton, Desert District Planning and Environmental Coordinator at (951) 697-5311, email John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov. Please address written responses to my attention at: BLM, Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Road, Ridgecrest CA 93555. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hector Villalobos", written in a cursive style.

Hector Villalobos
Field Manager
Ridgecrest Field Office
Bureau of Land management

Enclosure:: 4	Public Meeting Notice
	Legal Location Worksheet
	Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS
	Map of Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area

APPENDIX G: SCOPING LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley CA 92553-9046

In Reply Refer To:
3210
CAD000.01(P)

November 25, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL #70091410000184211070
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Linda Arcularius
Supervisor, District 1
Inyo County
225 N. Round Valley Road
Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Supervisor Arcularius:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Desert District (CDD) is giving notice to initiate a public scoping period to identify issues and formulate alternatives for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Inyo County, California. We would like to invite the County of Inyo to participate in this process.

The CDD-BLM directly administers approximately 10.4 million acres of public land within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), which includes the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. The land use plan for the CDCA, based on the concepts of multiple use, sustained yield, and maintenance of environmental quality would be amended to allow, if approved, the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area lands to be leased for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization. The leasing of public lands for geothermal resources will require an amendment to the CDCA Plan, which is authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act 202.601 (43 U.S.C. 1712) and 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-5.

Project Description

The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area is approximately 13 miles south of Olancho, California. The proposed project area is east of the Inyo National Forest, west of the Naval Weapons center, and south of the South Haiwee Reservoir, encompassing approximately 22,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands. The BLM has received three noncompetitive geothermal lease applications for approximately 4,500 acres of BLM-managed lands within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and must determine whether to approve the applications. Adjacent public lands occupying approximately 18,000 acres have also been identified for competitive leasing of geothermal exploration, development, and utilization and BLM must decide whether to offer competitive leases for geothermal resources in the leasing area.

The BLM-managed lands considered for leasing are located in the Mount Diablo Meridian and occupy the following 37 sections:

Township 21 South, Range 37 East, Sections 11-14, 23-26, 35-36

Township 21 South, Range 38 East, Sections 7-10, 15, 17-22, 027-34

Township 22 South, Range 37 East, Sections 1-2, 11-12

Township 22 South, Range 38 East, Sections 5-8

National Environmental Policy Act Process

In processing applications the BLM must comply with the requirements of the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires that federal agencies review projects under their jurisdiction and consider the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project construction and operation.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on implementing NEPA, the EIS will describe and evaluate the potential impacts of the Haiwee project, no action, and any other alternatives to the proposed action. The purpose of an EIS is to provide the public and decision makers with sufficient information to understand the environmental consequences of the proposal and to identify and develop appropriate mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts. The impact analysis presented in the EIS will result in a Record of Decision for the project.

Scoping

One early element of the NEPA process is scoping. Scoping activities are conducted early in the process to:

- determine reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that will be considered in the document
- identify environmental and socioeconomic issues of concern related to the proposed project and
- determine the depth and range of analyses for issues addressed in the document.

This scoping statement has been prepared to enable government agencies, the general public, and other interested parties to participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public participation.

Preliminary Resource Management Issues and Concerns

The following issues and concerns have been identified to-date as relating to the proposed action. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a starting point for public input. Once all issues and concerns have been gathered through scoping and BLM consideration of the project, corresponding resource disciplines will be identified to conduct analysis for individual issues and concerns. Issues already identified to be analyzed in the EIS include:

- Native American
- potential land use conflicts including recreation
- potential effects on wildlife
- cumulative impacts considering existing, proposed, and potential geothermal projects in the area

- potential impacts on surface water and groundwater resources
- potential impacts to cultural and historical resources within the analysis area
- potential impacts to visual resources.

The EIS will also address issues such as geology, geothermal resources, vegetation, threatened or endangered species, air quality, noise, transportation, human health and safety, and socioeconomics, as well as any other issues raised during the process.

Alternatives thus far identified for evaluation in the EIS will include the (1) proposed action, (2) no action alternative (not leasing the lands for geothermal exploration, development, and utilization), and (3) leasing fewer than the proposed 22,500 acres of public land.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified.

Proposed Schedule

The anticipated release of the Draft EIS/Draft Plan Amendment to the CDCA is winter of 2009. The publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register will announce the release of the report and start of the 90-day comment period. Formal public meetings will also be conducted during this time. The Final EIS/Proposed Plan Amendment is expected in Fall of 2010 and another Notice of Availability will be published to announce the release, as well as start of the 30-day protest period and 60-day Governor's Consistency Review. A Record of Decision to open or close leasing of geothermal resources in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area and amendment to the CDCA is expected winter of 2010.

You are encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process to help in identifying the level of analysis needed, alternatives to be considered, issues or concerns that should be assessed, mitigation opportunities, and any other comments or ideas to help ensure that the process is comprehensive. Please submit your comments to John E. Dalton, Resource Management Specialist and Haiwee Project Lead, at John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to work effectively with you. We look forward to our interaction and discussions.

Signed By
Steve Borchard
District Manager

Authenticated By
Charlee C Christe
Records Manager

Enclosures (2)
Haiwee Map, NEPA process

CC: Inyo District Supervisors

APPENDIX H: COMMENT LETTERS

ARNOLD BLEUEL
LAROCHELLE MATHEWS &
ZIRBEL LLP

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October 7, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Marino Valley, CA 92553

**Re: EIS Scoping Meeting
Haiwee Geothermal Project
22,060 Acres**

Gentlemen:

Little Lake Ranch, Inc. ("LLR") is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation which owns the Little Lake Ranch property at the far southern end of the Rose Valley, which itself is located in the most southerly region of the Owens Valley in the County of Inyo, California. LLR submits the comments contained herein regarding the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") being prepared by BLM in connection with the proposed geothermal exploration and development project located in and around the Haiwee area.

LLR suggests that BLM consider all of the comments, evidence, studies and reports generated in connection with environmental analysis of the water pumping and transfer project ("Coso Project") originally proposed by Coso Operating Company, LLC ("Coso"). The Coso Project was the subject of the Environmental Assessment, No. CA-650-2005-100, case file number CACA046289 ("EA") published by BLM. To the extent that the proponents of the geothermal exploration and projects being studied by the BLM ("Projects") will rely upon the water contained in the Rose Valley underground water basin, all of such data must be considered. The same types of environmental impacts which were studied in the EA and the later Final Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") adopted by the County of Inyo, will also occur under the Projects. You should refer to the entire files assembled by the County of Inyo ("County") in connection with the Coso Project, as well as BLM's own environmental files which separately granted a right-of-way to Coso.

Little Lake Ranch Background.

Little Lake Ranch consists of approximately 1,200 acres ("LLR Property") which is managed by LLR to provide wildlife habitat and wildlife-oriented recreation, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The LLR Property includes a shallow 90 acre navigable body of water known as "Little Lake" and the ponds and wetlands areas including the Upper Pond, Lower Pond, Teal Pond, Lava Pond, and Chukar Pond.

Wetlands are extremely limited along the Eastern Sierras. Much of the wetlands habitat that historically occurred in the region has been lost to water diversions and agricultural conversions. Little Lake is one of the few sizable wetlands sites remaining along the Eastern Sierras. This 90-acre lake is used extensively by waterfowl and likely receives more use by diving ducks than any other wetlands in the Eastern Sierra region.

To the extent that the proposed projects rely in whole or in part upon the underground water resources of the Rose Valley, the pumping and transportation of the water is subject to the County's groundwater ordinance and will be cumulative to the water being transported by Coso. Such water transportation would also have a severe and direct impact upon the LLR property. The specific harm to, or impacts upon, the LLR property must be studied.

Project Description.

While the extent of any available geothermal resource is largely unknown during the exploration stage, the existence of the resource should be identified, and its size and composition should be estimated. The amount of electrical production from the geothermal resource should be based upon the size and extent of the reservoir so as to create a sustainable facility. This may reduce the immediate production of electrical energy, but allow for a greater and longer term utilization of the resource, with fewer impacts on the environment as noted below.

The EIS must evaluate the environmental impacts from the alternate designs of available geothermal facilities. The principal designs currently include single-flash systems, double-flash systems, dry steam (depending upon the actual geothermal resource available), binary and any number of hybrid designs incorporating one or more of the foregoing. More exotic designs may further utilize combinations of other energy production methods (fossil fuel, hydroelectric, solar, wind, biomass, etc.), each of which alternate designs pose different environmental impacts. Absent an identification of the projected design of the geothermal facility, it is virtually impossible to accurately assess the ultimate environmental impacts from the utilization of the geothermal resource.

The EIS should identify each alternative design of the proposed facility, and identify the particular environmental impacts associated with each form of a design. Each and all of the designs should be further analyzed to conserve the geothermal resource itself, as well as minimizing any impacts to

the environment each of the alternative designs may pose. Each design should consider how toxic emissions will be minimized and the use of water conserved.

In flash-steam facilities, about 15-20% of the fluid would be lost due to flashing to steam and evaporation. Binary power plants utilize a closed-loop system and the geofluids are re-injected with no fluid loss. 85% of the steam used in flash or dry-steam plant is lost to evaporation, when a water-cooled tower is used. The total loss of the "fluids" depends on both the nature of the produced geofluids, and the type of cooling system, and whether the plant actually re-injects the available fluids. This should be clarified and discussed.

There needs to be a discussion or analysis concerning the proper utilization of geothermal resources. There should be consideration of alternate technologies by which the geothermal reservoirs are managed to allow for the sustainable production of electricity through the conservation of geothermal fluids by the proper design and operation of the production facilities themselves.

There is no question but that water is a very rare and precious commodity in most of the western United States. Large portions of the western United States are subject to current drought conditions. Consumers are being asked to conserve the water they use. Geothermal facilities should be designed, constructed and operated in a manner to avoid the need for imported water and to balance the production of geothermal fluids to the natural recharge of the geothermal resource.

One possible explanation of the problems experienced at some geothermal facilities is their use of water-cooling towers to condense the steam used in the electricity generation process. Unfortunately, by utilizing water-cooling towers, geothermal facilities lose a tremendous amount of the geothermal fluids produced, thereby causing a more rapid depletion of the fluids in the geothermal reservoir. There must be extensive consideration of available alternatives, such as the utilization of an air-cooled system by which 100% of the geothermal fluids can be retained within the system and re-injected into the geothermal reservoir. This alternative may prolong the life of the reservoir and allow for a more sustainable production of electricity from the geothermal plants.

Similarly, the EIS should address the preservation of the geothermal reservoirs through proper long-term management. First, the need to balance the natural recharge of the geothermal reservoirs, compared to the consumption of the fluids from the electrical plants, must be considered. Second, the proper size and production capability of an electrical plant to reduce water consumption merits analysis. In either case, a proper management of the resource could eliminate the need for imported water and allow for a more sustained production over a longer period of time.

The reliance upon imported water is a short-sighted and environmentally risky answer to geothermal reservoir depletion. Because of the scarcity of water throughout the western United States, perhaps such water resources could be better used, rather than simply injecting water into a geothermal reservoir to produce energy. The EIS should address the availability of local water sources for injection, whether such water sources are adequate to supply all competing needs and

uses of any projected water used for injection, and whether the imported water source is naturally replenished.

Aesthetics.

Will the depletion of water within the Rose Valley affect habitat and wetlands adjacent to U.S. Highway 395 and the Habitat Project at Little Lake? Will the permanent depletion of the underground water level adversely impact the surface flora and fauna? There should be a baseline study of the surface habitat and all wildlife which rely upon surface water and a functional ecosystem. This study should specifically cover the entirety of the LLR property.

The Rose Valley is essentially a high desert location used largely for recreational purposes. The construction of any manmade structures is particularly visible and detrimental to recreational uses. The cumulative impacts from these structures should be considered.

Agricultural Resources.

The lowering of the water table level in the Rose Valley will exacerbate the costs of all Rose Valley water well owners to pump water, and increase the cost to use available land for agricultural purposes. This needs to be studied.

LLR's Habitat Project includes the use and irrigation of farming plots to enhance wildlife cover and habitat. The ability of LLR to utilize its own property for agricultural or recreational uses is imperiled and needs to be addressed.

Do other agricultural uses or operations exist in Rose Valley? Are they dependent on the natural springs and underground water table for water?

Air Quality.

The loss of valuable wetlands at Little Lake, and perhaps even Little Lake itself as a body of water, could substantially exacerbate wind-raised dust from the Little Lake area. To the extent that the underground water table is lowered, will this have an adverse effect on the surface plants which rely upon the underground water for survival? Will this further contribute to windborne dust and pollution?

The proposed project is located within the Great Basin Unified Air District. The overall air quality is considered poor, principally as a result of wind erosion of the dry Owens lakebed. Will the proposed project reduce water availability to Little Lake, the downstream ponds, creeks and wetlands? Will this adversely impact the air quality of the Rose Valley? These impacts must be studied and evaluated as a potential significant impact.

Will the operation of the proposed project contribute to the non-attainment area for PM₁₀ particles? This aspect of the project must be studied and evaluated.

Biological Resources.

Any and all studies of the environmental impacts cannot be limited only to the locations of the physical boundaries of the proposed project or its access routes. The EIS must study all of the areas in and around the LLR property, and the Rose Valley in general, at least to the extent that the loss of water resources would imperil the habitat and vegetation. The permanent loss of water resources within the Rose Valley may have a profound impact upon many biological resources, including at least two endangered species, the Desert Tortoise and the Mojave Ground Squirrel ("MGS").

There are riparian habitats and sensitive natural communities within the LLR property, as well as numerous natural springs and artesian wells throughout the Rose Valley on which wildlife depend. Any decrease in the amount of underground water within the Rose Valley Basin or Little Lake could have a severe impact upon biological resources.

Should long-term baseline studies be prepared before the grant of any permit? These studies could include the actual availability of underground water in storage, historical water levels, recharged and consumption within the Rose Valley Basin, the existence of all wildlife resources, the existence and health of surface vegetation, plant life and habitat, surface flows at Little Lake and its surrounding ponds and creeks, catalog of all springs and artesian wells within Rose Valley, together with their outflows, identification of all water users and their consumption of water within the Rose Valley, current air quality conditions, cultural resources, soils and geology conditions, and the impacts upon such resources as a result of the water pumping project.

Cultural Resources.

BLM has added the Coso Hot Springs as an area of potential effect ("APE") as part of its consideration whether to grant a right-of-way to Coso for its project. A complete analysis of the effects of the proposed project on the Coso Hot Springs must be performed. Information contained in the various environmental studies from the Coso Project is insufficient.

Geology and Soils.

The EIS should examine the possibility of soil subsidence in Rose Valley as a result of the withdrawal of groundwater. Subsidence could occur with extensive long-term overdraft of the groundwater reservoir. This impact must be studied and evaluated. Moreover, the depletion of the underground water basin and surface flows can have a profound effect upon soil erosion, loss of topsoil, and the capability of the surface to sustain life.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

What are the impacts to the environment from the operation of the proposed projects? What types of hazardous substances may be generated by the proposed projects and how are they going to be treated or disposed of?

All energy-producing plants emit heat to the atmosphere and environment. This is a natural consequence of power production. Indeed, geothermal power plants emit considerably more heat per unit of energy produced than most power plants, including fossil fuel and nuclear. What are the environmental impacts from heat emissions?

Impacts on geologic resources and seismic issues must be evaluated. The high pressure injection of fluids directly into fault zones has been related to increases in seismic activities. High pressure injection of fluids from outside the geologic system is not the same as where geothermal fluids are withdrawn and then re-injected for a near zero net change, and would represent a much lower risk of increasing seismic activity. This conclusion ignores the dramatic loss of heated liquids from evaporation when WCTs are employed at the facility for cooling purposes. Indeed, if there is no source of make-up water from nearby surface waters or Water Basins, and a WCT system is used, then the GeoReservoir can be substantially depleted of water over time, actually increasing the possibility of seismic activity.

Subsidence can also occur when groundwater is pumped from underground aquifers at a rate exceeding the rate at which it is replenished. Since geothermal development includes re-injection of the geothermal fluids, it is assumed that the potential for subsidence is low. The EIS should address the dramatic loss of heated liquids from evaporation when WCTs are used, and there is a high portion of steam in the geofluids.

Hydrology and Water Quality.

A long-term test pumping should be performed to determine what the short-term, intermediate and long-term impacts from pumping may be. Most of the reports to date rely upon theoretic modeling of the underground basin in the Rose Valley. Prior to the issuance of any permit, should there be long-term pumping of the magnitudes proposed? Would it not be preferable to actually understand the basin dynamics before issuing a permit?

Possible impacts to underground water sources, typically consisting of known underground water basins or aquifers, must be studied. In most cases, the geothermal reservoir, containing heated water or steam, or both, (hereafter called herein "GeoReservoir") exists in the form of a water basin, but it is generally separate and distinct from underground water basins/aquifers ("Water Basins"), which are used by the overlying owners for drinking water, irrigation, domestic uses and other typical residential, agricultural, industrial and commercial uses. As such, there can be much confusion between the relationship of these separate resources. While there may be some

hydrological connection between the GeoReservoir and the Water Basins, the EIS should identify the distinction, and evaluate what impacts the use and consumption of the GeoReservoirs may have on the local Water Basins. Are there any connections? If so, what are the environmental impacts? If not, will the Water Basins be used for make-up water in the geothermal plant, and what impacts would this cause on the surrounding environment?

Depending upon the selected design of any geothermal facility, it may require imported water to reach sustainability. This is exactly the case in numerous geothermal facilities around the world. The EIS should consider as an environmental impact the exploitation of a GeoReservoir and the possible need for imported water to reach sustainability. What if the water sources are not readily available or may only lead to mounting environmental problems?

Many geothermal facilities rely upon water cooling towers ("WCTs") to cool working fluids in a binary plant or steam condensate in dry steam, single flash and double flash facilities. In so doing, a substantial portion of the steam (approximately 85% according to published sources) is lost to evaporation during the cooling process, thereby limiting the geofluids which could otherwise be injected.

The EIS should identify throughout the document the different type of fluids that are contained in a GeoReservoir. Numerous different terms are used interchangeably, but should not be. It is not correct to say that all fluids produced at a hypothetical geothermal facility are available for re-injection. Geofluids or fluids can be composed of both liquid and steam. While generally the liquids can be re-injected, that portion of the original geofluids which is steam, may not be re-injected, if the design of the facility uses WCT. Because 85% of the steam component is lost to evaporation in the WCT, a similar large amount of the original geofluids may NOT be available for re-injection. This confusion from the use of suspect terminology should be clarified.

The EIS should consider the environmental impacts from allowing WCTs when compared to systems relying upon air-cooled condensers ("ACCs"). The ACC systems would allow for 100% of the geofluids produced at a geothermal plant to be injected, because there are no evaporation losses of the original steam. By eliminating water loss through the WCTs, the geothermal resource can be better preserved, resulting in more sustainable production and minimizing impacts on available water sources.

If the WCT design facilities are evaluated, then the EIS needs to further consider and evaluate where the make-up water will originate and what impacts the use of such imported water will have on the region from which the make-up water is taken.

Particularly in arid areas, the importation of water from either surface water or surrounding Water Basins may have severe impacts upon the area from which the water is taken. Such water will no longer be available to preserve vegetation, natural habitats, riparian areas, and wetlands. Not only may the habitat suffer, but the wildlife which depends on such habitat may also be impacted.

The removal of water from the Rose Valley Basin may cause each and every property owner relying upon water wells to (a) increase the depth of their wells, (b) increase the capacity and efficiency of the wells, and/or (c) expend more energy to extract the depleted water supplies to the surface for reasonable use. Any drawdowns in the underground water levels may also cause the natural springs through the Rose Valley to go dry.

Land Use and Planning.

Studies of wildlife and existing habitat conditions are mandatory to determine whether the Project, if approved and implemented, may result in the elimination of viable wetlands, habitat and the like.

Noise.

The noise generated from the proposed project must be evaluated and considered. What are the noise levels and do they impact either the persons working at the project or the surrounding wildlife?

Utilities and Service Systems.

The disposal of wastewater and the emissions to the atmosphere from its cooling operations need to be studied carefully to determine whether they do present a hazard to the public or unacceptable levels of pollution.

Project Alternatives.

The EIS will also consider alternatives to the proposed Project. The full range of the alternatives should be studied. At a minimum, the following alternatives should be considered:

1. Identify whether current geothermal technology could be used to better enhance the operations and allow the more efficient use of water resources.
2. How much capacity is appropriate to avoid the depletion of the resource?
3. Would a lower level of electricity generation allow for the geothermal resources to be extended indefinitely?
4. What is the natural recharge of the geothermal fluids on an annual basis? Should the consumption of these fluids be balanced against the natural recharge?
5. Depending upon available technology and the identification of the geothermal resources, what is the best generating facility?

6. Identify all potential alternate sources for water and describe the means by which such waters can be used at the geothermal facilities other than water from the Rose Valley underground aquifer.
7. Reclaimed effluent water flows from the Ridgecrest Treatment Plant, or other nearby facilities, which is already being done in other areas to preserve geothermal resources.
8. Water purchases from the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power ("DWP").
9. Reclamation of DWP's water losses from Haiwee Reservoir.
10. Use of surface or underground water from the Indian Wells water basin (while perhaps farther away, there may be fewer environmental impacts).
11. Construction of new water entrapment programs such as reservoirs to utilize available precipitation, snowmelt and rain waters.
12. Water purchases and deliveries from other sources?
13. Rather than relying solely upon water supplied by the Rose Valley, can a combination of one or more alternative sources of water be used to minimize the damage to the Rose Valley Basin?
14. What are the opportunities for conserving and recycling water?
15. Is there some other gas, substance or fluid other than water which may be efficiently used to transfer the heat to the electrical generators?
16. Are "best practices" being used to minimize and reduce water loss, allowing for greater reclamation of its geothermal fluids?
17. What type of geothermal generating plant is being considered to reduce damage to the environment and the use of scarce water resources?

Without a full consideration of alternative technologies, such as air-cooled mechanisms or other engineering designs to reduce the use of water and increase the amount of the geothermal fluids used for injection, the EIS cannot adequately study and comment upon appropriate and prudent steps to mitigate the depletion of water resources. The possible depletion of geothermal reservoirs, and any plans to import water from the surrounding surface and groundwater sources should be considered in all planning stages.

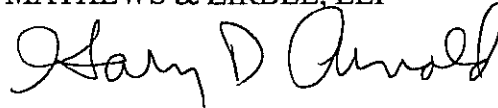
I am enclosing with this letter two (2) computer compact discs ("CDs") on which many of the letters and evidence we have submitted to the County and BLM have been copied. Attached is a list

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
October 7, 2009
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of the documents in the CDs. Each of the letters enclosed in the CDs raises substantial environmental issues in connection with the development of geothermal projects in and round Rose Valley. The CDs also contain letters presented to the County and BLM from numerous local conservation groups and individuals. While all of the letters and the related reference materials refer to the Coso Project, all of such materials are equally applicable to the Projects being studied by BLM. Accordingly, the ESI must fully evaluate the proposed environmental impacts from the Projects under consideration, including all of the evidence and comment letters contained in the enclosed CD(s).

Very truly yours,

ARNOLD, BLEUEL, LAROCHELLE,
MATHEWS & ZIRBEL, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "Arnold" being the most prominent parts.

Gary D. Arnold

GDA:jw
Enclosures

REFERENCES:

U.S. Geological Survey, Springs of California, by Gerald A. Waring, published in 1915.

Rockwell Report 1980: "*Geology and Hydrology Technical Report on the Coso Geothermal Study Area*" conducted by Rockwell International dated April, 1980.

The California Desert Conservation Area Plan 1980, as amended.

Environmental Impact Statement published in September, 1980 for the "*Proposed Leasing within the Coso Known Geothermal Reservoir Area*" (Parts 1-5).

Report entitled "*The Recharge Area for the Coso, California, Geothermal System,*" by Robert O. Fournier and J.M. Thompson, 1980.

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Meeting notes from meeting dated October 22, 2007 among Inyo County staff and the EIR consultant, MHA/RMT.

Letter dated October 29, 2007 from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, to Inyo County Planning Department.

Memorandum dated October 29, 2007 from Geologica to Inyo County Planning Department discussing the proposed pumping tests.

Letter dated October 30, 2007 from Mike Prather, former Chairman of the Owens Valley Committee received by Inyo County Planning Department.

Letter dated November 1, 2007 from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to Inyo County Water Department.

Letter dated November 2, 2007 from Carla Scheidlinger, President of Owens Valley Committee, to Inyo County Planning Department.

Letter dated November 6, 2007 from Bishop Tribal Counsel to Inyo County Planning Department.

E-mail dated November 9, 2007 between Steven Bjornstad with U.S. Navy and Chrissy Spanoghe, a consultant with MHA, or its parent RMT, regarding Hay Ranch: Access to Coso Hot Springs.

A letter from MHA to the Inyo County Planning Department dated November 29, 2007.

California Court of Appeal decision entitled "*Save Round Valley Alliance v. County of Inyo*," filed December 17, 2007.

Coso Reservoir Model 12-20-07: A document apparently received by Inyo County Planning Department from Coso on December 20, 2007, and contained in the Inyo County Planning Department files.

Draft memo apparently received by the ICPD on December 20, 2007, and contained in the Inyo County Planning Department files.

Fitch Ratings, Coso Geothermal Power Holdings, LLC, dated December 21, 2007.

Annual Report of Geothermal, Oil & Gas, published by California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal 2008.

"Geothermal Power Plants: Principles, Applications, Case Studies and Environmental Impact," Second Edition, copyright 2008 Elsevier, Ltd., by Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D.

E-mail from Sean Haggerty of BLM to Kermit Witherbee, dated February 27, 2008.

Copy of an agenda for a conference call, with a fax date stamp on the agenda of April 30, 2008 contained in the Inyo County Planning Department files.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States prepared by Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, May, 2008.

CSLC Permit Extension 5-1-08: Extension of the Deep Rose Geothermal Exploration Permit issued by the California State Lands Commission, effective May 1, 2008.

Article appearing in Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, entitled Cooling Towers dated June 20, 2008.

Letter dated June 20, 2008 from Gary Arnold to Geothermal PEIS.

Letter dated June 30, 2008 from Gary Arnold to Geothermal PEIS.

Memorandum dated August 13, 2008 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with Golden State Environmental, Inc., regarding preliminary comments concerning Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System, Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Curriculum Vitae of Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg.

Curriculum Vitae of Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D.

Letter dated August 14, 2008 to the Inyo County Planning Department from Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D.

Inyo County Coso/Hay Ranch DEIR comments by Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D., dated August 14, 2008.

Letter dated August 22, 2008 from Gary Arnold to Tanda Gretz, Inyo County Planning Department.

Letter from Ducks Unlimited, dated August 29, 2008, to the Inyo County Planning Department.

Memorandum dated September 2, 2008 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with Golden State Environmental, Inc., regarding comments concerning Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System, Draft Environmental Impact Report

Letter dated September 3, 2008 from Gary Arnold to Tanda Gretz, Inyo County Planning Department.

Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System Final EIR dated December, 2008 (coversheet).

Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System Final EIR (Table of Contents).

Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System Final EIR (Chapter 1).

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Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System Final EIR (Chapter 3).

E-mail from Charles Harris to Gary Arnold, dated September 2, 2008.

Memorandum from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with Golden State Environmental, Inc., to Gary Arnold and Walt Puchucki dated September 2, 2008.

Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System Final EIR (Appendix 1).

Fitch Ratings press release dated October 22, 2008, entitled "*Fitch Affirms Coso Geothermal Power Holdings, LLC at 'BBB'; Outlook Stable.*"

Letter dated January 7, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Water Commission.

Letter dated January 8, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Water Commission.

Memorandum dated January 9, 2009 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with Golden State Environmental, Inc., regarding comments concerning Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System, Draft Environmental Impact Report

Memorandum dated January 14, 2009 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with Golden State Environmental, Inc., regarding comments concerning Coso Operating Company Hay Ranch Water Extraction and Delivery System, Meeting Comments.

Letter dated January 15, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Water Commission.

Letter dated January 22, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Water Commission.

Memorandum dated January 22, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Water Commission regarding FEIR quotes and replies.

Letter dated January 22, 2009 from Daniel Pritchett to Inyo County Water Commission.

Memorandum dated January 28, 2009 from Inyo County Water Commission to Inyo County Planning Commission regarding recommendations concerning Coso Water Project.

Letter dated January 29, 2009 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with The Source Group, Inc., regarding Supplemental Comments, Hay Ranch Extraction Project.

Air-Cooled Geothermal Power Plants prepared by Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D., dated February, 2009.

Letter dated February 9, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Planning Commission.

Letter dated February 20, 2009 from Rex Allen to Inyo County Planning Commission.

Letter dated March 4, 2009 from President, Bristlecone Chapter, California Native Plant Society.

Letter dated March 4, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Planning Department.

Inserts to letter dated March 4, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Planning Department.

Letter dated March 4, 2009 to Randy H. Keller, Assistant County Counsel, from Gary Arnold.

Letter dated March 5, 2009 from Andrew Zdon, P.G., C.E.G., C.Hg., associated with The Source Group, Inc., regarding Supplemental Comments on Inyo County Staff Recommendation to Planning Commission, Hay Ranch Water Extraction Project.

Letter dated March 8, 2009 from Sara J. Manning, Ph.D. to Inyo County Planning Commission.

Letter dated March 9, 2009 from Gregory S. Yarris, California Waterfowl, to Inyo County Planning Commission.

Report on Power Engineers by Ronald DiPippo, Ph.D., dated March 16, 2009.

Letter dated March 20, 2009 to Randy H. Keller, Assistant County Counsel, from Gary Arnold.

Letter dated April 10, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Board of Supervisors regarding Coso Water Project.

The News Review Article dated April 10, 2009, written by Carl Fulton, Austin, Ph.D., entitled "*Care and feeding of a geothermal reservoir,*" and curriculum vitae.

Associated Press article dated April 18, 2009, "*Desert clash in West over solar potential, water.*"

Letter dated April 30, 2009 from Gary Arnold to Inyo County Board of Supervisors regarding Coso Water Project.

Letter dated May 4, 2009 from California Waterfowl to Inyo County Board of Supervisors.

Letter dated May 5, 2009 from Sara J. Manning, Ph.D. to Inyo County Board of Supervisors.

Approved Mojave Ground Squirrel Mitigation Plan.

Curriculum Vitae of Jill R. Haizlip, M.S. according to the public website for Geologica, Inc.

Curriculum Vitae of Brian F. Aubry, R.G., C.E.G., C.Hg.

Coso Geothermal Study Area Map.

Article entitled "*Owens Valley, California, Plant Ecology: Effects from Export Groundwater Pumping and Measures to Conserve the Local Environment*," by David P. Groeneveld, Inyo County Water Department.

A pictorial and narrative history of Little Lake Ranch, including its creation, predecessors and significant events, by Richard H. Nueman, M.D.

A report by Jim Pearson, Ph.D. of the historical events in and around Little Lake.

Curriculum Vitae of Jim Pearson, Ph.D.

Brief description of locations and uses of water well on the Little Lake Ranch property.

Chamber Report of Commerce report of largest employers in Ridgecrest.

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09 OCT -2 AM 10:53

OF COUNSEL
MATTHEW P. GUASCO

Writer's e-mail
garnold@atozlaw.com

September 30, 2009

John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Marino Valley, CA 92553

Re: Haiwee Geothermal Projects

Dear Mr. Dalton:

Please accept this letter as my request on behalf of Little Lake Ranch, Inc. ("LLR") to receive written notice of any hearings, actions, decisions, meetings, studies, applications or procedures concerning and relating to the pending geothermal exploration and development projects located within the Haiwee area near Ridgecrest and Inyo County, California ("Project"). LLR owns approximately 1,200 acres southwest of the proposed Project, including Little Lake and the riparian areas adjacent thereto. To the extent that the Project contemplates the use of water pumped from the Rose Valley in which LLR is also located, the Project could have severe impacts upon LLR.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am directing to BLM in Ridgecrest asking for the production of public records in connection with the Project. I am not sure if such request should be directed to you or the Ridgecrest Office. Please advise. Thank you for your attention to the foregoing.

Very truly yours,

ARNOLD, BLEUEL, LAROCHELLE,
MATHEWS & ZIRBEL, LLP



Gary D. Arnold

GDA:jw
Enclosure
cc: Little Lake Ranch
Hector Villalobos

Little Lake\BLM\BLM Ltr-Notice

Certified Specialist, Estate Planning, Trust and Probate Law State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization

**ARNOLD BLEUEL
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OF COUNSEL
MATTHEW P. GUASCO

Writer's e-mail
garnold@atozlaw.com

September 30, 2009

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Custodian of Records
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

To: Custodian of Records

Please provide to the undersigned any and all records and other public documents relating to the pending geothermal exploration and development projects located within the Haiwee area near Ridgecrest and Inyo County, California ("Project"). Such requested records include all documents related to the Project, including, but not limited to, any and all reports, studies, notices, applications, correspondence, memorandums, e-mails, notes during environmental documents, initial studies, permits, licenses, approvals and other writing involving or concerning the Project.

This request is made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, U.S.C. §552. Authorized fees will be paid to you pursuant to an itemized invoice. I am sending a duplicate copy of this letter to John Dalton, who is the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator for the Project.

Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Very truly yours,

ARNOLD, BLEUEL, LAROCHELLE,
MATHEWS & ZIRBEL, LLP



Gary D. Arnold

GDA:jw

cc: John Dalton

Little Lake Ranch

Little Lake\BLM\BLM Ltr-Records



BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE OF THE OWENS VALLEY
Big Pine Indian Reservation

November 19, 2009

John Dalton
Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
BLM California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Dear Mr. Dalton,

Subject: Comments on Proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area

The Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (Tribe), a federally recognized Tribe, thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments during this scoping phase for the proposed leasing of BLM land in Rose Valley for geothermal exploration and development.

Proposed Project

The Proposed Action is: Amend the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan to either open or close the 22,000 acre Haiwee Geothermal Lease Area (HGLA) to geothermal exploration, development and utilization. The CDCA Plan was completed in 1980, but has been amended several times since then. The plan recognizes prime areas for geothermal as being in Imperial County and in the Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). It is unclear from the maps and materials that have been presented if the HGLA overlaps with the Coso KGRA, but the fact that the CDCA Plan would require amendment suggests minimal to no overlap. The EIS should disclose the reason for not considering the HGLA previously and for not including it with the Coso KGRA. All previous management designations assigned for the Rose Valley area according to the CDCA will require critical scrutiny in this environmental review.

The CDCA Plan defines a Native American Element, and with regard to this element, the goals were to remain consistent with governing policies and:

- 1) Identify Native American values through regular contact and consultation with Tribal entities and/or individuals,
- 2) give *full consideration* to native American values in land use planning and management decisions [*italics added for emphasis*], and
- 3) protect and manage Native American values wherever prudent and feasible.

The CDCA Plan acknowledges -- and we concur -- that impacts affecting Native American values are not amenable to mitigation, because these impacts typically involve desecration or sacrilegious treatment of spiritually important sites.

Tribal Consultation Process

The Tribe is very concerned about the recent lack of timely notification about projects on which BLM has been the lead agency. BLM has initiated environmental review on a number of proposals to develop or consider development of renewable energy throughout the southwest region, and the Tribe has received notices either late in the process or not at all. We respectfully request initiation of the Consultation process before or no later than the start of the public Scoping process. Doing so should ensure both parties comply with the provisions and responsibilities of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Concerning this project in particular, we did not receive notification until the Scoping period was well underway, and although there were meetings scheduled for the nearby communities of Lone Pine and Bishop, we were notified less than one week before these scheduled meetings. BLM had initially informed us that the deadline for comments was October 16. Near that date, the deadline was changed to November 9. Subsequently, the Tribe was invited to submit comments with regard to the Consultation process no later than November 20. It's still not clear to us why there are two due dates, but by phone on November 6, you advised we could submit one comprehensive set of comments by November 20.

Prehistoric and Native American Resources/Need for Cultural Inventory

When BLM and its archaeological consultants survey for cultural resources for this EIS, we request that a Native American Monitor be present.

Geothermal Energy: A Tradeoff

The Tribe in concept favors efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and employ cleaner alternatives when feasible. However, we believe that, for many situations energy conservation measures may serve to reduce both reliance on foreign energy sources and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby precluding the need to increase power generating capacity. All energy development involves tradeoffs; thus we urge BLM to carefully examine those tradeoffs when deciding whether to open the Haiwee area for geothermal exploration and possible development. Geothermal plants typically do emit some of earth's sequestered carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and geothermal sources do not last forever. The true renewability of earth's heat is not well understood. New power plants require transmission lines, and they establish their own footprint with procurement and waste streams. Power plant operators typically discourage or prohibit access to their facilities, and denial of access may conflict with a Native American value. Finally, geothermal energy production involves water, and water in our desert area is precious. Extraction of water from this arid region could alter a spring and kill or diminish the life forms that depend on that water, and the loss of such habitats is permanent. Therefore, we urge the BLM to constantly assess the tradeoffs. For example, is providing energy for streetlights in a shopping center a good reason to threaten a spring?

Review of Record for Coso Hay Ranch Project

The Tribe raised serious concerns over the proposal by Coso Operating Company to pump relatively large amounts of water from Rose Valley and pipe it to their power generating facility located within the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. The project was generally opposed not only by tribes, but also by local land owners (such as the owners of Little Lake Ranch), environmental groups, the Inyo County Water commission, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). We recommend BLM review the BLM EIS, the

Inyo County EIR, and all concerns raised about the Hay Ranch project. It should be noted, for example, that pumping at Coso Hay Ranch could seriously impact water availability in the aquifer beneath Rose Valley. Also, LADWP has announced plans to pump water for export from the Rose Valley aquifer. Such ongoing and anticipated activities could seriously confound geothermal development in the vicinity. The voluminous information generated as a result of the Hay Ranch proposal can benefit BLM with regard to assessing impacts to the HGLA, but it may also show that further development in the region will not be feasible.

Thorough Inventory/ Cumulative Effects

The NEPA process must involve thorough inventory and characterization of wetlands (all springs and seeps) and regional hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, rare plant and animal species, geology, aesthetic/scenic values, recreation, and dust generation. Because other large-scale operations occur in the vicinity (LADWP operations, Owens Lake dust mitigation, pumping for export by Coso Hay Ranch, livestock grazing, and others), BLM must analyze each environmental element in terms of cumulative effects imposed by a new project.

Final Comments

If BLM decides to allow leasing for geothermal exploration and development, there will be impacts. We understand further environmental review will occur prior to building power plants. Regardless, tradeoffs need to be carefully examined. Priorities should be to avoid any impacts to Native American values, as well as to avoid as many adverse environmental impacts as possible. Secondly, resource impacts should be minimized if they are deemed necessary and steps should be taken as soon as possible to restore areas. Mitigation plans should be in place to compensate for the lost resources, goods, services, and values. The Tribe recommends a fund for mitigation be established for each developed site and that considerable thought be given to the real cost of mitigating long-term and currently unquantifiable impacts such development will cause. Finally, before geothermal is implemented, BLM should perform a thorough evaluation of royalties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Virgil Moose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Virgil" and last name "Moose" clearly distinguishable.

Virgil Moose
Tribal Chairperson



"Tom Budlong"
<TomBudlong@RoadRunner.
com>

11/06/2009 08:05 AM

To <John_Dalton@ca.bim.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject: Haiwee

John,

Attached, comments on the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing.

I'm also mailing a copy.

Regards,

Tom Budlong



Comments on Haiwee Geothermal.doc

**Tom Budlong
3216 Mandeville
Los Angeles, CA 90049**

Friday, November 6, 2009

John Dalton
Haiwee Geothermal Leasing
Bureau of Land Management, CDD
22835 Calle San Juan de los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

By email to John.Dalton@ca.blm.gov
By Certified Mail, Article No. 7008 2810 0000 5936 1316

Dear Mr. Dalton,

I attended the Scoping Meeting at the Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest on October 15, 2009 for possible leasing in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. The Fact Sheet handed out at the meeting states BLM must make two decisions:

- Whether to approve three noncompetitive lease applications for approximately 4500 acres of BLM lands in the leasing area. [The lessee, as explained at the meeting, is Deep Rose.]
- Whether to offer competitive leases in the leasing area.

This letter is in response to requests for comments.

1) On Nov. 4, I talked with Sean Hagerty who explained the rights associated with leasing: As mentioned in the Sep 11, 2009 Federal Register notice, areas leased under the process that includes this EIS have rights to three "phases" -- exploration, development and utilization. The BLM can lease without these rights by including a "No Surface Occupancy" stipulation in the lease. Without the "No Surface Occupancy" in the lease, the BLM cannot deny development after exploration without risking potentially substantial liability. Mr. Hagerty also explained that the BLM can, however, require development be located somewhere on the lease that is not the lessee's choice.

Thus, the EIS must do enough analysis to identify all locations in the lease area that would be acceptable for exploration, development and utilization, locations which would not be acceptable exploration, development and utilization, and locations which could be leased under No Surface Occupancy. I presume the BLM could also remove some areas from all consideration in favor of analyzing them in the future, to reduce the immediate analysis burden.

Presenters at the meeting stated that for analysis purposes the production facility would be assumed to be 2 ea 30MW plants. The EIS should analyze this configuration. If it is anticipated that lessees would prefer other configurations, those configurations should also be analyzed. The EIS should not allow leasing for configurations not analyzed.

2) With respect to the Deep Rose noncompetitive leases:

There is a reasonable question about the financial and technical capability of the Deep Rose venture:

- The applicant, Deep Rose, is proposing drilling to 18-20,000 feet. This is on the order of twice the depth of the nearby Coso Geothermal facility. This was discussed at the meeting. Deep Rose has a leasing permit for the State section 16, within the leasing area boundary, and this depth has been their intention there.
- This is abnormally deep for geothermal facilities.
- Drilling to this depth is extraordinarily expensive. In analyzing the economic risk, the EIS should describe and analyze the financial strength of Deep Rose to determine its adequacy.

- Coso Geothermal, with a proven track record and presumably with extensive knowledge of the resource, has not shown interest in this depth. This pre-drilling exploration is considered prudent when considering geothermal energy extraction, to avoid unnecessary drilling expense and unnecessary degradation of environmental values.
- Deep Rose has no geothermal technical, exploration or development experience.
- It is apparent that Deep Rose has not demonstrated or indicated it has performed systematic pre-drilling exploration.

The Deep Rose exploration should be considered experimental and speculative:

- It is outside normal experience for geothermal energy extraction.
- Deep Rose does not have geothermal development experience.
- Normal exploration prior to drilling apparently has not been done.

To avoid unnecessary disturbance and degradation of public land for such a project the EIS should require that Deep Rose perform prudent pre-drilling exploration common to professional geothermal projects.

The EIS should carefully and realistically review the pre-drilling exploration data to ensure:

- that the probability of completion of the Deep Rose exploration warrants approving the exploration.
- that the probability of discovering an economic resource if the exploration is completed warrants exploration.

Coso Geothermal recently was permitted to use aquifer water for wet cooling to restore production at their facility, instead of converting to dry cooling. The documents leading to this permit include expert opinions with two opposing views. One (Coso Geothermal) concluded that conversion to dry cooling would be impractical. The other (Ronald DiPippo) concluded the opposite. This emphasizes that geothermal design is not a simple science, and that a single feasibility opinion is insufficient. Because of the experimental nature of the project and the complexity of the science and engineering, the EIS process should consult with more than one expert in the field, and include all opinions. The BLM should strongly consider creating a panel of expert geothermal consultants whose members could work together to examine the technical aspects of the project to arrive at consensus, or document lack of consensus.

3) The EIS should describe:

- The source and projected amount of water to support the three phases – exploration, development and utilization.
- The source of water and projected usage rate of possible plant designs for cooling, for production and injection well losses, for losses from other related activities, and for parasitic requirements. Of particular concern is the cooling method, wet, dry or hybrid, projected for a production plant, and whether a plant would expect to draw on aquifer water.

These concerns arise from concerns of ground water extraction by the existing Coso Geothermal operations. The cumulative impact of extraction by Coso Geothermal, Deep Rose, and additional lessees that would be allowed must be analyzed.

4) The EIS should analyze the amount of geothermal related activity the lease area could support.

5) The EIS should describe reclamation on completion of the three phases – exploration, production and utilization. This should include

- Extent to which the property must be returned to undisturbed condition.
- The time allowed for the phases. These periods cannot be open-ended, since that provides a path to delay restoration.
- The time allowed for reclamation after a phase is completed or its time has expired.

- Reclamation bond amounts and conditions.
- 6) The Federal Register Notice of Sep 11, 2009 lists issues identified thus far, and are included here by reference to the notice. These are:
- Native American concerns
 - Land use conflicts, including recreation
 - Cumulative impacts considering existing, proposed and potential geothermal projects in the area. (These should include other projects besides geothermal, and not be limited to the boundaries of the leasing area.)
 - Potential impacts on:
 - Cultural resources. At the meeting, Don Storm, the BLM archaeologist, described very sensitive prehistoric resources in the area, and some historic resources.
 - Wildlife. This should include animals and insects.
 - Surface water.
 - Geology, including the potential for subsidence and for triggering earthquakes.
 - Effect on Coso Geothermal.
 - Vegetation
 - Air quality
 - Transportation
 - Social and economic issues
 - Visual resources. This includes California Watchable Wildlife's Little Lake Overlook.
 - Ground water. (See earlier comments in this letter).
 - Mining.
 - Effect on surface expressions of this geothermal resource.
 - T & E species
 - Noise
 - Human health and safety
- 7) The EIS should analyze effects on greenhouse gasses and global warming.
- 8) The EIS should analyze the ability and capacity for BLM to manage and monitor the activity without impacting its other responsibilities.
- 9) Native Americans
- Native American tribes should be actively solicited for comments. Due to potential cultural differences, this should include active solicitation involving personal contact (phone and face-to-face) encouraging participation, as well as formal notices by mail, email and other methods. My understanding is that this area is generally the intersection of the territory of more than one tribe. An archaeologist should be consulted to determine the tribe or tribes of interest, and an archaeologist should be involved in collecting and analyzing comments, again due to cultural differences.

Sincerely,

Tom Budlong
 310-476-1731 Voice
 310-471-7531 Fax
 TomBudlong@RoadRunner.com

California Native Plant Society

Bristlecone Chapter
P.O. Box 364
Bishop, CA 93515

October 13, 2009

John Dalton
Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Re: Proposed Geothermal Project in Haiwee Area (re: News Release No. CA-CDD-09-69)

"Here is an inconvenient truth about renewable energy: It can sometimes demand a huge amount of water." New York Times, September 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Dalton:

I wish to list some concerns of The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society regarding additional development of geothermal resources in Inyo County. Neither the chapter nor the state organization are opposed to "renewable" energy development, provided such projects are truly renewable and do not have significant direct or indirect effects on critical habitats or rare species of plants in California. Geothermal plants tend to have a small footprint and potentially adverse direct effects should be avoidable with proper siting of facilities. We are more concerned about the indirect effects, which generally involve non-renewable, consumptive uses of water leading to the degradation of wetland habitats. There is increasing national awareness and concern over inappropriate water use in "renewable" energy projects, as evidenced by the recent article in the *New York Times*, cited above.

The existing Coso Geothermal Plant is an excellent example of the problem. The methods of operation of this plant, which involve wet-cooling towers, have resulted in a serious depletion of the geothermal fluids resulting in a decline in the production of electrical power. Inyo County recently approved export of the entire annual recharge of the Rose Valley aquifer to restore the capacity of the plant. According to the EIR for the water export, this level of water diversion will destroy significant wetland habitat for plants and animals in the vicinity of Little Lake, unless the "Hydrological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan" (HMMP) is fully and faithfully implemented by both Coso Operating Company and Inyo County. Implementation of the HMMP is not assured, however. As far as I know, the need for water extraction and export was never addressed in the original environmental assessment of the Coso Geothermal Plant. CNPS believes that it is crucial that we apply lessons from the past to any future geothermal projects.

Specifically,

- Applicants for any new geothermal projects in the Haiwee-Coso area should be required to explicitly address in the EIR whether or not their projects will deplete the geothermal resource through their cooling systems, and whether injection of surface water or groundwater will be required over the life of the proposed project. If applicants state that appropriation of water resources will not be part of the project, that condition should be incorporated into the terms of the lease or license.
- If applicants state that appropriation of surface waters or groundwater either will or may become necessary, then the EIR for the project should specifically address (a) the source of the appropriated water, and (b) all impacts associated with such water appropriation, including potential impacts on all wetland habitats maintained by the appropriated water source. Analysis of such impacts should include detailed biological surveys of the affected wetland habitats—this was never done in the case of the Coso Geothermal Company's water exportation project.

In evaluating applications for new geothermal projects in the Haiwee-Coso area, please keep in mind that the entire annual recharge of the Rose Valley aquifer has already been appropriated by the Coso Operating Company, with the approval of Inyo County. Additional water from Rose Valley can therefore only come from groundwater mining, which will accelerate the degradation of wetlands in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven P. McLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steven P. McLaughlin,
President, Bristlecone Chapter, CNPS

Cc: Greg Suba, Conservation Program Director, CNPS



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

VIA U.S. MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

November 9, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov

Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator

**Re: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the
Proposed Leasing of National System of Public Lands for Geothermal Resource
Development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Located in Inyo County, CA
and To Amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980**

Dear Mr. Dalton

The Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 40,000 members throughout California and the western United States, including members that live and/or visit the vicinity of the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. These scoping comments are submitted on behalf of our board, staff and members.

The development of renewable energy generation and adequate transmission capacity for that renewable energy is a critical component of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoid the worst consequences of global warming, and to assist California in meeting emission reductions standards. The Center strongly supports the development of renewable energy production, and supports the generation of electricity from geothermal power, in particular, and truly necessary transmission upgrades to support that power production. However, like any project, proposed geothermal power projects must be thoughtfully planned to minimize impacts to the environment. In particular, renewable energy projects should avoid impacts to sensitive species and habitats to the greatest extent possible through careful siting, planning, and design. Only by maintaining the highest environmental standards with regard to local impacts, and effects on species and habitats, can renewable energy production be truly sustainable.

The DEIS must include a hard look at impacts to all imperiled species in this area including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts across the species' range. Of particular concern are impact to the Mojave ground squirrel and the conservation area set aside for its

Arizona • California • Nevada • New Mexico • Alaska • Oregon • Montana • Illinois • Minnesota • Vermont • Washington, DC

Lisa T. Belenky • Senior Attorney • 351 California St., Suite 600 • San Francisco, CA 94104
tel: (415) 436.9682 ext. 307 fax: (415) 436.9683 lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org www.BiologicalDiversity.org

recovery which the proposed project directly impacts. Wildlife habitat through out this area of the California desert is becoming increasingly fragmented and subject to multiple development pressures. As a result, the cumulative analysis must be particularly robust in order to ensure both the survival and recovery of imperiled species.

Of particular concern in this area as well is the water use associated with geothermal energy production. Water is a precious and increasingly scarce resource in California and throughout the southwest. The impacts from water withdrawals in arid environments are well known and can include impacts to surface waters, springs, and seeps that are critical to many desert species from fish to bighorn sheep to rare plants. BLM should ensure that all federal reserved water rights essential to the protection of rare, imperiled and listed species, are fully protected on these and nearby public lands that may be affected by water use in the proposed geothermal leasing area. Specifically, the BLM must protect all water sources needed to ensure species and habitats survive and recover on our public lands.

Antropogenic global climate change has already altered the hydrology of montane regions. In the western United States, the following trends have been observed over the past century: an earlier streamflow by one to four weeks due to early snowmelt, a decrease in the percentage of precipitation that falls as snow, a decrease in mountain snow-water equivalent, increased frequency of heavy precipitation events as well as increased frequency of periods of drought, and a decrease in the duration and extent of snow cover. (IPCC, 2008). On average, early spring snowpack in the Sierra Nevada has decreased by 10% (1.5 million acre-feet). (DWR 2008). Studies project that extreme precipitation events during the winter will increase in the Sierra Nevada by 10-20% by 2040-2060. (Leung et al. 2004). Furthermore, by 2050, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is projected to decrease 25%-40% from its historic average. (DWR, 2008). Longer dry periods will be interspersed with heavy precipitation events, and droughts will increase in frequency.

Climate modeling also indicates that on average, California will experience higher temperatures in all seasons. (IPCC, 2008, Chung et al. 2009 (at page 8, Table 2). Warming temperatures will cause a shift to more winter precipitation from snow to rain, reducing snowpack and leading to shifts in the timing of runoff as well as decreased spring and summer runoff. (Chung et al. 2009 (page 4, 26); Kapnick and Hall, 2009). These changes will also have a profound impact on water availability in the project area.

As a result, in considering the proposed geothermal leasing area the BLM must fully identify and analyze both the potential water needs of the foreseeable geothermal development and the impacts such water use could have on the environment in the context of a changing climate. Alternatives that would require less water use should be considered in order to avoid significant impacts to the environment from the proposed development and comply with both NEPA and the ESA. Specifically, BLM should consider alternatives that would: encourage technological innovation to eliminate or vastly reduce the water needed for geothermal power production; require the use of recycled water where available; and require capture and treatment of all waste water so that it can be safely returned to groundwater basins through infiltration or reused on site.

The DEIS should consider at least one alternative that would *require* the use of the most water efficient technologies by all geothermal projects in the area as well as ensure that when and if new water saving technologies become available they must be adopted even for any existing projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Please provide all future notices and documents related to this project to me at the address below.

Sincerely,



Lisa T. Belenky, Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
351 California St., Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 436-9682 x307
Fax: (415) 436-9683

References:

Chung, et al., Department of Water Resources, May, 2009, Using Future Climate Projections to Support Water Resources Decision Making in California, A Report from: California Climate Change Center, available at <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/articles.cfm>

Department of Water Resources, State of California. Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California Water (2008).

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Climate Change and Water. June, 2008.

Kapnick, Sarah and Alex Hall, March 2009, (Draft Paper) Observed Changes in the Sierra Nevada Snowpack: Potential Causes and Concerns, A Report From: California Climate Change Center, CEC-500-2009-016-D, available at <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/publications/cat/>

Leung, L.R., Y. Qian, X. D. Bian, W.M. Washington, J.G. Han, and J.O. Roads. 2004. Mid-century ensemble regional climate change scenarios for the western United States. *Climate Change* 62:75-113.



Jeff Aardahl
<jaardahl@defenders.org>
11/05/2009 09:52 AM

To: "John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov" <John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov>
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Haiwee Issue Scoping Letter

John;

The subject letter is attached. Please include it in the official files for the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Project.

Thank you.



Jeff Aardahl
California Representative

1303 J Street, Suite 270 Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916-313-5800 x110 | **Fax:** 916-313-5812
jaardahl@defenders.org | www.defenders.org



Haiwee_Geothermal_Scoping_Final_Letter.doc



California Office

1303 J Street, Suite 270 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | tel 916.313.5800 | fax 916.313.5812
www.defenders.org

November 5, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District Office
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
(Sent via electronic mail to: John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov)

Attn: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator

Dear Mr. Dalton:

This letter is in response to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) public invitation to submit issue scoping comments on the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located in Rose Valley near Coso Junction, California.

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) and our more than 1,000,000 members and supporters in the U.S., 200,000 of which reside in California, I am writing to provide issue scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area located on approximately 22,000 acres of public land in Rose Valley near Coso Junction, California.

Defenders is dedicated to protecting all wild animals and plants in their natural communities. To this end, Defenders employs science, public education and participation, media, legislative advocacy, litigation, and proactive on-the-ground solutions in order to impede the accelerating rate of extinction of species, associated loss of biological diversity, and habitat alteration and destruction.

In the pursuit of the generation and transmission of electrical energy in California, we support renewable energy projects that are appropriately located, environmentally sustainable, and efficient. Defenders expects all government agencies involved in the review and permitting of proposed renewable energy project will adhere strictly to the highest administrative standards and reach decisions that are fully in the public interest and consistent with laws, regulations and policies regarding management of our environmental resources.

Defenders believes that renewable energy projects can be accommodated in the California Desert, but only if they are carefully designed and located in areas that avoid sacrificing what remains of our relatively intact desert landscape and its associated biological resources and values.

I attended the public scoping meeting held in Ridgecrest, CA on October 15, 2009 and found the meeting to be informative and well organized. At that meeting I raised several questions and issues associated with this proposed project. This letter contains the issues I raised plus additional information that I would like addressed in the planning and environmental compliance process for this proposed project.

National Headquarters

1150 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
tel 202.681.9400 | fax 202.681.1330



California Office

1303 J Street, Suite 270 | Sacramento, CA 95814 | tel 916.313.1800 | fax 916.313.1812
www.defenders.org

Please address the following issues in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area:

1. Proposed Action: The EIS should contain a description of the reasonable foreseeable development of geothermal energy associated with the proposed action.
2. Alternatives: The EIS should analyze the effects of a reasonable range of alternatives, including the no action alternative. Other than the no action and proposed action, the alternatives should include alternatives that propose a smaller leasing area or areas as a means to avoid sensitive wildlife species and their habitats. Similar to issue #1, alternatives other than the no action should include a description of the reasonable foreseeable development of geothermal energy.
3. Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS): The proposed leasing area is within the Mohave Ground Squirrel Habitat Management Area which was established in 2006 by BLM in the Record of Decision for the West Mojave Planning Area Amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan.

The Record of Decision stated the purpose of establishing the MGS Habitat Management Area was to "...facilitate protective management for this species and serve to prevent further declines and assist the CDFG." The two primary goals with respect to the MGS are to:

- 1) Ensure long-term protection of MGS habitat throughout the region.
2. Ensure long-term viability of the MGS throughout its range.

The Record of Decision also changed the Multiple Use Class for public lands south of Owens Dry Lake in order to provide greater habitat protection for the MGS. Specifically, 136,086 acres was changed from Moderate Use Class to Limited Use Class, and 144 acres of Unclassified land was changed to Limited Use Class, for a total increase of 136,230 acres of Limited Use Class entirely within the MGS habitat management area.

Under the provisions of the West Mojave Planning Area amendments approved in 2006 were two requirements with respect to multiple use activities occurring on public within the MGS Habitat Management Area:

- 1) Habitat loss from any approved project is limited to one-percent of the total over the 30 year life of the plan.
2. Habitat loss will be compensated at a ratio of 5:1 through the acquisition of suitable MGS habitat on private land within the management area and managed for the conservation of the MGS.

The availability of suitable habitat in private ownership that could be used to meet this commitment needs to be addressed in the EIS.

National Headquarters

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California Office

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www.defenders.org

In addition to the MGS conservation area identified above, the CDCA Plan of 1980 established the Rose Valley Habitat Management Area specifically for the MGS. According to the CDCA Plan, this 18,000 acre was to be managed to "Protect, Stabilize and/or Enhance Wildlife Values (CDCA Plan, Table 2, Planned Management Areas for Fish and Wildlife). According to our estimate, approximately 11,000 acres of this area is within the proposed Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. The compatibility of geothermal leasing and any associated surface use or development associated with geothermal energy extraction with the management goals for the Rose Valley MGS area needs to be carefully assessed.

We are particularly concerned over cumulative impact to the MGS and its habitat in the Rose Valley and the designated MGS management areas noted above. It appears the office and equipment yard facilities in Rose Valley near Coso Junction have been located on public lands, and recently the Hay Ranch Water Pipeline right of way issued to the Coso Operating Company has resulted in additional habitat losses totaling 32.24 acres. The cumulative impacts to the MGS and its habitat in the Rose Valley needs to be carefully addressed in the EIS in light of the strong conservation commitments BLM has made for this species.

Three non-competitive geothermal lease applications have been received by the BLM in the Rose Valley area. According to our estimate, all of the lands applied for by Metcalf (CACA 43993) and about 75 percent of the lands applied for by Maxx (CACA 44082) are within the Rose Valley Habitat Management Area. The issue of habitat loss in this area needs to be addressed in light of the long-term management goal of "Protect, Stabilize and/or Enhance Wildlife Values."

Wildlife habitat connectivity and species movements that may be affected by development within the proposed leasing area need to be studied and addressed. This is particularly important for the MGS (north-south connectivity) and the Desert Tortoise.

4. Water Resources: Extraction of groundwater in Rose Valley associated with geothermal energy resource development and the short and long term impacts of such extraction needs to be analyzed. The impacts to groundwater and surface water and associated wetlands at Little Lake need to be fully addressed. The recent disclosure that the steam reservoir in the existing Coso geothermal development within the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station has been impacted by ground water loss due to geothermal power plant operations, and the recent permitting of groundwater pumping and transport from Rose Valley to the Coso Hot Springs area, suggests existing and any future geothermal developments will have a direct effect on water resources.

With regard to Little Lake, the EIS should analyze the potential adverse impacts to BLM administered lands at Little Lake and specifically to the Little Lake Watchable Wildlife Area established by BLM. Certain BLM lands include a portion of Little Lake and the basalt cliffs immediately east of the lake.

National Headquarters

1130 17th Street, N.W.
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www.defenders.org

We strongly urge the BLM to work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game in all aspects of this proposed leasing project. We look forward to the opportunity to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement for this effort.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding our issue scoping comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Aardahl".

Jeff Aardahl
California Representative

National Headquarters

1130 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-4604
tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District 9
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
PHONE (760) 872-0785
FAX (760) 872-0754
TTY 711 (760) 872-0785



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

09 OCT -1 PM 3:34

September 29, 2009

John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Coordinator
California Desert District Office
Bureau of Land Management
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, California 92553

File: 09-FED
NOI EIS
SCH: none

Dear Mr. Dalton:

**Haiwee Area Lease of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lands for Geothermal Use -
Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (NOI EIS)**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed lease of BLM Lands near Haiwee Reservoir for Geothermal use.

Please consider the following while preparing the EIS:

- Address any potential highway transportation issues relevant to US 395. These may include highway access points for geothermal facilities, construction activities related to transport of materials and commuting of employees. Transportation system improvements including Caltrans permitting could be merited and thus be required of the lessee/project proponent.

Please continue to forward project information relevant to Caltrans. We value our cooperative working relationship in matters concerning project related transportation issues. If you have any questions, I may be contacted at (760) 872-0785.

Sincerely,

GAYLE J. ROSANDER
IGR/CEQA Coordinator

c: Steve Wisniewski, Caltrans



**Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526**

Phone: (760) 878-0263
FAX: (760) 878-0382
E-Mail: inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

November 4, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
Attn.: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Coordinator
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

RE: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Leasing of Geothermal Resource Development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Located In Inyo County, CA and To Amend the California Desert Conservation Plan

Mr. Dalton:

Please convey the County's thanks to your team for holding scoping meetings in Inyo County on October 13 in Lone Pine, October 14 in Bishop, and October 20 in Death Valley regarding the above-referenced Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We understand that the project involves potential leases from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for approximately 22,500 acres of land in southwestern Inyo County for geothermal energy exploration, development, and utilization. Based on statements made at the meetings, we further understand that the development scenario to be considered in the EIS will be two 30 megawatt power plants.

As the project area is in the County in the vicinity of other geothermal resources, we will closely follow the Bureau's progress. The following comments summarize issues of particular relevance based on the limited information available at this time.

- Coordination with the County pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 should commence immediately. County staff is interested in discussing opportunities for joint Federal/State environmental reviews to expedite future geothermal projects, if appropriate, as well. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to begin the coordination process.
- This EIS is an excellent opportunity for the BLM to evaluate potential cumulative impacts at a programmatic level and streamline future permitting, particularly given the interest in solar and wind energy development in the vicinity. In addition to the environmental issues identified in the Notice of Intent, potential relevant environmental issues include aesthetics, utilities and public services, land use and planning, and

population and housing. It is suggested that the EIS identify a menu of mitigation measures that may be utilized if specified triggers are reached to address potential cumulative impacts, should they occur. Given the relatively small development scenario to be considered in the EIS, I am concerned that potential cumulative impacts will be underestimated, and that the EIS will not be adequate for individual future projects, thus leading to burdensome subsequent environmental analyses.

- The County is especially concerned about potential impacts on surface and subsurface waters (and related effects) that may result from the leases the BLM proposes, in addition to reasonably foreseeable past, present, and future projects. As the Bureau is aware, significant concerns have been expressed regarding groundwater pumping and interbasin water transfers in the vicinity, and in particular, for the recent pumping project for the Coso Geothermal Plant. The County has a substantial quantity of information from this effort that may be of assistance in the BLM's EIS.
- The EIS should evaluate potential impacts at the existing Coso Plant from the proposed leases. If the leases affect operations at the Coso Plant, significant socioeconomic and related effects could occur in the County.

Please convey to any potential applicants that the County's land use jurisdiction includes private projects on federal lands, and that County approval of a Conditional Use Permit will be required for exploratory and/or geothermal production projects. Geothermal energy development is regulated by Inyo County Code (ICC) Title 19, and interbasin water transfers are regulated by ICC Chapter 18.77. Please note also that the County will assess increased property valuation due to improvements that may result from the leases.

Thank you. We look forward to working with BLM as an integral partner to develop renewable energy resources for the benefit of local citizens, California, and the nation. I hope that BLM will coordinate with the County to streamline any future renewable energy development proposals to the greatest extent possible. You may call me at (760) 878-0263 or email me at mconklin@inyocounty.us if you have any questions. Please send the Planning Department any future notices regarding this project as well.

Sincerely,



Mike Conklin
Planning Director

cc: Board of Supervisors; Kevin Carunchio, CAO; County Counsel; file



Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT.
09 NOV -6 PM 12:13
93526
DEATH VALLEY DISTRICT
MORENO VALLEY, CA

Phone: (760) 878-0263
FAX: (760) 878-0382
E-Mail: inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

November 4, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
Attn.: John Dalton, Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Coordinator
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

RE: Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Leasing of Geothermal Resource Development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Located In Inyo County, CA and To Amend the California Desert Conservation Plan

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- Coordination with the County pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 should commence immediately. County staff is interested in discussing opportunities for joint Federal/State environmental reviews to expedite future geothermal projects, if appropriate, as well. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to begin the coordination process.
- This EIS is an excellent opportunity for the BLM to evaluate potential cumulative impacts at a programmatic level and streamline future permitting, particularly given the interest in solar and wind energy development in the vicinity. In addition to the environmental issues identified in the Notice of Intent, potential relevant environmental issues include aesthetics, utilities and public services, land use and planning, and

population and housing. It is suggested that the EIS identify a menu of mitigation measures that may be utilized if specified triggers are reached to address potential cumulative impacts, should they occur. Given the relatively small development scenario to be considered in the EIS, I am concerned that potential cumulative impacts will be underestimated, and that the EIS will not be adequate for individual future projects, thus leading to burdensome subsequent environmental analyses.

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Please convey to any potential applicants that the County's land use jurisdiction includes private projects on federal lands, and that County approval of a Conditional Use Permit will be required for exploratory and/or geothermal production projects. Geothermal energy development is regulated by Inyo County Code (ICC) Title 19, and interbasin water transfers are regulated by ICC Chapter 18.77. Please note also that the County will assess increased property valuation due to improvements that may result from the leases.

Thank you. We look forward to working with BLM as an integral partner to develop renewable energy resources for the benefit of local citizens, California, and the nation. I hope that BLM will coordinate with the County to streamline any future renewable energy development proposals to the greatest extent possible. You may call me at (760) 878-0263 or email me at mconklin@inyocounty.us if you have any questions. Please send the Planning Department any future notices regarding this project as well.

Sincerely,



Mike Conklin
Planning Director

cc: Board of Supervisors; Kevin Carunchio, CAO; County Counsel; file



Jeff Aardahl
<jaardahl@defenders.org>
09/11/2009 02:05 PM

To "John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov" <John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject: Geothermal NOI

History:  This message has been forwarded.

Hello John:

I plan to participate in the issue scoping for the proposal to issue leases in the Haiwee Geothermal Lease Area. I'd like to obtain some additional background information on the proposed action and perhaps you can help:

1. When and how did BLM establish the "Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area" referred to in the Federal Register notice?
2. What is the administrative relationship between the Coso and Haiwee geothermal leasing areas?
3. Was the CDCA Plan amended by the record of decision for the Geothermal PEIS specifically for the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area?
4. Is the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area within the land area addressed by the Coso KGRA leasing decision?

I'd like to receive a copy of the Coso KGRA leasing decision if it is available. If you can think of any other items that would be helpful please let me know. Thanks for your assistance. I look forward to your reply.



Jeff Aardahl
California Representative

1303 J Street, Suite 270 Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916-313-5800 x110 | **Fax:** 916-313-5812
jaardahl@defenders.org | www.defenders.org



"Kevin Doyle"
<Kevin_Doyle@comcast.net>

09/13/2009 03:58 PM


To <John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Distribution list - Haiwee

History:

 This message has been forwarded.

Please add me to the distribution list.

Thank You

Kevin Doyle
4 Espira Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508
Kevin_Doyle@comcast.net



Paul Friesema
<pfree@northwestern.edu>
09/11/2009 01:29 PM

To: John_Dalton@ca.blm.gov
cc:
bcc:
Subject: Geothermal Resource Development in Haiwee Geothermal
Leasing Area

History: This message has been forwarded.

Please put me on the mailing list to receive scoping notices and summaries, etc. all the way through the NEPA process, for the Proposed Leasing of National System of Public Lands for Geothermal Resource Development in the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. Please send material to:

Professor Paul Friesema
Environmental Policy and Culture Program
304 Scott Hall, Northwestern University
Evanston, IL. 60208-1006.

Thanks a lot! Paul

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LL91310000EI]

Notice of Intent To Prepare an

APPENDIX I: COMMENT TABLE

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Scoping Comment Analysis

Commenter	Comments
Purpose and Need	
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Examine tradeoffs of energy development, such as need for water, transmission lines, and potential loss of habitat. Asked the question, "Is providing energy for streetlighting a shopping center a good reason to threaten a spring?"
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Questioned the relationship of the many management plans in the project area and in close proximity, such as the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), Northern and Eastern Mojave (NEMO) Plan, and West Mojave (WEMO) Plan.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Inquired about the study area, need for 20,000 acres, and amount of surface disturbance expected. Questioned if the anticipated power generation (60 MW for two power plants) would be sufficient to cover expense of construction and drilling.
Tom Budlong	Review pre-drilling exploration data to determine probability of exploratory completion and discovery of economic resource
Tom Budlong	Analyze the amount of geothermal related activity the lease area could support.
Tom Budlong	There is concern regarding the experimental nature of geothermal projects and complexity of science and engineering the facilities. Requests that a panel of expert geothermal consultants examine the technical aspects of the project to arrive at a consensus, or document lack of consensus.
Project Description	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Identify geothermal plant's need for make-up water. Identify need for imported water.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Identify the Coso Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) and Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. Disclose reason for not considering it in Coso KGRA.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Identify mitigation plans to compensate for loss of resource, goods, services, and values. Tribe recommends a fund for mitigation be established for each developed site. Consider the real cost of long-term mitigation, unquantifiable development impacts, and evaluation of royalties.
California Native Plant Society	Identify if geothermal projects will deplete geothermal resources through cooling systems and determine if surface water or groundwater will be required over the life of the proposed project. Request terms of leases or licenses incorporate statement of the water appropriation source or that no water appropriation will occur.
Center for Biological Diversity	Identify and analyze both the potential water needs for the foreseeable geothermal development and impacts such water use could have on the environment in context of a changing climate.
Defenders of Wildlife	Incorporate a reasonable foreseeable development of geothermal energy associated with the proposed action.
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)	Identify a menu of mitigation measures that will be utilized if specific triggers are reached to address potential cumulative impacts. County's approval of a Conditional Use Permit is required for exploratory and/or geothermal production projects, regardless if jurisdiction includes private projects on Federal Lands.
Jeff Aardahl	Describe the establishment of the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area, administrative relationship between Coso and Haiwee geothermal leasing areas.
Jeff Aardahl	Discuss the Plan Amendment of California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan in regards to the Record of Decision for the Geothermal Programmatic EIS and the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. Is the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area within the Coso known geothermal resource area (KGRA) leasing area?
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Inquired about the three pending lease applications, Reasonable Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario for proposed action, lifespan of geothermal power plant, and geothermal leasing application process. Questioned the level of assessment for the EIS and if additional environmental analyses would be conducted for specific geothermal projects within the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Inquired about Deep Rose Geothermal Exploration Project and the three pending lease applications.
Tom Budlong	Identify suitable and non-suitable locations for geothermal resource exploration, development and utilization. Analyze potential geothermal facility configurations. Request the rejection of lease applications with configurations not analyzed in the EIS.
Tom Budlong	Describe the source and projected amount of water to support three phases (exploration, development, and utilization). Describe the cooling method and projected water usage rate for possible plant designs.
Tom Budlong	Describe the reclamation on completion of exploration, production, and utilization phases. Description to include condition of property, time allotted for each phase, time allowed for reclamation after completion of phases or expiration of lease, and bond amounts and conditions.
Alternatives	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Consider, study, and analyze alternative designs of available geothermal facilities (single-flash system, double-flash system, dry steam, binary and any number of hybrid designs, or more exotic designs). Consider conservation of the geothermal resource itself, minimization of environmental impacts and toxic emissions, and water conservation. Identify current geothermal technology to better enhance operations and more efficient use of water resources. Consider amount of electrical generation and lifespan of resource, as well as the annual natural recharge of geothermal fluids. Identify potential alternative sources of water (such as Ridgecrest Treatment Plant, Los Angeles Department of Water, Indian Wells Water Basin, construction of new water entrapment programs, and conservation and recycled water).
Center for Biological Diversity	Consider alternatives that require less water. Encourage technological innovation to eliminate or vastly reduce the water needed for geothermal power production; require use of recycled water where available; and require capture and treatment of all waste water to be safely returned to groundwater basins.
Defenders of Wildlife	Analyze the effects of a reasonable range of alternatives, including the no action alternative. Consider a smaller leasing area or areas to avoid sensitive wildlife species and their habitats.
Rose Valley Properties	Concerned about lack of a competitive bidding process for the leasing of government lands for other renewable energy development, such as solar, and multiple uses of the land.

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Scoping Comment Analysis

Commenter	Comments
Air Quality	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Consider potential impacts caused by windborne dust and pollution, and impacts to air quality in Rose Valley. Address any contributions to non-attainment for PM ₁₀ particles.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Concerned about emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
Tom Budlong	Analyze effects on greenhouse gases and global warming.
Biological Resources	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Request the study area include Little Lake Ranch property and Rose Valley in general for potential loss of water resources impacting habitat and vegetation. Will depletion of water within Rose Valley affect habitat and wetlands adjacent to U.S. Highway 395 and the Habitat Project at Little Lake? Will the underground water level adversely impact surface flora and fauna? Request baseline study of the surface habitat and all wildlife which rely upon surface water and functional ecosystem. Consider potential impacts to endangered species such as the Desert Tortoise and the Mohave Ground Squirrel. <u>Analyze riparian habitats, sensitive natural communities, natural springs and artesian wells throughout the Rose Valley.</u>
Center for Biological Diversity	Analyze direct, indirect and cumulative impacts across species' range. Of particular concern are impacts to the Mohave Ground Squirrel and the conservation area set aside for its recovery, wildlife habitats in the California desert.
Defenders of Wildlife	The project area is in the Mohave Ground Squirrel Habitat Management Area and Rose Valley Habitat Management Area. Address the loss of habitat and discuss the availability of suitable habitat in private ownership to meet compensation. Address compatibility of geothermal leasing and any associated surface use or development associated with geothermal energy extraction with the Rose Valley Habitat Management Area. Discuss wildlife habitat connectivity and species movement, particularly the Mohave Ground Squirrel and Desert Tortoise.
Defenders of Wildlife	Concerned about cumulative effects to the Mohave Ground Squirrel, Rose Valley Habitat for the squirrel, and management areas.
Defenders of Wildlife	Recommend coordination with California Department of Fish and Game.
Rose Valley Properties	Consider alternative uses of the land such as solar energy.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	The project area is within the West Mojave Plan (WEMO). There is concern for the Mohave Ground Squirrel and its conservation area.
Tom Budlong	Request impacts to vegetation, animals and insects be addressed.
Cultural Resources	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Analyze potential impacts to Coso Hot Springs.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Native American Tribe requests initiation of the Seciton 106 Consultation before or at the start of scoping process and the presence of a Native American Monitor during archaeological surveys. New power plants require transmission lines that may prohibit access and conflict with Native American values. Noted that impacts affecting Native American values are not amenable to mitigation, because these impacts typically involve desecration or sacrilegious treatment of spiritually important sites.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	The Native American Tribes are concerned about the Section 106 Consultation, extraction of resources from the land, and what types of benefits the Tribes would obtain from the proposed action. The Tribes are especially concerned about the connections to the Coso Hot Springs and the water table depth. Some local tribes requested additional information regarding geothermal leasing of lands to the Tribes. Inquired about leasing of lands to Tribes and potential benefits of proposed action to Tribes. Native American Tribes also requested additional involvement.
Tom Budlong	Concerned project area is an intersection of more than one tribes' territory and potential for cultural differences. Requests Native American Tribes be actively solicited for comments, including personal contact and formal notices. Requests that an archaeologist determine interested tribes, and collect and analyze comments.
Geothermal Resources / Geology / Soils	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Examine potential soil subsidence in Rose Valley as a result of groundwater withdrawal. Depletion of underground water basin and surface flows may have profound effect upon soil erosion, loss of topsoil, and capability of surface to sustain life. Address potential impacts on geologic resources and seismic issues related to high pressure injection of fluids directly into fault zones. If water cooling towers (WCTs) are utilized, address dramatic loss of heated liquids from evaporation.
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Identify existence of geothermal resource, size and composition. Requests amount of electrical production from geothermal resource be based upon the size and extent of the reservoir. Address the preservation of the geothermal reservoirs and long-term management. Identify the different types of fluids that are contained in a GeoReservoir (both liquid and steam) and fluids re-injected.
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)	Consider potential impacts to the existing Coso Plant and operations.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	The public was concerned about the seismic activity in the area and questioned if geothermal exploration and development contributed to increased seismic activity. They questioned if injection of water into the rocks would contribute to fracturing. USFS Coordination was also requested.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Questioned if the project area was within a Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), such as Coso, and if viable geothermal resources were present in the project area. Concerned about impacts to the Coso Geothermal Power Plant and operations, as well as the Coso Hot Springs. Inquired about Deep Rose Geothermal Exploration Project and the three pending lease applications. Inquired about the cumulative impacts of numerous geothermal projects (existing and future) in close proximity.

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Scoping Comment Analysis

Commenter	Comments
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Analyze the potential for wastewater and emission hazards to the public.
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Analyze potential for hazardous substances generation by proposed project, and treatment and disposal of substances. Address potential impacts from heat emissions.
Land Use / Agriculture / Recreation	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Analyze potential impacts to Rose Valley water well owners and nearby agricultural operations in Rose Valley.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Concerned about impacts to motorized recreational roads and requested mitigation for loss of roads from Northern and Eastern Mojave Planning (NEMO) decision.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Questioned the relationship of the many management plans in the project area and in close proximity, such as the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA), Northern and Eastern Mojave (NEMO) Plan, and West Mojave (WEMO) Plan.
Tom Budlong	Concerned about land use conflicts, including recreation.
Noise & EMF	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Evaluate noise generation from proposed project. Evaluate noise levels and impacts to workers and surrounding wildlife.
Socioeconomics	
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)	Consider potential impacts to population and housing, and potential for socioeconomic impacts or adverse impacts to Coso Plant.
Rose Valley Properties	Consider potential impacts and mitigation steps for private and public landholders who have mineral and water rights in areas directly surrounded by proposed lands.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Inquired about the creation of jobs and potential for revenue generation for Inyo County. Concerned about restrictions from the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan causing delays. Noted the lengthy geothermal leasing application process and need for further project specific environmental analysis. Requested a socioeconomic analysis.
Tom Budlong	Describe and analyze the economic risk of drilling at deep depths (18,000-20,000 feet)
Tom Budlong	Request that applicants, such as Deep Rose, analyze and describe their financial strength to finance the expense of drilling at deep depths.
Traffic & Transportation	
Dept. of Transportation	Address potential highway transportation issues relevant to US 395, such as highway access points for facilities, and transport of construction materials and workforce.
Utilities & Public Services / Public Health & Safety	
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	The public questioned if adequate electrical transmission was available to transfer the geothermal energy to the load centers. Are there plans to upgrade the existing transmission lines or construct a substation in the area?
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Analyze the potential for wastewater and emission hazards to the public.
Tom Budlong	Concerned about human health and safety.
Visual Resources	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Consider the recreational uses of the Rose Valley and impacts of the construction of structures and geothermal facilities

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Scoping Comment Analysis

Commenter	Comments
Water Resources	
Arnold, Bleuel, Larochelle, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP	Consider water contained in the Rose Valley underground water basin. Analyze potential reduction of water available to Little Lake, the downstream ponds, creeks, wetlands, water wells, and natural springs. Little Lake Ranch provides wildlife habitat and wildlife-oriented recreation, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Little Lake also includes a navigable body of water, ponds and wetlands. Any reliance upon underground water resources of the Rose Valley is subject to the County's groundwater ordinance and may have severe and direct impacts upon Little Lake Ranch property. Address the availability of local water sources for injection, and adequacy to supply, and natural replenishment of imported water source. Request long-term pumping studies prior to issuance of any permits. Determine if a connection between the GeoReservoir and Water Basin is present and evaluate potential impacts to use and consumption of GeoReservoirs on local Water Basins.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Water in the desert area is precious and extraction of water from arid region could alter a spring or kill or diminish the life forms that depend on water, which may lead to permanent loss of habitat.
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	The Native American Tribes are concerned about large amounts of water pumped from the Rose Valley by the Coso Operating Company and LADWP. These exports may seriously impact water availability for geothermal development in the vicinity
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley	Concerned about the water supply and the availability of water for other development projects, such as the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area.
California Native Plant Society	Concerned about the use of water in "renewable" energy projects and indirect effects to wetland habitats. Request analysis of potential impacts from appropriated water and wetland habitats maintained by appropriated water.
Center for Biological Diversity	Concerned about increasing scarcity of water in California and thought southwest. Address need for water use associated with geothermal energy production. Ensure all federal reserved water rights are protected in the project area and nearby public lands affected by water use. Consider impacts of water withdrawals in arid environmental, and impacts to surface waters, springs, and seeps that are critical to many desert species from fish to bighorn sheep to rare plants.
Defenders of Wildlife	Address extraction of groundwater in Rose Valley for geothermal energy development and short and long term impacts of extractions. Address impacts to groundwater and surface water and associated wetlands at Little Lake. Analyze the potential adverse impacts to BLM-administered lands at Little Lake and specifically to the Little Lake Watchable Wildlife Areas established by BLM
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)	Concerned about potential impacts on surface and subsurface waters, specifically groundwater pumping and interbasin water transfers in the vicinity.
Rose Valley Properties	Requests that no new geothermal development occur until recharge of Rose Valley basis is better known. Consider other projects that impact the basin. Consider water quality impacts from the drilling of wells.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment	Concerned about the potential for impacts to water resources. Inquired about the need for groundwater provisions, source of water, and water issues with geothermal projects. Concerned about potential impacts to subsurface water, aquifers, wetlands, and water table depth, especially to the Rose Valley, Little Lake, and the wetlands surrounding the lake. There was also concern for the water table depth, aquifers, and protection of watersheds. The Tribes were concerned about impacts to the Coso Hot Springs in close proximity to the project area.

Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area
Scoping Comment Analysis

Commenter		Comments
Cumulative Effects		
Arnold, Bleuel, Larocheille, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP		Consider long-term baseline studies prior to issuance of permit. Analyze actual availability of underground water storage, historical water levels, recharge and consumption within Rose Valley Basin, existence of all wildlife resources, existence and health of surface vegetation, plant life and habitat, surface flows at Little Lake and its surrounding ponds and creeks, catalog of all springs and artesian wells within Rose Valley, identification of all water users and their consumption of water within the Rose Valley, current air quality conditions, cultural resources, and soils and geology conditions.
Big Pine Prairie Tribe of the Owens Valley		The Native American Tribes are concerned about large amounts of water pumped from the Rose Valley by the Coso Operating Company and LADWP. These exports may seriously impact water availability for geothermal development in the vicinity.
Big Pine Prairie Tribe of the Owens Valley		There is concern regarding the cumulative impacts of large-scale operations in the vicinity of the proposed project, such as LADWP operations, Owens Lake Dust mitigation, water exports by Coso Hay Ranch, and livestock grazing. Cumulative effects should include an analysis of inventory and characterization of wetlands (all springs and seeps) and regional hydrology, vegetation, wildlife, rare plant and animal species, geology, aesthetic scenic values, recreation, and dust generation.
Defenders of Wildlife		Concerned about cumulative effects to the Mohave Ground Squirrel, Rose Valley Habitat for the squirrel, and management areas.
Internal Scoping Comment		Concern for cumulative impacts from a number of applications for ROW grants in the project area. A number of projects and developments in the area that are outside of BLM jurisdiction, such as wind projects, substations at the Coso Hay Ranch Property, transmission line upgrades, and hydroplant at Haiwee.
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)		In addition to geothermal energy development, evaluate potential cumulative impacts of future permitting for solar and wind energy development. Identify a menu of mitigation measures that will be utilized if specific triggers are reached to address potential cumulative impacts. Concerned that development scenario is relatively small and may underestimate potential cumulative impacts and future projects and development.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment		Another key concern for the proposed action is cumulative impacts. There are a number of geothermal projects in close proximity to the project area (such as Deep Rose and Coso Geothermal Fields) and public, agencies, organizations, and tribes are concerned about the cumulative effects. BLM also has a number of management plans in the desert (i.e., CDCA, NEMO, and WEMO) and the public questions how these plans would affect the proposed action.
Tom Buddlong		Concerned about cumulative effects of groundwater extraction by existing Coso Geothermal operations, Deep Rose, and additional lessees.
Tom Buddlong		Concerned about cumulative impacts from existing, proposed and potential geothermal projects in the area, as well as other non-geothermal projects, but not limited to the project area boundaries.
Other Comments		
Arnold, Bleuel, Larocheille, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP		Requests consideration of studies, reports, evidence and comments prepared for BLM's Coso Project Environmental Assessment (EA) and Inyo County's Coso Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
Arnold, Bleuel, Larocheille, Mathews & Zirbel, LLP		Request written notice of any hearings, actions, decisions, meetings, studies, applications or procedures concerning Haiwee, and production of public records in connection with Project.
Big Pine Prairie Tribe of the Owens Valley		Consider the tradeoffs of geothermal development.
Inyo County Planning Department (M. Conklin)		Request coordination and involvement in a joint Federal/State environmental review. Consider potential impacts to aesthetics, utilities and public services, land use planning, and population and housing.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment		The Native American Tribes and Inyo County planners requested additional coordination and notification regarding the project.
Scoping Meeting Oral Comment		Informed project team about Federal Register notice containing non-functional website links and different end dates for comment period. Requested additional notification to the public, local agencies, and Native American Tribes.
Tom Buddlong		Concerned about need to drill at deep depths (16,000-20,000 feet) and the financial risk it would incur. There is also concern for the applicants' experience and knowledge of geothermal resource exploration and development.
Tom Buddlong		Analyze the ability and capacity for BLM to manage and monitor the activity without impacting its other responsibilities.