Response to Comment Letter I103

Linda and David Shannon
February 28, 2014

I103-1  This comment is introductory in nature and does not raise a significant environmental issue for which a response is required.

I103-2  Potential impacts related to groundwater use were considered and addressed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR); refer to Sections 3.1.5.3.4, Groundwater Resources, and 3.1.9.3.1, Water. See also common response WR1. The DPEIR found that the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on groundwater supply. As provided in Section 3.1.9.3.1, conditions will be placed on the Major Use Permit that will restrict the amount of water that is permitted to be withdrawn from on-site wells in order to prevent interference with off-site wells. As such, it is not anticipated that the wells of neighboring residents will be significantly impacted as a result of the Proposed Project. In addition, potential impacts to oaks were considered and addressed in Chapter 2.3, Biological Resources, of the DPEIR. The DPEIR found that the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on biological resources, including groundwater dependent habitat and vegetation, with the implementation of proposed mitigation. Mitigation
Measure M-B1-PP-15 reduces potential impacts to oaks associated with groundwater extraction activities to less than significant.

I103-3 Please refer to the responses to comments I29-1 and I34-4. In addition, please refer to common response TRAF1, which addresses maintenance of Proposed Project area roads. In addition, PDF-TR-1 consists of the preparation and implementation of a traffic control plan that would specifically address construction traffic within the County’s public rights-of-way. The traffic control plan will be prepared satisfactory to the Department of Public Works and will ensure the motoring public safe passage through the construction zones. Related to the commenter’s concern regarding truck fumes, please refer to DPEIR Chapter 2.2 and mitigation measure M-AQ-PP-1 regarding the engine standards that construction equipment must meet.

I103-4 Potential agricultural impacts, including indirect impacts to adjacent grazing lands, were considered and addressed in Chapter 3.1.1, Agricultural Resources, of the DPEIR. Social and economic effects, such as stress caused to domestic animals and veterinary bills, need not be considered in an environmental impact report (EIR). See California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, Section 15064(e).

I103-5 The County acknowledges the commenter’s concerns. Construction activities would occur between the hours...
of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday, in accordance with the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (see DPEIR Sections 1.2.1.1, Common Project Components and Activities, 1.2.1.2, Solar Farm Specific Components and Activities, and 1.2.2.1, Technical Considerations). Operational activities would occur between sunrise and sunset. Potential impacts to wildlife were considered and addressed in Chapter 2.3, Biological Resources, of the DPEIR. The DPEIR found that the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on biological resources, including impacts related to increase human presence and disturbance during construction, with the implementation of mitigation.

Potential off-site effects of grading for the Proposed Project, such as fugitive dust, erosion, and noise were considered and addressed in the DPEIR (Chapter 2.2, Air Quality, Chapter 2.6, Noise). The DPEIR found that impacts related to fugitive dust and noise would be less than significant with mitigation. The Project includes soil stabilization techniques to reduce fugitive dust and erosion of disturbed areas (DPEIR Sections 1.2.1.1, 2.2.3.2). Related to the commenter’s question regarding dynamiting, the Proposed Project does not propose blasting, with the exception that limited blasting may occur for installation of some of the support poles for the Tierra del Sol gen-tie line. The comment lacks sufficient detail regarding the road
Robert, I want to thank you for talking to us at the meetings. You are professional and answer questions in a very professional manner. I do believe you are concerned about the water here. And I think you are an animal person and concerned about their habitat and nesting area. I do not support this project and feel it could be somewhere else. We have to consider our water supply and our animals. Thank you, and I hope you make the right decision. Any trucking questions please call David at 619 765-4505. He is fleet maintenance and truck equipment repair supervisor of Osterkamp trucking in Plaster City. He knows everything about trucking.

Happy trails
Linda and Dave Shannon

The County of San Diego (County) acknowledges the commenters’ opposition to the Proposed Project. The information in this comment will be provided in the Final Program EIR for review and consideration by the decision makers.