Response to Comment Letter X2

Kara Bush
March 21, 2014

X2-1 Airport and aircraft hazards are considered and addressed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR); see Section 3.1.4.3.2 of the DPEIR.

X2-2 Comment letter X2 forwards a copy of comment letter I66, also submitted by Kara Bush. Please refer to the response to comment letter I66.
• The application of herbicides is a major concern, not only for the wildlife (e.g.: frogs and toads “drink” through their skin by absorption and will die from contact with chemicals), but for our underground water quality.

• Boulevard is backcountry. People live here because of the rural way of life... small town, no traffic, no pollution, beautiful night skies, and nature. These solar farms will completely change the visual character and quality Boulevard. Solar panels belong on roofs, in the city, where electricity is in demand. Not out in whatever natural, virgin land is left.

• Our roads were not made for the traffic and activity that this project would bring. We’ve got narrow, 2-lane roads that were designed for a rural way of life; not for tankers, trucks, and tractors. In an attempt to avoid the construction areas, residents will detour using unmaintained dirt roads like mine, Moon Valley Road, creating massive clouds of dust and traffic right in front of my home.

• At the community meeting on February 6th, it was brought to everyone’s attention that the EIR failed to address many issues and excluded several water usage needs, which leaves the water need grossly underestimated. The report needs to be discarded, and a new one obtained by an unbiased, unrelated third party. It is completely unacceptable that the County did not catch these serious omissions. The majority of the impacts listed in the County’s presentation were noted as “significant and unavoidable.” This just tells me that the County does not care about Boulevard or its residents.

• The proposed “solutions” to the significant and unavoidable impacts are simply unrealistic.

• I support Alternative #9 – NO PROJECT.

Please help us defend our land. This is a serious project, not merely a lemonade stand being put up on the corner. SD County needs to take it seriously and consider how it will effect the small town of Boulevard and its residents and inhabitants.

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The article cited by the commenter addresses a different type of solar energy generation technology than that used by the Proposed Project. The solar technology used by the Ivanpah project described in the article cited by the commenter uses mirrors to focus sunlight on energy generating towers. In contrast, the CPV trackers used by the Proposed Project are designed not to reflect sunlight, and will have reflectivity characteristics comparable to asphalt. (DPEIR, Appendix 2.1-3, Figure 12.).
BrightSource's environmental impact study for Ivanpah included mitigation measures for glare issues related to the site's reflective mirrors. The aviation community actually raised such worries during the environmental review process.

Ivanpah's environmental impact study found that the solar thermal plant could cause temporary blindness to pilots flying within 3,300 feet of the heliostats, which compromises safety. BrightSource had to develop a helicopter plan to mitigate the potential harm from Ivanpah's glare.

"At the right angle, you will get the intensity, which is similar to looking at a car headlight at night. If you want to look away you still have that glare in your vision," Chad Davies, president of Riverside Air Service, told the Press Enterprise.

"If you see a reflection, you turn your head, you don't look at it," said Phil Shallenberger, who regularly flies over the project to refuel his plane. "It's not going to stay there long. When you move, it goes away."

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