

January 15, 2015

Mr. Patrick Brown  
Soitec Solar Development  
16550 Via Esprillo  
San Diego, California 92127

Subject: Response to Questions  
Rugged Solar Farm and Tierra Del Sol Solar Projects  
Boulevard, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

We are submitting this response to a question raised in the email titled "Additional Comments - County of San Diego Final PEIR for Soitec Solar's Boulevard Projects", dated January 11, 2015. The email was addressed to Ashley Gungle with the County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development. As you are aware, Ninyo & Moore prepared geotechnical evaluation reports for design of the two Soitec projects referred to as Rugged Solar Farm (Project No. 107269002) and Tierra Del Sol, (Project No. 107448001) located in Boulevard, San Diego County, California. It is our understanding that the main issue raised in the email pertains to potential introduction of metals into the ground due to corrosion of the metal solar tracker pole foundations.

Based on our soil corrosivity tests the onsite soils are classified according to Caltrans criteria as "non-corrosive". The laboratory soil corrosivity tests performed were pH, chloride content, sulfate content, and resistivity.

Although Ninyo & Moore is not a corrosion engineer, we understand the steel poles will be galvanized with zinc by hot dipping, as opposed to electroplating. We understand that hot dipping is the preferred method of galvanization for longer life due to soil corrosion and is a common method for protection of solar pole foundations against soil corrosion used throughout California. We have never heard of corrosion of metal galvanized with zinc (or corrosion of iron for that matter) being a problem with regard to its potential effect on ground water quality.

Based on our subsurface exploration with borings and/or test pits, the sites are geologically underlain by granitic rock. Some alluvium occurs on Rugged Solar near Tule Creek and no alluvium occurs on Tierra Del Sol. Ground water was not encountered in our borings on Tierra Del Sol and ground water was not encountered in our borings/test pits on Rugged Solar. Ground water was reported by others on Rugged Solar at 28 to 55 feet and in a well at 18 feet.

In east San Diego County, quality drinking water from wells is typically obtained from deep wells commonly on the order of hundreds of feet in depth.

Please contact the undersigned at our office if you have any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,

**NINYO & MOORE**



Gregory T. Farrand, PG, CEG  
Principal Geologist

GTF/cdb