



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Gavin Newsom
Governor

January 3, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 03 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. Randall Cates
Kern County Planning
and Natural Resources Department
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, California 93301-2323

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR EIR 06-17; AV APOLLO SOLAR
PROJECT BY SUNBOW SOLAR I LLC, SYRACUSE SOLAR LLC AND TOURS
SOLAR LLC – DATED DECEMBER 2019
(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2017081038)

Dear Mr. Cates:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for EIR 06-17; AV Apollo Solar Project by Sunbow Solar I LLC, Syracuse Solar LLC and Tours Solar LLC.

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a 20-megawatt solar voltaic electrical generating facility in an A District. Depending upon market conditions, the project site may also include, or be developed with, up to 60 megawatts of advanced energy battery storage units; one Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of a communication tower, and Amendment to the Circulation Element of the Kern County General Plan to eliminate future road reservation along the east-west mid-section line in Section 19, T10N/R13W SBB&M, in Zone Map 214 (General Plan Amendment 5, Map 214). The project's permanent facilities would include service roads, a communication tower, communication cables, overhead and underground transmission lines, an electrical switching station, project substations, operations and maintenance facilities and gen-tie lines.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the EIR, Hazards and Hazardous Materials section:

1. The EIR should acknowledge the potential for project site activities to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances. In instances in which releases may occur, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. The EIR should also identify the mechanism(s)

to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.

2. If any sites within the project area or sites located within the vicinity of the project have been used or are suspected of having been used for mining activities, proper investigation for mine waste should be discussed in the EIR. DTSC recommends that any project sites with current and/or former mining operations onsite or in the project site area should be evaluated for mine waste according to DTSC's 1998 Abandoned Mine Land Mines Preliminary Assessment Handbook (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/11/aml_handbook.pdf).
3. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 *Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers* (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance_Lead Contamination_050118.pdf).
4. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to DTSC's 2001 *Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material* (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf).
5. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the EIR. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in accordance with DTSC's 2008 *Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties (Third Revision)* (<https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Ag-Guidance-Rev-3-August-7-2008-2.pdf>).

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to review the EIR. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please submit a request for Lead Agency Oversight Application, which can be found at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/VCP_App-1460.doc. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/brownfields/>.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gavin McCreary", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin McCreary
Project Manager
Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

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