

CHAPTER 3.0

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

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3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes all comments received on the Draft EIR during the 50-day public and agency review period (45-day minimum per CEQA, plus five days per County of Imperial Guidelines). No new significant environmental impacts or issues, beyond those already identified in the Draft EIR for the Seville Solar Farm Complex, were raised during the public review period. Acting as lead agency under CEQA, Imperial County directed responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5, none of the comments received during the comment period involve any new significant impacts or “significant new information” that would require recirculation of the Draft EIR

3.2 LIST OF COMMENTERS

The following individuals and representatives of organizations and agencies submitted written comments on the Draft EIR.

**TABLE 3.0-1
LIST OF COMMENTERS ON THE DRAFT EIR**

COMMENTS RECEIVED BY IMPERIAL COUNTY			
LETTER or E- MAIL	INDIVIDUAL OR SIGNATORY	AFFILIATION	DATE
1	Dave Singleton, Program Analyst	Native American Heritage Commission	April 23, 2014
2	Jay Cravath, PhD Cultural Director	Chemehuevi Indian Tribe	April 24, 2014
3	Jacob Armstrong, Branch Chief, Development Review Branch	California Department of Transportation	June 2, 2014
4	Kennon A. Corey Assistant Field Supervisor	United States Department of Fish and Wildlife	June 5, 2014
5	Shankar Sharma, PhD Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) of Renewable Energy	State of California - The Natural Resources Agency - Department of Fish and Wildlife	June 6, 2014
6	Belen Leon Environmental Coordinator	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District	June 6, 2014
7	Stephan C. Volker Attorney for Backcountry Against Dumps, Donna Tisdale and Carolyn Allen	Law Offices of Stephan C. Volker	June 6, 2014
8	Connie L. Valenzuela Agricultural Commissioner	Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner, Sealer of Weights and Measures	June 6, 2014
9	Scott Morgan, Director	Governor’s Office of Planning and Research	June 9, 2014

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3.3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

3.3.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR RESPONDING TO COMMENTS ON A DRAFT EIR

CEQA Guidelines Section 15088 requires that lead agencies evaluate all comments on environmental issues received on the Draft EIR and prepare a written response. The written response must address the environmental issue(s) raised and provide a detailed response. Rationale must be provided when specific comments or suggestions (e.g., additional mitigation measures) are not accepted. In addition, the written response must be a good faith and reasoned analysis. As long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15204), lead agencies need only to respond to significant environmental issues associated with the project and do not need to provide all the information requested by commenters.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 recommends that commenters provide detailed comments that focus on the sufficiency of the Draft EIR in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated. CEQA Guidelines Section 15204 also notes that commenters should provide an explanation and evidence supporting their comments. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064, an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15088 also recommends that where the response to comments results in revisions to the Draft EIR, those revisions should be noted as a revision to the Draft EIR or in a separate section of the Final EIR.

3.3.2 COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Written comments on the Draft EIR are reproduced on the following pages, along with responses to those comments. To assist in referencing comments and responses, the letters are coded using numbers (e.g., Comment Letter 1) and each issue raised in the comment letter is assigned a number that correlates with the letter (e.g. 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, etc.).

Where changes to the Draft EIR text result from responding to comments, those changes are included in the response and demarcated with revision marks (underline for new text, ~~strike-out~~ for deleted text). Comment-initiated text revisions to the Draft EIR and minor staff-initiated changes are compiled in their entirety and are demarcated with revision marks in Chapter 4.0, Errata, of this Final EIR.