



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Mayor Michael A. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 West Temple St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors Antonovich, Molina, Ridley-Thomas, Yaroslavsky and Knabe:

We are writing in reference to the 650 MW Antelope Valley Solar Project, located primarily in Kern County but partially in Los Angeles County, which is being considered by you today. Sierra Club supports this project and urges you to approve it with the same stipulations and mitigations that Kern County recently approved. This project will provide important renewable energy for meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard, which Sierra Club supports. In addition, the developers, Renewable Resources Group, have sited this project in a lower-impact location and committed to several environmental mitigations and enhancements.

The Antelope Valley Solar project is sited on disturbed land and located near a substation and high-voltage transmission lines. The proposed photovoltaic technology requires only minimal amounts of water for maintenance compared to solar thermal projects.

The developers have committed to several additional features that help mitigate wildlife impacts and enhance potential habitat values onsite. 4,300 acres of prime farmland will be conserved to address the loss of farmland; the land so conserved must also be appropriate Swainson's hawk foraging habitat to help preserve that species in the Antelope Valley. Another wildlife-friendly element, a prohibition on use of rodenticides, will help avoid unintentional poisoning of raptors or other prey animals.

While the project will need to be fenced, it will use wildlife-friendly fencing that allows passage for smaller animals. Instead of leaving the ground bare in and around panels, the project will be seeded with native, drought-tolerant vegetation chosen by local experts. Kit fox burrows and dens will be constructed onsite to provide habitat for desert kit fox. Finally, the decommissioning plan also requires revegetation of disturbed areas with native, drought-tolerant vegetation.

To sum up, we believe this project has been well-sited and we appreciate Renewable Resources Group's efforts to minimize wildlife and other impacts. We hope you will approve the project with the same requirements that Kern County adopted in July.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Bill Corcoran  
Western Regional Campaign Director, Beyond Coal  
Sierra Club  
3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 660  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Barbara Boyle  
Senior Representative, Beyond Coal Campaign  
Sierra Club  
801 K St., Suite 2700  
Sacramento, CA 95814



100%  
Recycled

3435 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 660, Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904  
(213) 387-6528 phone • (213) 387-8348 fax • [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)