

Re: Eagle Crest Pumped Energy Storage Projectⁿ PGM

To:

Oct. 2, 2010
Oct. 5, 2010

Paul Murphy
Hearings and Special Projects
State Water Resource Control Board
1001 I St., 14th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

STATE WATER RESOURCES
CONTROL BOARD
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DIV. OF WATER RIGHTS
SACRAMENTO

Dear Sir,

Thank you for letting me submit comments about proposed Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Project and the Draft Environmental Impact Report issued by the State of California State Water Resource Control Board regarding FER No. 13123 "Project".

1) This project is illegal. In 1950, Congress removed 265,340 acres from Joshua Tree National Monument (now park) through Public Law 837 "to determine to what extent said area is more valuable for minerals than for National monument purposes. In 1952 Congress enacted Private Law 790 granting certain rights-of-way, issuing patent to 465 acres of land to Kaiser Steel Corporation for campsite

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and millsite purposes. PL 790 also stated clearly that the property would revert fully to the United States, when the property was not used for a campsite or millsite for seven years. Congress and the President made it absolutely clear that seven years after mining operations stopped, the land would be returned to Joshua Tree National Monument near Joshua Tree National Park.

This project is clearly illegal. No amount of legalese will change that. The land is part of Joshua Tree National Park. The land reverted to the United States public in 1990, seven years after mining operations ceased in 1983.

The land in question is part of Joshua Tree National Park. The people trying to push the pumped storage project, the dump, and all the other "projects" are by squatters.

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This massive project is bad anyway and shouldn't be allowed anywhere else like the Eagle Mountain location either. It will bring a very destructive infrastructure and an engineering bonfire to the tiny community around Desert Center. The construction maintenance, destructive effect on the aquifer and the stupid use of water, its evaporation and effect on the microclimate around Eagle Mountain — a very dry desert — will be uncorrectable. The future loss of power to the residents of the area over their community will increase, leaving them asking "Why can't Los Angeles and the rest of Southern California learn to conserve energy and resources that would completely offset the need for this unnecessary project?" It will provide an excuse for more rampant development. All of the projects aimed at exploiting the land in question have been stopped before.

several times. Now the squatters want to ~~to~~ appeal the other boondoggle - the mega-dumps - to the Supreme Court! What an outrageous waste of taxpayer money and waste of time for the Supreme Court. Squatters demanding that the Supreme Court let them steal our public land. The long list of "projects" by these companies and individuals are all inappropriate and illegal. They are merely attempting to take what is not theirs. It is illegal. Do not allow it.

This is not a green project. It is a land grab.

Now, since the large "energy" companies have thwarted the development of renewable energy produced in non-destructive ways - building-integrated photovoltaics, appropriately placed wind and water turbines etc. there is a massive rush to further destroy land by allowing huge "solar farms"

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that will destroy yet more land - when such technology could be built right in to the built structures that need it. This is another money making scheme that will further wreck desert habitat and biodiversity. All of this technology could be placed in developed areas along highways and on buildings. The excuse to build the pumped energy storage project is skewed to appear as a necessary part of this bad vision. There are many ways to negate the need for this destructive project. What a waste of resources, and other people's time. It won't even make a dent in bad energy consumption - in fact, it might use more than it is trying to offset. Please stop this project. It is illegal, and the land is properly part of Joshua Tree National Park.

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In fact, the Eagle Mountain open pit mine area is smack dab in the remotest part of the Joshua Tree Wilderness area! That is not legal either! Hikers and explorers from all across our nation that want to distant corners of Joshua Tree National Park because of its isolated, pristine, and quiet nature - who will be able to come upon the old open pit mine and view the type of damage we humans can do to the land - will be further frustrated by the continuance of such behavior ~~by~~ and devices such as a pumped energy storage project right in the middle of the wilderness!

Better to lay another long pipe down the grade from Chiyaco Summit to Mecca and pump water, there, tied to the already existing grid. How much simpler and how much

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less destructive, along the existing road and right-of-way, with access to energy from building integrated photovoltaic on houses in the desert, with far less distance for transmission.

Save the exquisite environment, habitat, and biodiversity of the land in Joshua Tree National Park and the included Eagle Mountain Open pit mine area within the Park.

Keep Eagle Crest Energy Company ~~out~~ out of our National Park.

Another huge problem with this proposed energy storage facility is the impassible barrier it will create in the ecosystem of the backcountry wilderness of Joshua Tree National Park. During the years of this potential illegal construction the haul road leading to the site will be filled with trucks and equipment. After

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that, the road will continue to be a threat, but the illegal facility itself will block wildlife and harmfully diminish the fragile biodiversity of this beautiful remote area of Joshua Tree National Park.

This project will completely alter the back country experience of anyone who cares to visit this distant and quiet, remote part of the Joshua Tree Wilderness.

It is our land, part of the Joshua Tree National Park. All the schemes and land trappings that have been tried and found to be illegal - every step of the way - shows how desperate these companies are to steal this land.

Please do not allow this, or any other illegal project, to go any farther. The Park is waiting for the squatters to be evicted.

Submitted with respect,
Ron Brinkley, General Delivery, Buslake GA 93604
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