

July 13, 2015

To: Josh Hart, Inyo County Planning Director
Cc: Cathreen Richards, Inyo County Senior Planner
Susan Carpenter, Susan Carpenter and Associates
From: Robert Edgerton
Project: Owens Valley Solar Energy Study (OVSES)
Subject: Meeting notes – Initial Public Workshops and Tribal Coordination Meeting (June 2015)

This memorandum summarizes the approach and results of two initial public workshops and a tribal coordination conducted by Inyo County on June 2-4, 2015, to receive comments on the early stages of Owens Valley Solar Energy Study (OVSES) geographic information systems (GIS) database development. The OVSES GIS is a planning grant provided to Inyo County from the California Energy Commission as follow-on work to the Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) and tiers from the geospatial data presented in the draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) to fill-in data gaps between the DRECP boundary and Owens Valley of Inyo County. Specific geodata categories where the County is seeking input include: aesthetic resources; biological resources; cultural resources; and, land uses. The geospatial data gathered will be presented similarly to the level of mapping conducted for the DRECP so that Inyo County may adequately inform its citizens of baseline environmental conditions.

This memo includes a summary of approach and format of the initial public meetings and tribal coordination workshops, the comments received, and next steps for the development of the OVSES GIS database.

OVERVIEW

Inyo County conducted two initial public workshops and a single tribal coordination meeting between June 2-4, 2015. The initial public workshops were hosted in the communities of Bishop and Lone Pine and were attended by a total of 29 community and/or tribal members, as detailed below.

- Public Workshop #1: June 2, 2015; 5:30 p.m.; Bishop City Hall Council Chambers, 301 West Line Street, Bishop; 16 participants.
- Public Workshop #2: June 3, 2015; 5:30 p.m.; Statham Hall, 138 Jackson Street, Lone Pine; 8 participants.
- Tribal Coordination Meeting #1: June 4, 2015; 10:00 a.m.; Inyo County Health and Human Services Department; 155 E. Market Street, Independence; 5 participants.

Comments were received and questions answered during these public workshops and coordination meeting. Sign-in sheets for the public workshops/coordination meeting are provided in **Appendix A**. Individual comment cards completed by public workshop participants are provided in **Appendix B** and summarized below.

Comments

At each public workshop/coordination meeting, participants were given an opportunity to ask questions to clarify understanding of the OVSES. Participants had a range of questions and/or comments. The following is a brief summary of comments/questions.

- The OVSES data should be represented by layers that can overlap in order to analyze trends (e.g. where viewsheds and sensitive vegetation overlap).
- The County needs to gather data on non-tribal cultural and historic resources as well.
- The County should consider speaking to non-tribal stakeholders for cultural/historic resources.
- The County needs to identify a methodology for analyzing and graphically representing viewsheds to and from mountain ranges.
- The OVSES needs to include analysis of cultural resources in the southern Owens Valley, which was not detailed by the DRECP.
- The vegetation classifications the County uses should be compatible with DRECP in order to have continuity between the datasets, or the County should analyze the entirety of the Owens Valley using one classification system so that there is one system for the entire valley.
- The County should also include and analyze soils data. Soils data can inform future vegetation communities in addition to existing conditions.
- Non-plant species datasets are available and should be included to further inform the study.
- Using 2014 vegetation data may be problematic because the data are representative of a period of significant drought.
- The County needs to include wildlife data, including migration patterns and flyway areas, as these are important issues.
- It is not clear how the OVSES relates to the Owens Valley Study Area (OVSA) as defined by the REGPA.
- The County needs to “ground-truth” the DRECP data for the southern Owens Valley and the Owens Lake.
- The data collected for the OVSES should include other considerations such as fauna, and legal and political constraints (such as LADWP mitigation lands). This is important to be consistent with the OVSA as defined in the REGPA.
- OVSES should delineate issues that are unique to the Owens Valley.
- The OVSES should consider tourism and the socioeconomic of tourism when considering viewsheds. The study should include analysis of tourists’ perceived character of the Owens Valley and their perspective of viewsheds.
- The OVSES and DRECP data needs to be compatible with each other to be useful.
- The scale of analysis of the OVSES seems very large.

- A protocol or criteria needs to be established for mapping viewsheds. It is not clear how viewsheds will be quantified or prioritized in the absence of a socioeconomic analysis.
- Anything built in the valley will be visible from the surrounding mountains: both the viewshed from the valley looking at the mountains, and the viewshed from the mountains looking into the valley are equally important.
- The southern Owens Valley is the primary area developers have looked at for solar projects and it important that it be studied in detail in addition to the northern Owens Valley.
- Future state and federal land trades will influence future renewable energy development and should be considered.
- Notes for future public outreach meetings:
 - Use fewer acronyms or provide a glossary
 - Detailed maps of specific areas in the Owens Valley would be more useful for being able to determine the accuracy of the data presented.
 - A map should be available illustrating the entire study area boundary so that people understand where they can provide information on cultural and visual resources
- Please make maps and data available on the County website as soon as possible for public review and comment.
- The data and the OVSES should include prior comments from the community made during the REGPA regarding solar development in the Owens Valley.
- Is it possible to make comments on or point out inaccuracies of the DRECP data?
- It should be noted that Inyo County is a net exporter of renewable energy.

Next Steps

The County will take the comments generated during the initial public workshops and tribal coordination meeting and further refine the OVSES GIS database development effort. A follow-up round of public workshops is slated for September 2015, while the next tribal coordination meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2015. The public and tribal representatives will have additional opportunity to provide input to the OVSES process during these follow-on public workshops/coordination meetings before the final series of public workshops/coordination meetings are held in November 2015.

Appendices

- A. Sign-In Sheets
- B. Comment Cards



**Inyo County – Owens Valley Solar Energy Study
Initial Public Workshop
June 2, 2015 – Bishop, CA**

| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
|--------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------------|
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| Jan Sudomier | 157 Short Street | 760 872 8211 | jsudomier@gtuapd.org |
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Inyo County - Owens Valley Solar Energy Study
 Initial Public Workshop
 June 2, 2015 - Bishop, CA



**Inyo County – Owens Valley Solar Energy Study
Initial Public Workshop
June 2, 2015 – Bishop, CA**

| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Nancy Mastaro | P.O. Box 478 Independence CA 93526 | 760 878 8084 | nancymas@gnet.com |
| Mark Tull | | | |
| Charles James | | | freelance.Charles.James@gmail.com |
| Rick Pucci | 2672 Irene Way Bishop CA | 760-873-6140 | puccerin@yahoo |
| Sally Manning | 401 E. Nancy | 760 873-3790 | smanning@telis.org |
| Jon Alusmit | 278 N. Fowler Bishop CA 93514 | | jalusmit@yahoo.com |
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 Inyo County – Owens Valley Solar Energy Study
 Initial Public Workshop
 June 2, 2015 – Bishop, CA



Inyo County – Owens Valley Solar Energy Study
Initial Public Workshop
June 3, 2015 – ~~October~~, CA
LONE PINE

| Name | Address | Phone | Email |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| Andrew + Judy Wickman | 101 Daming Rd L.P. | 760-874-5202 | ajwickman@mac.com |
| Rob Murphy | Sierra Wave | 260-938 0089 | dmurphy49@attlook.com |
| April Zrelak | Lone Pine Reservation PUNJIPON | 760-876-4690 | aircoordinator@lppsr.org |
| Mark WILSON | LONE PINE RESIDENT | | ON FILE |
| Eddie Trimmer | 321 Penny Big Pine CA | 801-597-2104 | edtrimmer@admission.com |
| Julianne Hopkins | 130 Valley View Rd Small View 93514 | 831-5466012 | |
| A L Carrasco | Box 613 LP | 760-264-6035 | |
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COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

The DREC data set doesn't have all the information that this OVSES will have.

The big gap covered by DREC has 2 of the Inland dependent solar projects -

Hopefully if there are new projects proposed ~~in~~ in the DREC area

south of Tinemahon and north of Owens Lake we get that same level of detail. (MCV?)

Please make one dataset for the entire area so the data set combined.

Wishart

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

This type of mapping of vegetation is not appropriate for Owens Valley.
It is mainly floristic + valley has habitats. Owens Valley has
groundwater dependent vegetation.

Wrong, wrong, wrong!

There has been too much pumping - so guess what - your maps
don't show any gw dependent meadow

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

Boundary is arbitrary - & pretty ridiculous!

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

Preserve Owens Valley Open Space.

Viewshed is world class - don't mar it.

Cultural Landscapes have immense value

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

5/100-501/005 } Existing rooftops w/in reason

within the built communities, within reason

The maps do a great job of making OV vegetation look pathetic. There actually are some nice areas!

Veg map is totally unfair. Planning Dept. needs to coordinate with the Water Department.

BECAUSE, there is a Water Agreement. Owens Valley lands owned by

DWP are supposed to be left as open for agriculture, sustainable uses like recreation, & habitat protection. Solar arrays are NONE of the above.

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015

EARL

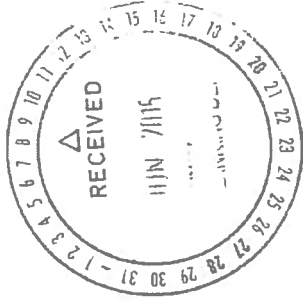
ELEMENTS:

TRIBAL/CULTURAL/HISTORICAL

COMMENTS

Owens Valley Solar Energy Study

June 2015



① Please try to include wildlife as much as possible in your Biology mapping efforts. ② The entire Owens Valley is an iconic viewshed (peak to peak).

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