



HOLLISTER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Firehouse 1
Head Quarters

110 Fifth Street • Hollister, CA 95023-3926
(831) 636-4325 • Fax (831) 636-4329

July 14, 2014

David Hacker
California Department of Fish and Game
Central Region 4 Fresno
3196 S. Higuera St., Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Mr. Hacker,

Thank you for meeting me in the field this past Wednesday to discuss fire access to the proposed Panoche Valley Solar Project. As we discussed, the Hollister/San Benito County Fire Department has jurisdiction over the site and with limited resources available in the area, response times and accessibility are key to successful response to fire and/or medical emergencies.

After additional consideration of alternative routes, including various gates along the perimeter fence and driving through various areas of the future Valley Floor Conservation Lands and associated wash area, my team and I have determined that adequate, all-weather access will require a bridge that is of sufficient size to support the weight and size of our fire trucks be installed across the wash area from Yturiarte Road north into the Project area (as detailed in our letter dated October 17, 2013 to Eric Cherniss at PV2 Energy, LLC). We are concerned that during times of the year, driving through the wash will not be feasible as a means of response to the corners of the facility. In addition, a means of access/egress for my crews to escape a fire either coming onto or from the site, is critical to the safety of our personnel.

Thank you for working with the Hollister/San Benito County Fire Department to ensure the safety of those in the Panoche Valley. If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

Chief O'Connor

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Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 636-4141

Fire house3 30 Airport Dr.
Hollister, CA 95023
(831)636-4346

Firehouse 4 24 Polk Street
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(831) 623-4513



SAN BENITO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

airview Road, Hollister, California 95023 office (831) 637-4475 fax (831) 636-2775

10/25/10

Eric Cherniss
VP Project Development
Solargen Energy, Inc.

I have reviewed the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Panoche Valley Solar Farm project and more specifically section C.9, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials". I have also reviewed all attached maps depicting the access roads and there locations. I would like to reiterate on behalf of CAL FIRE and San Benito County Fire Department the importance of all the access roads and the fire break along the perimeter of the project.

The access roads needed for ingress/egress to emergency calls must not be compromised or reduced in anyway. All roads identified on the maps in the EIR must be installed and maintained with an all weather surface. This includes the stream crossings which are need to reduce response times to all emergency calls. The access roads will also act as fire breaks and are crucial for both the safety of the project employees as well as the civilians living in the adjacent areas. A 30 foot wide cleared buffer zone/fuel break shall be installed around the periphery of the project and an access road around the perimeter may suffice this requirement if reviewed and approved by the fire department. The fire department has set these requirements with the perimeter fire break and feels the access road around the perimeter is the best option for safety reasons.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Paul Avila
Battalion Chief
CAL FIRE/San Benito County Fire
831-637-4475
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October 17, 2013

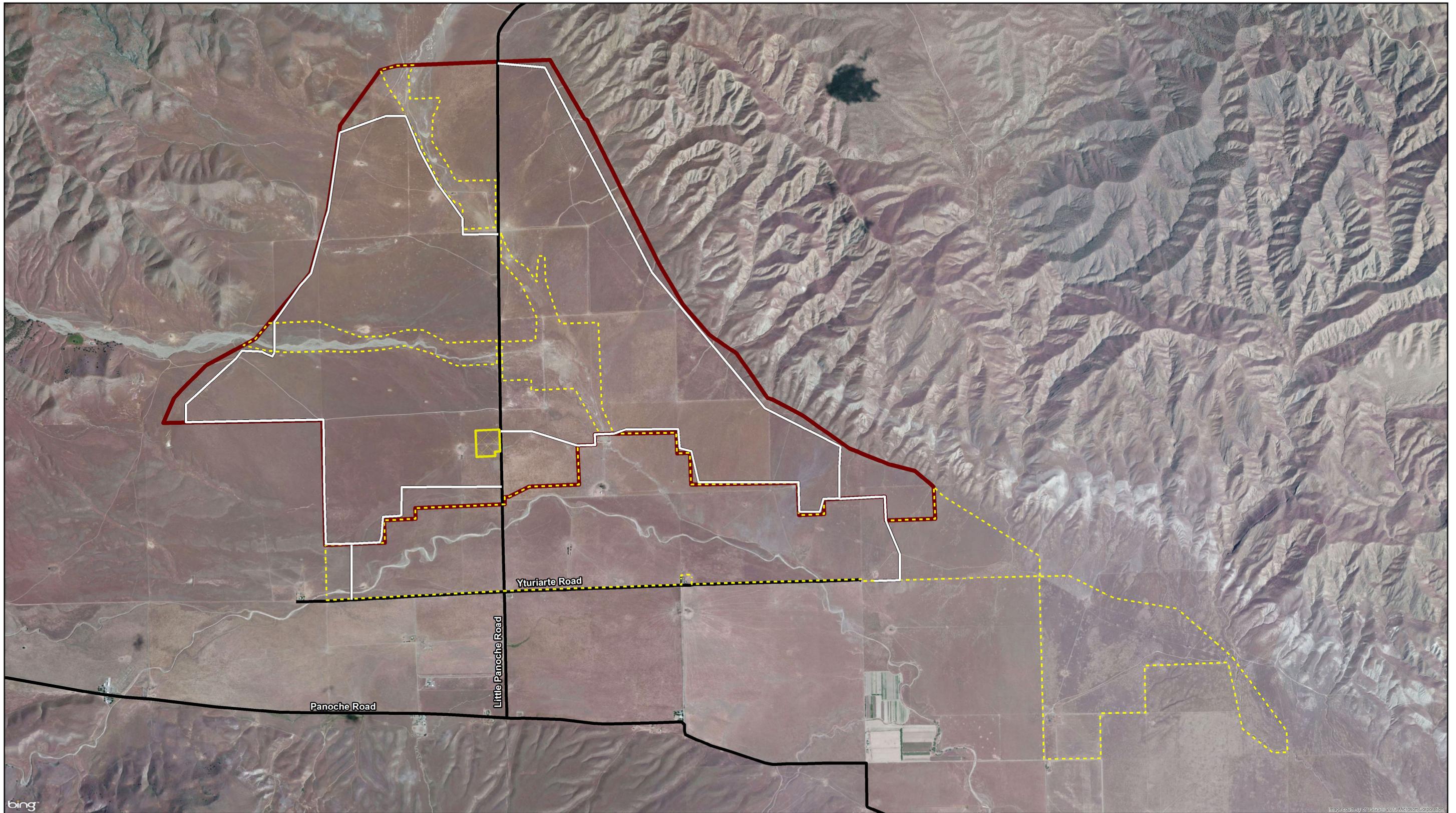
Eric Cherniss
PV2 Energy, LLC
431 Burgess Dr., 2nd Floor
Menlo Park, CA 94025

San Benito County Fire Department reviewed requirements for emergency access/egress to the project area. During our conversation we discussed the bulleted points below to which I have made adjustments:

- The fire department requires a contiguous emergency access/egress road that surrounds the entire perimeter of the project area.
- **Means of emergency access and egress from various points on the** perimeter roads are required in the event of an emergency
- Emergency access/egress roads must be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of fire apparatus of up to 30,000 lbs and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities
- Emergency access/egress roads shall support a 15 foot wide fire truck
- Pullouts are required every 2,000 -5,000 feet along the perimeter road to allow for a fire truck to pass another vehicle if needed
- Perimeter roads must contain a sufficient turning radius to allow a fire truck with a length of 31 feet to make the turn
- No overhead restrictions are allowed on emergency access/egress roads that are lower than 12 feet due to the height of the fire trucks

Thank you,

Chief O'Connor



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Image courtesy of Bing Maps, © 2013 Microsoft Corporation



BR
9/25/2013

Legend

- Project Area
- Emergency Access/
Egress Road
- Valley Floor
Conservation Lands
- Substation Location

Panoche Valley Solar LLC
Project Area and Proposed Project Roads

