



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

*Managing California's Working Lands*

## DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

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November 1, 2010

Jerry Pell, Ph.D., CCM, Environmental Scientist/Project Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
OE-20  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) U.S.  
Transmission Line Project, SCH# 2010094007, San Diego County

Dear Dr. Pell:

The California Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Study for the project referenced above. The Division monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural land conservation programs.

### Project Description

The U.S. Department of Energy proposed Federal Action in the granting of a Presidential permit to Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) U. S. Transmission, LLC, for the construction, operation, maintenance, and connection of a 230-kilvolt (kV) or a 500-kV electric transmission line. The proposed line would be constructed on either lattice towers or steel monopoles crossing the U.S.-Mexican border in the vicinity of Jacumba, California in eastern San Diego County. The San Diego Gas & Electric Company will provide the interconnection for the transmission line to the U.S. transmission grid system for the ESJ project. The EIS has determined that the project will have no impacts on agricultural resources. None of the project site is under a Williamson Act contract, nor does it involve the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses. As such, the Department has no comment on this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EIS. If you have questions on our comments, or require technical assistance on agricultural land conservation in California, please contact Jacquelyn Ramsey, Environmental Planner, at (916) 323-2379.

Sincerely,

Dan Otis  
Program Manager  
Williamson Act Program