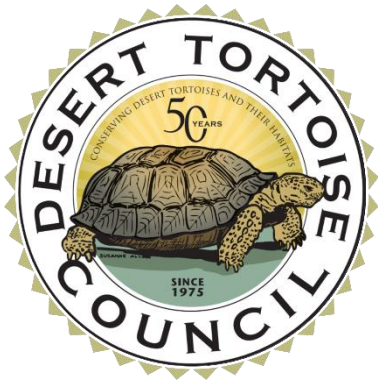




DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL

3807 Sierra Highway #6-4514

Acton, CA 93510

www.deserttortoise.org

eac@deserttortoise.org

Via email only

October 23, 2025

County of San Bernardino Planning Department
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415
planningcommissioncomments@lus.sbcounty.gov

RE: Sienna Solar and Storage Project (SCH No. 2022080518)

Dear San Bernardino County Planning Department,

The Desert Tortoise Council (Council) is a non-profit organization comprising hundreds of professionals and laypersons who share a common concern for wild desert tortoises and a commitment to advancing the public's understanding of desert tortoise species. Established in 1975 to promote conservation of tortoises in the deserts of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, the Council routinely provides information and other forms of assistance to individuals, organizations, and regulatory agencies on matters potentially affecting desert tortoises within their geographic ranges.

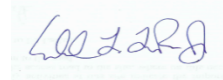
Both our physical and email addresses are provided above in our letterhead for your use when providing future correspondence to us. When given a choice, we prefer to receive emails for future correspondence, as mail delivered via the U.S. Postal Service may take several days to be delivered. Email is an "environmentally friendlier way" of receiving correspondence and documents rather than "snail mail."

Herein we note that the County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services Department, Planning Division (County) contacted the Council on 10/10/2025 with an opportunity to comment on the final environmental impact report (Final EIR) for the above-referenced project. However, despite providing formal scoping comments on 9/14/2022¹ and asking therein on page 18 to be considered an Affected Interest, we were never contacted for the initial Draft EIR dated August 2023 nor for the Recirculated Draft EIR dated July 2024, which we are learning about only now. It has been our experience that, unless we are willing to formally contest a final California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, there is very little value in commenting.

¹ <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/mib659dd46uq8fjuclsd/Sienna-Solar-and-Storage-Project.9-14-2022.pdf?rlkey=3zqevb5zl00gq13ui3k4cdrvk&dl=0>

However, we wanted to take this opportunity to express our concern that our scoping comments may have never been considered since we were not contacted as requested therein to provide comments on the two subsequent Draft EIR documents. It does appear that the county has been proactively providing notices of availability for recent projects, so we do appreciate that, and ask that you continue to contact us with comment opportunities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed LaRue", is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Edward L. LaRue, Jr., M.S.

Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee, Chairperson