

**Association of Environmental Professionals  
California Chapter – 2011 Awards**

**Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document**  
**Panoche Valley Solar Farm Project EIR**

**Awarded to Aspen Environmental Group  
and  
The County of San Benito**

The Panoche Valley Solar Farm Project EIR evaluates the environmental impacts associated with a proposed 420 megawatt photovoltaic solar power plant on land zoned as “Agricultural Rangeland” located in unincorporated eastern San Benito County on approximately 5,000 acres, or 7.6 square miles.

The EIR is exceptionally complete and thorough with complete mitigation measures developed for avoidance, minimization, and conservation of biological resources that were particularly innovative. The EIR is clearly written, using footnotes to explain technical concepts and avoiding the use of technical jargon. The document was prepared with a special emphasis on accessibility to laypersons, decision-makers, and professionals.

The jury was extremely impressed with the document. It is well written with economy of language and was user friendly. The scoping meeting issues were good. The document was broken into well organized, manageable sizes. It met the mark for complete, clear clean structure, economy of language, and using a unique methodology. The Reader's Guide was a special touch, which was appreciated. An excellent document!