

DESERT RENEWABLE CONSERVATION PLAN

Stakeholder Workgroup Guidance

October 11th, 2010

Covered Species Workgroup

Chairs: *Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife), Darren Bouton (First Solar)*

Agency Participants: Scott Flint (CEC), Armand Gonzales(DFG), Vicki Campbell (Ashley Conrad-Saydah – Alternate) (BLM), Ken Corey (USFWS)

Purpose: To foster the successful development and implementation of the DRECP, it is important to identify the natural communities and species that are proposed for study, evaluation, and conservation in the plan, and which species are proposed for permit coverage in the plan. Defining the natural communities and species proposed for coverage is essential to determining the type and nature of the environmental effects that should be addressed and analyzed in the plan, and the activities that should be considered by the agencies for permit coverage.

The mission of this team is to

- Review the Natural Communities and Species of Planning Interest list provided by the REAT Agencies in the DRECP Planning Agreement;
- Review and evaluate information provided by Independent Science Advisors in the Draft DRECP Independent Science Advisory Report related to proposed covered species: and
- Using Workgroup and outside expertise, develop a representative proposed natural communities and species list(s) of both proposed covered species and other relevant planning species, that should be addressed within the DRECP plan area;
- Evaluate and review, and assist with development of quantitative conservation goals and objectives for natural communities and species proposed for coverage under the plan.

The workgroup shall be co-chaired by Stakeholder Representatives from the environmental community and the renewable energy industry. The team shall be made up of stakeholder representatives selected by the co-chairs, and from those organizations that have special expertise or have a primary interest in defining the covered activities of the DRECP. Participation in the Workgroup by organizations and individuals that are not members of the DRECP Stakeholder Committee may be required to provide additional and needed input and expertise to the Workgroup. This participation is encouraged by the DRECP Director and the REAT Agencies. The co-chairs shall appoint a member of the workgroup to keep meeting notes and document inputs.

The co-chairs have the following authority and responsibility:

- Ensuring the workgroup purpose is focused;
- Directing and controlling the workgroup's work, meeting schedules, and work product;

- Identifying and inviting organizations and individuals external to the DRECP Stakeholder Committee to participate, provide input and additional expertise to the workgroup;
- Supporting individuals on the workgroup;
- Delivering and presenting the workgroup's work product on-time; and
- Providing periodic status reports to the DRECP Director and the Stakeholder Committee.

Tasks and Products:

- Review DRECP Natural Communities and Species of Planning Interest list provided by the REAT Agencies in the DRECP Planning Agreement;
- Review covered species list recommendations provided by the Independent Science Panel in their Report;
- Assemble/Consult species experts, conservation organizations, research personnel, and literature regarding species information. Using input and workgroup expertise, add/delete proposed DRECP covered natural communities, covered species. This workgroup will also review, evaluate, develop and comment on quantitative conservation goals and objectives;
- Review and develop a list of DRECP natural communities and proposed covered species for REAT Agency consideration.
- Review and develop a list of quantitative conservation goals and objectives for natural communities and proposed covered species, for consideration by the DRECP Director and the REAT Agencies.

Resources: The appointed co-chairs and sub-committee participants should be available to attend and participate in all meetings necessary to complete the workgroup's tasks and product(s). The appointed co-chairs should be available to develop the Workgroup meeting agendas and facilitate Workgroup meetings. The work of the Covered Species Workgroup is expected to be of short-term duration and upon completion, the co-chairs and participants will be available to participate in other Stakeholder workgroups.

REAT agency representatives who are identified to assist the workgroup are available to provide guidance to the co-chairs and the workgroup, and to answer questions upon request. A limited amount of CEC contractor support is available to research, compile, and develop the final proposed covered species list. CEC staff can provide a WebEx conferencing service which includes creating an audio recording of each meeting.

Schedule: The Covered Species Workgroup should have regular meetings (e.g. every second and fourth Thursday of each month) or more frequently, if necessary to research, develop, and present the workgroup input and work product to the Full Stakeholder Committee as requested by the DRECP Director.

Task priority for this Workgroup includes:

- Development of the list of DRECP natural communities and proposed covered species in the October/November 2010 timeframe.
- Development, review and input on conservation goals and objectives for the DRECP are anticipated in the April 2011 timeframe.