To Whom It May Concern,

We are requesting that the comment deadline for the DRECP be extended by at least another 90 days. After taking a look at the 8,000 page document, we have discovered several flaws including omissions of important species that may be impacted by the plan. We are also finding the document very hard to navigate. We have had no luck downloading any of the large documents from your website and had to request the CD. The files on the CD are so large, that they are crashing one of our computers.

The bottom line is that this document covers 22.5 million acres and is not even close to being complete. If you are going to ask the public to choose which parts of the California Desert are to be saved, and which are to be sacrificed forever, you are going to need to allow the public the adequate time to review the entire region. Because you are looking at such a huge acreage, you have created this problem for yourselves. The process should not be expedited to meet some political mandate.

It would also be beneficial to schedule some meetings or workshops to discuss this scheduling issue. We are concerned that species, habitat, cultural resources and property values will be impacted by this expedited planning. High ranking officials from the Interior Department and the State of California should attend.

Ironically, the DRECP has been in discussion since 2009, but you have not convinced us that the document you have released is anywhere near ready to be used to make a comprehensive development/conservation plan for green energy. There are too many species, cultural values, local residents and economies at risk. You also need to work on some of the technical issues with downloading as well as navigating the CD. It is difficult to do.

Again, we are requesting that the comment deadline for the DRECP be extended by at least 90 days.

Thanks,

Kevin Emmerich
Laura Cunningham
Basin and Range Watch
P.O. Box 70
Beatty, Nevada 89003
Response to Comment Letter E2

Basin and Range Watch
Kevin Emmerich
October 2, 2014

E2-1  Thank you for your comment. No change in the document is required as a result of this comment. The Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS had a 5-month comment period (9/23/14 through 2/23/15), which included one extension, and no recirculation of the draft document will occur.
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