To: California Energy Commission  Dockets Office, MS-4  Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01  1516
Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA  95814-5512
Email: docket@energy.ca.gov

Subject: Request for a New Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Alternative

Cc: SBC Supervisor, James Ramos
Email: supervisormramos@sbcounty.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned citizen who values and understands the importance of preserving our intact carbon-sequestering desert wildlands, wildlife, national parks and other protected areas, as well as the future well-being of our desert communities, I am writing to request a revised and recirculated draft DRECP due to the current draft’s fundamental flaws in structure, policy and science, as well as questionable renewable energy need assumptions.

While I support clean energy for the future of our state, it is crucial that this is done responsibly with utmost attention, care and consideration. There needs to be conservation on both public and private land to meet state and federal requirements for species conservation and natural communities and conservation designations need to be long-lasting/durable, adequately funded and enforceable.

Not only that, but the plan should factor in:

1) The latest (and projections for future) progression of clean energy technology.

2) Re-examine the 20K megawatt planning assumption and apply the amount of megawatts we are already generating (plus the number to be generated by already permitted projects) toward this assessment.

3) Include the whole landscape as a source for renewable energy placement. This means the amount of rooftop real estate and distributed generation should be greatly expanded to lessen the currently proposed and highly unnecessary mass grading of land.
A tremendous amount of time, energy and resources has been poured into not only the draft DRECP itself, but also into this very important comment period. Let’s not this tireless investment be in vain. We’ve come this far and now is the time for you to hear the voices of your constituents, and re-evaluate and refine this plan to create a final draft that works for local stakeholders and seeks to preserve and conserve our complex wildlands and wildlife ecosystems while implementing and meeting our clean energy goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Shauna Tucker
Joshua Tree, California
Response to Comment Letter F123

Shauna Tucker
February 22, 2015

F123-1 Thank you for your comment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken it into consideration in developing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). BLM acknowledges your support for desert conservation. The Environmental Impact Report (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.

F123-2 BLM has taken this comment into consideration in developing the DRECP Proposed LUPA and Final EIS. As described in Chapter I.1, Phase I of the DRECP is the DRECP Proposed LUPA and Final EIS that addresses activities on BLM-administered lands only. See Section I.3.3 for a description of the renewable energy planning process used for the DRECP, which sets the renewable energy and transmission planning context for developing the DRECP Proposed LUPA and Final EIS for BLM-administered lands.

F123-3 The distributed generation alternative does not meet BLM's purpose and need. Distributed generation was considered but not carried forward, as discussed in Volume II, Section II.8.2.1. BLM lands are largely devoid of buildings and distributed generation is applicable in locations with both electrical demand and areas or surfaces available for installation of distributed generation technology.

F123-4 This comment has not resulted in a change to the document but the BLM has taken it into consideration.
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