DRECP Public Comment  10-29-2014
Peggy Lee Kennedy   P.O. Box 2662, Yucca Valley, CA

I live in unincorporated San Bernardino County in an area mixed with private and public lands that is designated as a wildlife linkage corridor. My closest neighbors are endangered Desert Tortoise and Burrowing Owl, to name a few. I have identified Mountain Lion tracks in my area.

Furthermore I am a Trustee and Treasurer of the Community United Methodist Church of Joshua Tree and I also live part time in the City of Los Angeles.

I strongly urge that these points be considered for the 8000 page DRECP document:

1. An extension should be given at this juncture as no normal person could reasonably evaluate this document and make meaningful input within the given time frame.
   a. This should include the opportunity for public meetings with critical local agencies, such as the County of San Bernardino.

2. Take specific measures within this document and provide at least an outline that will help protect endangered or special interest wildlife habitat and trail linkages.

3. Review the Purpose of DRECP to include Environmental Reasons along with Conservation Goals and adopt an environmental “First Do No Harm” ethos.
   a. The City of Los Angeles is a major energy consumer and there could easily be/should be megawatt exchanges for major efforts to use Distributive measures by major consumers.
   b. Distributive Megawatt exchange could be used to eliminate any and all possible harm created by the removal of habitat.

4. As a retired Accountant and former Finance Officer for a Government Agency, I cannot yet find the DRECP Fiscal Reporting and Budgets that should provide/explain fiscal outlines that needs to accompany this type of document.
   a. I do not understand the specifics of megawatt requirements.
   b. I do not know who is paying for and when it is not feasible or too harmful to build transmission lines.
   c. Is there feasibility process?

I certainly hope these issues are more closely reviewed for the sake of the planet and its inhabitants. Rushing into this may create legal ramifications that delay the process much further.

Creating large scale solar industry for the sake of it or because of political pressure is not a solution.
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Response to Comment Letter F20

Peggy Lee Kennedy
October 29, 2014

F20-1 Thank you for your comment. While it has not resulted in a change in the document, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken it into consideration. The Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) had a 5-month comment period (9/23/14 through 2/23/15), which included one extension.

F20-2 This comment has not resulted in a change to the document, but the BLM has taken it into consideration. The BLM continues to work and meet with other agencies with an interest in the DRECP.

F20-3 The BLM has taken your comment into consideration in developing the BLM DRECP Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final EIS. See also Volume II, which includes revised descriptions and mapping for the range of alternatives considered for the BLM LUPA, including substantial reductions in Development Focus Areas (DFAs) as compared to that proposed for the Plan-wide Draft DRECP alternatives and avoidance of more habitat linkage areas. See also Section II.3.4.2 for revised Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) for activities on BLM-administered lands, including CMAs for maintenance of habitat linkage functions.

F20-4 The BLM has taken your comment into consideration in developing the BLM LUPA and Final EIS. As described in Chapter I.1, Phase I of the DRECP is the BLM 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 BLM LUPA and Final EIS for BLM-administered lands. See also Chapter I.1 for the purpose and need for the BLM LUPA and Final EIS.

F20-5 The BLM has taken your comment into consideration in developing the BLM LUPA and Final EIS. As described in Chapter I.1, Phase I of the DRECP is the BLM LUPA and Final EIS that addresses activities on BLM-administered lands only. See also Section II.3.7 for a description of LUPA implementation.

F20-6 The BLM has taken your comment into consideration in developing the BLM LUPA and Final EIS. 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 BLM LUPA and Final EIS for BLM-administered lands.

F20-7 See response F20-6.
F20-8  This comment has not resulted in a change to the document, but the BLM has taken it into consideration.