California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  

RE: DRECP NEPA/CEQA  

To Whom It Concerns:  

It appears there are no specific provisions in your DRECP plan for casual use mining and other activities such as OHV travel (including primitive jeep trails), open camping, hunting and recreational shooting; rock hounding; commercial filming; geocaching; and permitted competitive events like rock crawling.

I belong to the First Class Miners, and I request that you please make certain that the protection of our rights, not only our rights to existing casual use mining claims but our right to file for new casual use mining claims under the Mining Law of 1872 as Casual Use miners, are incorporated into your plan.

Although your program manager, Vicki, assured me and others in my group that our rights as casual use miners would not be hindered or restricted in any way because we have existing legal mining claims, it appears there is no reference to casual use mining in your document. Under the Mining Law of 1872 as Casual Use Miners, our rights are protected. Those rights need to be included in the appropriate sections of the Plan documents, in all “action” alternatives, for the following areas: the BLM area known as the Dale Mining District east of 29 Palms, CA, the BLM area of the Eagle Mountains north west of Desert Center and just east of the Joshua Tree National Park, the BLM land within the Rattlesnake Canyon area near Vaughn Springs just south of the Big Horn Mountain Wilderness Area, and the southeast area of Stoddard Valley/Chod Mountain and east of Hwy 247.

It is important to me and my group that we have the right to continue to prospect, meaning we want to be able to continue our right to look for new areas of BLM land with gold deposits that we may file legal casual use mining claims on.

Thank you,

James B Stevens  
29 Palms, CA 92277
Response to Comment Letter F227

James B. Stevens
January 16, 2015

F227-1  Thank you for your comment. While it did not result in changes to the document, the locations within the DRECP that are important to rockhounding were considered during the revisions to the Development Focus Areas (DFAs) for the Preferred Alternative as described in response to comment letter G5.

Impacts and Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs) for other recreation activities such as those listed in the comment are described in Volume IV, Chapter IV.18, Outdoor Recreation, including where each alternative designation would allow competitive events.
