23 January 2015

Via E-mail: docket@energy.ca.gov and First Class Mail
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Draft DRECP document and related Environmental Impact Report/Statement

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have read the January 16, 2015 letter to you from the Alliance for Desert Preservation, and we join in the objections stated therein. There is a big logical disconnect between (1) The stated purpose of the DRECP, which focuses strictly on a plan for renewable energy and related conservation concerns in the DRECP area, and (2) The apparent intent that the DRECP drive a wholesale Land Use Plan Amendment for the entire CDCA area. The Federal Register notice does not clear up this confusion, thus tainting the entire public comment process.

The solution is to publish a much clearer notice, and restart the public comment period.

We also want to request that the DRECP committee included a formal study and evaluation of using rooftop Solar Power systems as an alternate to the proposed DRECP. Recent studies have concluded that a network of rooftop solar systems can easily provide the same or more power into the California power grids than the DRECP project. A key example is the fact that Germany generates 40,000 megawatts of power from its rooftop solar systems!

We also agree with the Alliance for Desert Preservation that the public cannot make informed comments about the DRECP until a reasonable time after the WEMO plan has been made public.

We appreciate your serious consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

John G. Garcia and B. Lorraine Alexandar

Carlsbad, CA 92011
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Response to Comment Letter F62

John G. Garcia and B. Lorraine Alexandar
January 23, 2015

F62-1 Thank you for your comment; the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken it into consideration in developing the BLM Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Following release of the Draft DRECP and Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/EIS and in response to public comments received from a diverse group of stakeholders, the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) Agencies (i.e., Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], California Energy Commission [CEC], and California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) have adjusted the planning process and are employing a phased approach for the DRECP: one phase addressing BLM lands and another phase addressing non-federal lands. Under Phase I of the DRECP, the DRECP BLM LUPA and Final EIS addresses land uses, including renewable energy and transmission development, on BLM-administered lands only. Please see response E21-8 for further information regarding noticing and the LUPA. 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.

F62-2 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.

F62-3 This comment has not resulted in a change to the document but the BLM has taken it into consideration. The BLM is internally coordinating the Western Mojave (WEMO) and DRECP documents to avoid conflicting actions, and has considered the public comments on the WEMO Draft EIS in developing the DRECP Proposed LUPA and Final EIS.

F62-4 This comment has not resulted in a change to the document but the BLM has taken it into consideration.