March 31, 2015

Dear Mr. Cook,

I am writing to express my support for the designation of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This area is located in the USGS Rimrock Quadrangle area of San Bernardino County, California.

I have written several reports describing my biological surveys of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa for the federally-listed threatened species of desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii). These reports document the importance of protecting the unique biological diversity of this area. In addition to desert tortoises there are other sensitive, threatened and endangered species present in the area and its zone of influence.

The communities in the Morongo Basin very much appreciate your efforts regarding the BLM's updated West Mojave Plan (WMO), and the Desert Renewable Energy and Conservation Plan (DRECP). Please help designate Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Respectfully submitted,

Paul M. Delaney, Ph.D.

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Report References:

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Response to Comment Letter F74

Paul M. Delaney
March 31, 2015

F74-1 Thank you for your comment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has taken this comment into consideration in developing the BLM Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
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