The DRECP CA DESERT plan targets Silver Valley, including Yermo, Daggett, and my home town of Newberry Springs, as a prime area for development of massive renewable energy projects. I wish to join my voice to San Bernardino County’s objection to such development—along with the objections of many others.

The County recommends that the DRECP consider eliminating DFA designations in Apple Valley, unincorporated Apple Valley, Phelan (south of SR 18 between US 395 and the Los Angeles County line), Stoddard Valley, Helendale, Lucerne Valley, Johnson Valley, Newberry Springs and along historically sensitive sections of California Highway 66.

--SB County DRECP Position Paper, 3 February 2015

This is our home. We do not want it to be turned into an industrial area.

Within the last couple of years, a rather small solar installation was installed less than two miles from my home. The disturbed earth has created a huge dust problem. In high winds, visibility on Newberry Road is reduced to zero. Our cars have been sandblasted. My neighbor was trapped in her car for hours during a wind storm before the CHP rescued her and took her home, leaving her new car out in the storm. The windows in the car had to be replaced and the car repainted. Our natural desert view has been replaced with large solar panels. In the evening, when the sun is lower in the sky, the glare from the panels adds a glare in the eyes of a driver.

We do not want to live in a forest of wind generators with their towers obscuring desert vistas and their noise. We have chosen to live here where we are because of the natural environment of open spaces, some agriculture, the open view of the mountains, the uncluttered horizons. Please do not take that away from us.

Sincerely,

Richard Nazarenus

Newberry Springs, CA
Response to Comment Letter F82

Richard Nazarenes
February 19, 2015

F82-1 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). 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 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.

F82-2 Windblown and fugitive dust are a primary concern throughout the DRECP area, and approved projects would need to implement appropriate dust control measures. Although all criteria pollutants would be addressed through project-specific mitigation, including construction emissions mitigation plans and fugitive dust control plans, the Conservation and Management Actions (LUPA-AIR-3, LUPA-AIR-4 and LUPA-AIR-5) specifically focus on avoiding PM$_{10}$ and PM$_{2.5}$ emissions by controlling dust.

F82-3 Glare has been identified as a potential adverse visual impact and is analyzed in the Final EIS, please see Chapter IV.20, Visual Resources.

F82-4 This comment has not resulted in a change in the document, but BLM has taken it into consideration.