

Docket Optical System - Docket Number 09-RENEW EO-01/Scoping

From: Gary Thomasian <gtomato@peoplepc.com>
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Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office;

The focus of the DRECP executive summary recommendation is to avoid, minimize and mitigate adverse ecological impacts and contribute to the conservation of imperiled native species while accommodating energy development in appropriate areas.

The recommendation to place energy projects in already disturbed areas should be this agencies US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) prime directive but instead a "no regrets" strategy will take precedent and the resulting destruction of native species such as the Desert Tortoise and other flora/fauna will happen. This is in direct conflict with DRECP recommendations and FWS mission statement .

Since the general public is often denied public access to environmentally sensitive areas, how can you now allow access to sensitive habitat areas by the solar industry and not think that adverse effects will be mitigated? You know that keeping intact large contiguous stretches of land is what is necessary for species survival.

As the former Mayor and City Councilman from Murrieta as well as serving on the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) as chairman, and with my current position as Board Member of the Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza Resource Conservation District, I've worked with you and the Carlsbad office on advancing the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) goals and policies in promoting development in disturbed habitat areas while protecting and accumulating contiguous habitat land areas. You and I both know that saving all pieces of habitat is impossible nor needed, but quality high value landscape must be protected from this "huge environmental experiment."

Common sense tells me that installing solar panels on all roof tops within metropolitan areas will avoid this fragmentation of our desert landscape and still achieve our Energy Independence. The Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) has given out too many land leases to solar companies with no adaptive management and monitoring plans in place to know if this experiment will work. With no actual projects in place accumulating scientific information, this Washington/Sacramento Directive only looks good on paper. This rush to meet some political time line is preposterous.

Let's stop the Urban Sprawl in our desert,

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