

3980 Elmwood Ct.
Riverside, CA 92506

May 13, 2012

California Energy Commission
Docket Office MS-4
Docket #09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
09-RENEW EO-1	
DATE	MAY 13 2012
RECD.	MAY 16 2012

Dear Commissioners:

I am a member of a 75 year old Landspeed Racing club and a member of the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA). As a historian for our club, the Road Runners, I am very familiar with the history of our sport and the challenges we have faced over the years in finding and maintaining suitable dry lake areas to conduct our racing activities. This is especially true for El Mirage Dry Lake.

I understand that the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) recently developed by your Commission, is considering using the El Mirage Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Area as a potential site for wind and solar generation. I understand the need for renewable energy sources but ask you to consider the following:

- In past years landspeed racing has lost Muroc Dry Lake (renamed Rogers Dry Lake), Rosamond Dry Lake and Harper Dry Lake to the military. Only El Mirage exists for speed trials.
- El Mirage is the only facility in California that can accommodate landspeed trials, wind surfers, off-road vehicles, rock hounds and people who just want to get away.
- A majority of the Johnson Valley OHV area is under consideration for military use. If that happens it will push these recreational users into the El Mirage area. The 25,000 acres of the El Mirage recreation facility will not be able to handle wind, solar and recreational use.
- The El Mirage lakebed is fragile due to an extended drought. Removing land for solar and wind generation facilities will force more people onto the lake bed and in short time destroy the surface.
- The Southern California Timing Association was the only steward of El Mirage from 1937, when the organization was formed, until the BLM assumed control of the area. Over the last 10 years the SCTA has formed a partnership with both the

BLM and Friends of El Mirage to both preserve the lakebed and improve the overall recreational facility. This is the only partnership of its kind.

- The landspeed community, Friends of El Mirage and the BLM have invested our time and considerable money to make El Mirage a great place to recreate. The public owns these lands; it is what they are intended for. This facility serves San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties as well as all Californians. It should remain as is.

There is a lot of other desert area available that will let you achieve your goal of providing 33% of California's electric generation needs via wind and solar by 2020. Please remove the El Mirage OHV area from your list of lands being considered. The amount of area available for recreational use is ever shrinking. El Mirage meets the needs of a diverse recreational community. We cannot afford to lose any part of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerald L. Cornelison

CC:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
2269 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515