

Keizer, OR
5/13/12

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

DOCKET OFF RENEWEO-1
DATE 5.13.12
RECD. 5.17.12

Honorable Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that the El Mirage BLM recreation area is being considered in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan as a possible site for wind and or solar power generation. As I am an advocate for alternative power sources I can certainly understand the need for additional sites for wind and solar and I applaud your efforts to find them. However, as a motor sports enthusiast and specifically a land speed racer I am very concerned about any effort to develop those power recourses at the El Mirage site.

While El Mirage may seem like just a parched and windy alkali flat to the vast majority of Californians, to the land speed community it is iconic. Long before World War II speed trials were conducted at El Mirage and today, generations of racers, many of them descendants of those land speed pioneers, come to the lake six times yearly to test their cars and motorcycles against the clock. Perhaps more important, they come to spend time with other racers, the family of creative and talented innovators who share their passion for the last truly amateur motor sport. I can site myself as an example. I have heard and read about El Mirage since my teens and at at age 72 I make the two thousand mile round trip to the California high desert as often as possible to race. Many others come from even greater distances. I can't speak for the land sailors, ultra-light flyers, television and movie producers, off road vehicle enthusiasts and no doubt others who use the lake, but I can say that for land speed racers, El Mirage is as iconic as the Pacific Crest Trail is to hikers and Pebble Beach is to golfers. It is a California treasure that deserves to be protected from development – even development with a noble purpose.

Sincerlay,



Martin L. Doerfler