

# DOCKET

09-RENEW EO-1

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Monday, May 21, 2012

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Create a renewable energy future and protect our desert National Parks.  
[DRECP NEPA/CEQA Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01]

Dear California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Director David Harlow and members of the California Energy Commission,

I believe that we need to invest in a renewable energy future to help buffer us from the worst impacts of climate change and to enhance our national security. But wind, solar, and geothermal projects can harm wildlife corridors, air quality, water resources, and night skies in our desert national parks including Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve. These projects should and can be located in a way that doesn't jeopardize our national treasures and gateway communities that depend on recreational tourism.

“As we peer into society's future, we—you and I, and our government—must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow.”

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Please give the highest priority to protecting our desert national parks and other ecologically sensitive areas in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. I oppose development Scenarios 4, 5, and 6 because they have unnecessary impacts to desert national parks. Scenarios 4, 5, and 6 would be harmful to iconic desert species like the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, and the golden eagle. These scenarios would also negatively impact viewsheds in the national parks.

“In permitting the sacrifice of anything that would be of the slightest value to future visitors to the convenience, bad taste, playfulness, carelessness, or wanton destructiveness of present visitors, we probably yield in each case the interest of uncounted millions to the selfishness of a few individuals.”

-- Frederick Law Olmstead

Ecological linkages are also critical in the desert. Please protect these ecological linkages, such as bighorn sheep corridors between Joshua Tree National Park and Palen-McCoy Wilderness area, wide-open landscapes like Silurian Valley, and precious

water resources such as those serving desert wetlands like Ash Meadows, Devil's Hole, and the Amargosa River.

“Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish—indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore—from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

Protecting our parks and wildlands preserves California's natural heritage and is also a sound economic investment.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Lish  
Olema, CA