

California Energy Commission
Docket Office MS-4
Docket #09-RENEW EO-011516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 09-RENEW EO-1
DATE 5-17-12
RECD. 52112

May 17, 2012

RE: El Mirage/Desert Renewable Energy Conservation (DRECP) Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen, user, and observer of the El Mirage Recreational area in the Mojave Desert. This special place has provided a great range of recreational opportunities for the community for the last 100 years. My introduction to the area came through my being involved with the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA) and our pursuit of holding land speed racing events at the dry lake bed. In this very special use of this Federal land I could not help but realize that it does reach out to a broad range of outdoor activities within a reasonable driving distance of the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Understanding the need to increase our green power is also a consideration of mine. I am an engineering professor at the University of Southern California, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and teach in the areas of systems architecting and engineering. Fundamental to the research and practice in this area of engineering is the understanding the trade-off of a variety of options for any complicated system. A general finding in studying the decision processes that occur in many large projects is that we tend to rush to decisions and action prior to digging deeply enough into the possible alternatives. To take a recreational area such as El Mirage and supplant it with equipment seems to be a failure of the system to protect our lands and allow for all citizens to continue using this land. It seems like there are plenty of available land areas in the desert for these plans to be developed that do not interfere with the recreation of the constituents.

I strongly urge you to consider other Federal lands for this energy project and I will be very happy to support the project. I think that many of my racing and engineering colleagues would agree with this.

Sincerely,



F. Stan Settles, Ph.D.
Professor, USC Viterbi School of Engineering
settles@usc.edu
562-714-2795 (Cell)