

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

From: Jill McCormick, Cocopah Indian Tribe, representative

To: Mark Purdy, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Desert District Tribal Liaison

Date: January 24, 2013

The Cultural Resource Manager for the Cocopah Indian Tribe requested that Mark Purdy, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Desert District Tribal Liaison, submit comments regarding the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) on behalf of the Tribe to the BLM California State Office with the option to submit additional comments at a later time. The following summary reflects comments made by Cocopah representative Jill McCormick at the El Centro Field Office on January 10, 2013.

Summary

Ms. McCormick expressed an interest in the criteria for weighing culturally sensitive locations based on maps submitted by tribes. She requested additional clarification about the criteria. Ms. McCormick explained that the Cocopah are concerned about submitting a map of sensitive locations to the BLM in regards to the DRECP and later finding that additional locations not previously identified by the Tribe were excluded and would not be taken into consideration during the evaluation process. She continued by stating that the Cocopah's interests are not exclusively archaeological sites. Ms. McCormick stated that it would be helpful to have a DRECP map that delineates locations identified for specific types of development, including solar and wind. Ms. McCormick stated that a pie chart would be helpful to have in the Power Point presentation rather than bar graphs. Ms. McCormick stated that the Cocopah are not in favor of a Programmatic Agreement for the DRECP as a part of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Ms. McCormick was interested in how the streamlining process will be conducted in regards to projects located in a DFA. She was interested in whether it would be the type of renewable energy technology or the location that would determine the streamlining process.