

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Reb Babcock [rebl58@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 11:10 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System; jchilders@blm.gov
Subject: DRECP Draft Alternatives: Protecting the Silurian Valley [09-RENEW EO-01]

Categories: Ready to Docket

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to ask the California Energy Commission and Bureau of Land Management to protect the Silurian Valley from unnecessary industrial development. Clean energy development is a great idea, but not when we sacrifice our wildest desert landscapes in the process. Please consider other options prior to making your final decision:

- The Bureau of Land Management and California Energy Commission should not allow energy development in the remote Silurian Valley, and should focus on encouraging the generation of clean energy on rooftops and on already-disturbed lands closer to our cities.
- The Silurian Valley should be designated as part of the National Landscape Conservation System, along with the other natural treasures of the Mojave Desert that provide intact habitat for wildlife and places for people to enjoy the outdoors.
- The mostly undisturbed Silurian Valley provides an important wildlife connectivity corridor between Death Valley National Park, the sky islands of the Kingston and Clark Mountains, the Soda and Avawatz ranges, and Mojave National Preserve to the South.
- The Silurian Valley is a scenic and natural escape for visitors to the desert, and it is rich in the history of human transportation across the Mojave desert, including the Old Spanish Trail and Native American cultural sites.
- The Silurian Valley has been acknowledged for its stunning scenery, with the second highest rating for visual resources under the BLM's visual resource management criteria, and the local community supports designating the two-lane road that crosses the area as a scenic highway.

Other desert areas in eastern California have been significantly impacted by human activities. Previously impacted landscapes, such as designated ORV areas, and areas where mining has taken place in the past would be much preferable sites for solar farms than relative untouched landscapes like the Silurian Valley.

Thanks you for your consideration of my thoughts!

Reb Babcock