

**Energy - Docket Optical System**

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**From:** J-D Bamford [jispoke@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2013 11:02 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

Mr. Childers,

I am writing to oppose the industrial (solar) development of the Silurian Valley. I have a large group of friends, along with myself, who retreat to the desert to enjoy its peace, solitude, and natural splendors. Death Valley, the Mojave Preserve, and the surrounding areas are among the most unique and fragile in the United States. The Silurian Valley has great natural and spiritual value, as well as appearing to be an important wildlife corridor between other preserved lands. I prefer that solar energy projects either be situated adjacent to interstate highways, as is being done near the CA/NV border, or closer to metropolitan areas on previously impacted (brownfield) sites. The bullet points below further detail my concerns.

- 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.
- Many of our pristine desert wildlands should be granted conservation status to maintain wildlife habitat connectivity and outdoor recreation options.
- 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.

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