Friends of the Desert Mountains

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California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN 72421
DEC 20 2013

August 14, 2013

James G. Kenna
State Director
Bureau of Land Management, California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Dear Mr. Kenna:

First, thank you for your partnership in working with the Friends of the Desert Mountains in the California desert. The collaboration between Friends and BLM successfully extends from the local level to the State level and onto the Federal level. Your help has enabled us to succeed.

As your partner for many years, we appreciate your consideration of our views on which of the many significant local lands we recommend be considered for inclusion into the NLCS. To that end and in an effort to "conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations," we offer the following recommendations for specific Coachella Valley lands to include in the National Conservation Lands system.

- Whitewater Canyon ACEC
- Big Morongo Canyon ACEC
- Willow Hole / Edom Hill ACEC
- Coachella Valley Fringe Toed Lizard ACEC
- Dos Palmas ACEC
- Chuckwalla Bench ACEC

Enhancing the protection of these ACECs by making them a part of the NCLS supports and coordinates with implementation of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CV MSHCP) where these ACECs are located. BLM has been a cooperator with the local agencies and state agencies in implementing the CV MSHCP . In its CDCA Plan amendments for the Coachella Valley, BLM committed to managing its lands in the CV MSHCP Reserve System consistent with the CV MSHCP Conservation Objectives.

We are extremely grateful for this opportunity to provide our input into which areas in the desert will be designated as National Conservation Lands, and we hope that you will seriously consider these recommendations as you and your team craft a proposed conservation strategy.

Sincerely,

John Purcell
Executive Director

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