

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED****09-RENEW EO-1**

TN 73968

NOV 10 2014



*Serious Drought.  
Help save water!*

November 6, 2014

Ms. Kristy Chew  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2011071092  
EIR/EIS

**Subject: Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)**

Dear Ms. Chew:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) SCH# 2011071092. The plan encompasses Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego and Tulare counties. The DRECP is a proposed multi-species plan intended to conserve the threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of southern California, while also facilitating the timely permitting of renewable energy projects to help meet the State's goal of providing at least 33 percent of electricity generation through renewable energy by 2020.

The Department's Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program is your partner in stewardship of the public interest, our part of which are the present and future mobility needs of California. We offer the following comments at this time:

Drainage

Ensure that any energy project roadways, components or construction activities do not adversely affect drainage for State highway and other parallel modal facilities by changing the quantity or quality of runoff that reaches the Right-of-Way (ROW) for that mode.

Landscape Architecture

Ensure each energy project considers the impact upon officially designated and eligible State Scenic Highways. For more information see the Landscape Architecture website:  
[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic\\_highways/scenic\\_hwy.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm)

Aeronautics

Address and mitigate any potential glare or light distractions for highway travelers and aircraft pilots. High towers and wind turbines along ridge tops should be avoided, and if present, should be clearly visible under all weather conditions.

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### Encroachment Permits

If an energy project's access road is unpaved (per page II.3-52, et al.), the apron at the highway must be paved. Existing highway access points could also merit improvements, and need to be permitted (if not already). See the following on road connections and driveway:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Appendix\\_J\\_\(WEB\).pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Appendix_J_(WEB).pdf)

During an energy project's decommissioning, reclamation of any such highway access points would also be done via the encroachment permit process.

Placement of utilities (e.g. transmission lines, etc.) within the State ROW is dependent on highway classification (i.e. conventional or expressway/freeway). Further information can be found in the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Manual:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Chapter\\_6.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Chapter_6.pdf)

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that is conducted on, over, or through State ROW requires an encroachment permit issued by Caltrans. Further information is available on the following website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>.

To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans clearly indicating State ROW must be submitted to the Encroachment Permits office in the appropriate Caltrans District to ascertain whether such a permit will be required. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans during the encroachment permit process.

Enclosed for your reference is a map of the Caltrans Districts and Counties within California, providing contact information for each Districts Encroachment Permits office.

As noted, each energy project proposal would undergo individual environmental review; during that phase Caltrans would offer project specific comments. Please consult with the following Caltrans districts:

<b>District</b>	<b>Counties</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
6	Tulare, western Kern	Michael Navarro	(559) 445-5868
7	Los Angeles	Dianna Watson	(213) 897-6696
8	Riverside, San Bernardino	Mark Roberts	(909) 383-4557
9	Inyo, eastern Kern, San Bernardino (SR 127)	Gayle Rosander	(760) 872-0785
11	Imperial, San Diego	Jacob Armstrong	(619) 688-6960

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For questions regarding this comment letter please contact Joshua Pulverman, Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Statewide Coordinator, Office of Sustainable Community Planning at (916) 653-0808, or at [josh\\_pulverman@dot.ca.gov](mailto:josh_pulverman@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



TERRI PENCOVIC  
LD-IGR Statewide Program Manager  
Office of Sustainable Community Planning

c: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse  
Michael Navarro, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 6  
Dianna Watson, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 7  
Mark Roberts, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 8  
Gayle Rosander, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 9  
Jacob Armstrong, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 11  
Tom Franklin, State Permit Coordinator

Enclosure



## District Encroachment Permit Offices



**District 01**  
1656 Union Street (95501)  
P. O. Box 3700  
Eureka, CA 95502-3700  
(707) 445-6385  
(707) 445-6317 FAX

**D01- Satellite Office**  
90 W. Lake Mendocino Dr.  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-4743  
(707) 463-4736 FAX

**District 02**  
1657 Riverside Drive  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-3400  
(530) 225-3097 FAX

**District 03**  
703 "B" Street  
Marysville, CA 95901  
(530) 741-4403  
(530) 741-4236 FAX

**District 04**  
111 Grand Avenue, 6th Floor  
P. O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623-0660  
(510) 286-4401  
(510) 286-4712 FAX

**District 05**  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 549-3152  
(805) 549-3062 FAX

**District 06**  
1352 W. Olive Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93728  
(559) 488-4058  
(559) 445-6510 FAX

**District 07**  
100 South Main Street, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 897-3631  
(213) 897-0420 FAX

**District 08**  
464 W 4th Street MS 619  
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400  
(909) 383-4526  
(909) 383-4224 FAX

**District 09**  
500 South Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 872-0674  
(760) 872-5215 FAX

**District 10**  
1976 E. Charter Way/MLK Jr Blvd (95205)  
P. O. Box 2048  
Stockton, CA 95201  
(209) 948-7891  
(209) 948-7232 FAX

**District 11**  
4050 Taylor St MS 110  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 688-6158  
(619) 688-6157 FAX

**District 12**  
3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100  
Irvine, CA 92612  
(949) 724-2567  
(949) 724-2265 FAX

\* Eastern Kern County and Northern San Bernardino County fall under D09's jurisdiction. Please contact the office if you have any questions.