

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Linda Castro <lcastro@calwild.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 8:10 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA
Attachments: CL Community Hiking Club.pdf

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

09-RENEW EO-1

TN # 74331

JAN 21 2015

Attached is a DRECP comment letter from the Community Hiking Club. Thank you.

Linda Castro
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California Wilderness Coalition
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Community Hiking Club

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December 8, 2014

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of California and am concerned about California's deserts being overdeveloped or inappropriately developed. I appreciate that the Bureau of Land Management, along with the CEC and other agencies, has issued the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan to attempt to identify areas where energy development in the deserts may be less harmful to plants, wildlife, scenery, recreation and other values, while also identifying places that should never be developed. I spend a lot of my time in our deserts, hiking, camping, rock collecting, wildflower viewing, and photographing the vistas, flora and fauna, both on my own time and with the Community Hiking Club. It is therefore very important to me that the BLM do everything in its power to protect the most pristine areas of our deserts.

There are many special places in our deserts that the DRECP does not go far enough to protect from renewable energy development. I ask the BLM to improve the Preferred Alternative of the DRECP by including the following places, in their entirety, in both Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Conservation Lands:

- Argos
- Ash Hill
- Big Maria Mountains and surrounding flats
- Bristol Lake
- Cadiz Valley/Iron Mountains
- California Valley
- Coso Range area
- Danby Lake
- Knight Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Malpais Mesa
- McCloud Flat
- Mule Mountains
- Orocopia Mountains area
- Osborne Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Palen Lake
- Pinto Mountains area
- Ragtown
- Red Mountain
- Riverside Mountains area
- Rodman Mountains area
- Sacramento Mountains
- Silurian Valley/Kingston Range
- Slate Range
- Snow Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Valley Mountain
- Vidal
- Whipple Mountains area
- Wildrose Wash (Panamint Valley)

I also ask the BLM to make the following changes to the Preferred Alternative:

- Recommend to Congress that it make National Conservation Lands off limits to new mining and mineral leases, with the exception of small-scale rockhounding activities;
- Designate National Conservation Lands as either Visual Resource Management Class I or II, so that approved activities will only cause limited changes to landscape character;
- Retain Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within National Conservation Lands (instead of removing that special management designation), so that there will be an added layer of protection for more specific values within these areas.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dianne Erskine-Hellrigel
Executive Director