

Electronic Mail (with Hard Copy to follow)

The Honorable Mike Connor
Deputy Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

January 22, 2015

Ms. Nancy McFadden
Executive Secretary to Governor Edmund Brown
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor and Executive Secretary McFadden:

The California Desert Renewable Energy Working Group has deep concerns about the recently released Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), California, 79 Fed. Reg. 57971 (September 26, 2014). The California Desert Renewable Energy Working Group is a dialogue among representatives of the renewable energy industry, the electric utility sector, and the environmental community which seeks to protect ecosystems, landscapes, and species while supporting the timely development of appropriately-sited renewable energy resources on public and private lands in the California desert.

We have been working together for over six years to advance the twin goals of renewable energy development and conservation in the California Desert. We were a key cooperative group in the success of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States (Solar PEIS). Our members have participated extensively in the DRECP stakeholder process, scoping phase, and ongoing plan development. Members of the Working Group continue to hope that the DRECP will provide the critically needed planning to facilitate development of renewable energy projects in appropriate locations while also providing for conservation of the fragile and unique California desert ecosystem.

As outlined in the attached letter, being sent to the DRECP agencies this date, we have some common significant concerns that we believe the agencies must address in order to develop and adopt final plans that meet the needs of industry and provide for critically needed conservation. With less than five weeks left in the comment period for the draft DRECP, we feel very strongly that time is of the essence in identifying potential remedies for these significant shortcomings. We urge you to provide the DRECP agencies with the time and resources necessary to address the shortcomings of the draft DRECP.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with each of you to discuss these issues and potential remedies to address them.

Sincerely,



Lisa Belenky
Center for Biological Diversity



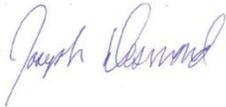
Barbara Boyle
Sierra Club



Laura Crane
The Nature Conservancy



Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife



Joseph Desmond
BrightSource Energy



Pamela Pride Eaton
The Wilderness Society



Shannon Eddy
Large-scale Solar Association



Garry George
Audubon California



Jesse Gronner
Iberdrola Renewables



Arthur Haubenstock



Raymond Kelly (A.T.)
NRG Renew, LLC



Rick Miller
EDF Renewable Energy



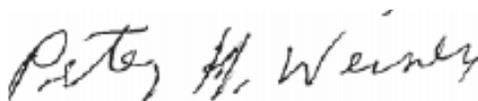
Helen O'Shea
Natural Resources Defense Council



Diane Ross-Leech
Pacific Gas and Electric Company



Thomas J. Starrs
SunPower Corporation, Systems



Peter Weiner
Paul Hastings



V. John White
Center for Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Technologies



James Woodruff
First Solar, Inc.

Cc: Elizabeth Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Ken Alex, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
James Kenna, California State Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission
Alexandra Pitts, Deputy Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kevin Hunting, Deputy Director, California Department of Wildlife