



## Tecopa Hot Springs Campground & Pools

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February 18, 2015

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

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN 74745

FEB 22 2015

Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA - Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

By way of introduction, I am an officer of Tecopa Hot Springs Conservancy, new concessionaire of Tecopa Hot Springs Campground & Pools, located in Tecopa, California. I am also an active board member of the Amargosa Conservancy. Further, I am a resident of Tecopa, California, and spend a great deal of time pursuing recreational and artistic interests in the surrounding desert landscape. It would be an understatement to say that I am very concerned about pristine desert lands being developed with large-scale renewable energy projects, especially since they will have a huge, negative impact on the Amargosa River watershed and the many endangered, rare, and endemic species that make that area their home. I would rather see renewable energy projects being built in urban areas.

While I am a proponent of green energy, including solar, I am opposed to the pillaging of pristine lands of any kind being developed into large-scale, industrial energy projects. An unfortunate side-effect of the push for solar is that renewable energy companies have been applying, and will continue to apply, to develop more and more of our public desert lands under the guise of the "green energy" bandwagon. I therefore 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 our deserts may be less harmful to plants, wildlife, scenery, recreation and other values, while also identifying places that should not be developed.

As a resident and business owner in Tecopa, California, I am appreciative of options and alternatives in any and all decisions. Thankfully, the DRECP has provided several options to hopefully meet the needs of the majority of individuals affected by renewable energy

development. With this in mind, and with the further caveat that this, in my mind, is not a perfect option, I prefer the number, location, and size of the lands being proposed as National Conservation Lands in Alternative 3. However, that Alternative still proposes too many areas being available for renewable energy development.

Assuming that the BLM proceeds with the Preferred Alternative, I would like to draw attention to the many places in our deserts where the Preferred Alternative does not go far enough to protect them from renewable energy development. And while I commend DRECP for including many important areas in National Conservation Lands in the Preferred Alternative (such as Afton Canyon, Amargosa River region, Chemehuevi Valley, Chicago Valley, Chuckwalla Bench, Dublin Hills, Indian Pass/Milpitas Wash, Mojave Trails/Route 66, Panamint Valley, Shadow Valley, Ship Mountains, and Upper McCoy Valley), I suggest that the BLM could improve the Preferred Alternative of the DRECP by including the following additional places, in their entirety, in National Conservation Lands:

- Argos (Rte. 66)
- Ash Hill (Rte. 66)
- Avawatz Mountains area (including the "Bowling Alley")
- Big Maria Mountains and surrounding flats
- Bristol Lake area
- Cadiz Valley/Iron Mountains
- California Valley (including Charleston View)
- Coso Range area
- Danby Lake area
- Lower Centennial Flat
- Malpais Mesa area (including northwestern Talc City Hills, Santa Rosa Flat, Conglomerate Mesa)
- Mule Mountains
- Orocopia Mountains area
- Palen McCoy/Ward Valley/Rice Valley area
- Panamint Valley (including Knight, Osborne, and Snow Canyons and Wildrose Wash)
- Pinto Mountains area
- Ragtown (Rte. 66)
- Red Mountain
- Riverside Mountains area
- Rodman Mountains area
- Rose Valley/McCloud Flat
- Sacramento Mountains
- Silurian Valley
- Slate Range
- Sperry Hills/Kingston Range
- Valley Mountain
- Vidal
- Whipple Mountains area

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

- 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; and
- 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 for your time, thoughtful attention and energy devoted to making wise decisions for the future of our lands and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Good". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the word "Good".

Nancy Good