

CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

1221 H STREET - SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA - 95814-1910

SERVING THE CATTLE
COMMUNITY SINCE 1917



PHONE: (916) 444-0845
FAX: (916) 444-2194
www.calcattlemen.org

February 23, 2015

Submitted via email to docket@energy.ca.gov

Chris Beale
DRECP Acting Executive Director
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

09-RENEW EO-1

TN 74763

FEB 23 2015

Re: Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01; Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) NEPA/CEQA—Request for extension

Dear Mr. Beale:

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) respectfully requests that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Energy Commission (CEC), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) extend the public comment period for the draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

While CCA is aware that the above agencies previously extended the public comment period for 45 days beyond the initial January 9 deadline, this comment period is nevertheless insufficient to allow impacted stakeholders to meaningfully and knowledgeably comment upon the draft DRECP. In recent days, CCA has received phone calls from concerned individuals who, despite their best efforts, have been unable to digest the thousands of pages comprising the draft DRECP, conduct supplementary research, and/or compose thorough comments in response to the proposal. To accommodate these concerned stakeholders, we respectfully request that BLM, USFWS, CEC, and CDFW once again extend the comment period.

An extension of the comment period would also allow CCA to more fully examine the impacts of the proposed action and all alternatives (including the "no action" alternative) upon California's livestock industry, and to meaningfully provide input to the agencies regarding the impact of these proposed actions upon ranchers. As the state's primary advocate for cattle ranchers, CCA is primarily concerned about the potential loss of livestock grazing acres on federal lands presented by the proposed action and its alternatives, and about attendant impacts upon private lands and private lands ranching. However, if CCA is to fully examine the proposed action and its alternatives, the potential impacts of those actions and alternatives to livestock grazing and related activities, and other items of interest within the draft DRECP (e.g., Wild Horses and Burros, Agricultural Land and Production, etc.), an extension of the comment deadline will be necessary.

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SELMA

We sincerely hope that BLM, USFWS, CEC, and CDFW will consider once again extending the comment deadline for the draft DRECP in order to permit CCA and a wide array of interested stakeholders to meaningfully participate in this expansive plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Wilbur", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Wilbur
Director of Government Relations
California Cattlemen's Association