California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
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February 17, 2015

Dear Mr Beale & Supervisor Ramos,

I've spent regular time in the southern California deserts for 25 years & have lived fulltime in Joshua Tree since 2001. My husband & I are self-employed & we bought property & made a home here because there is nothing as beautiful as the vast Mojave. Living here really puts everything into perspective. The desert is a harsh environment & also a fragile place.

I'm writing you because I am very concerned about plans to develop renewal energy in the desert. The DRECP is an opportunity to properly balance future energy needs with the imperative to preserve the desert ecosystem. I say "imperative" because the desert is irreplacable & we have no way to calculate the impact of its loss — on wildlife, & on the human spirit. I don't think we fully understand the value of an intact desert in our effort to combat global warming either.

What I notice first about the current draft of the DRECP is that all of the alternatives call for the production of 20,000 MW to be sited in the desert. This challenges the definition of "alternative." Real alternatives would have different, final outcomes, & given the problems with our current future needs calculations, reports about the potential of Rooftop Solar (20,000 MW possible in Los Angeles alone!), & the energy that we could create by

repowering existing projects, it is very likely that we could meet & even exceed current renewable energy goals without risking much, if any, of the precious desert.

The 20,000 MW planning assumption must be re-examined if we are serious about energy solutions that do not create problems, & require sacrifices, that we'll soon regret.

On that note, I strenuously object to the Soda Lake project which is being allowed to proceed outside of the DRECP process. This project is right door to the Mojave National Preserve & threatens bighorn sheep. It must be stopped until the DRECP process is complete if this plan is to have integrity.

Thank you for your efforts to get us to this point. Let's go further.

Sincerely,

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