2/17/2015

M. West

California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN # 74940
FEB 23 2015

Honorable Chairman Ramos
+
Mr. Chris Beale, DRECP Acting Exec. Dir.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you from Landers, CA which abuts a DRECP Variance Lands designation. This designation was revealed to me at a DRECP Public Hearing held in Lucerne Valley some months ago. This designation, near the historical attraction known as Giant Rock abuts my own private property. So you have my attention!

Since my involvement began I participated in the development of a Solar Ordinance for San Bernardino County and its SPARC process.

The DRECP is a monumental & commendable effort beyond Solar PEIS! Thank you.

I am concerned that the following need further emphasis, definition or study:

1) Wildlife & wildlife habitats need to be protected for all generations to come. Conservation must be durible & funded. Habitat corridors are vital to species preservation which is why "Soda Mtns. Solar" must be excluded from any DFA or Variance

2) Impacts to groundwater resources and quality must be ~~[illegible]~~ recognized, not ignored. Most desert basins receive little natural recharge and this resource should not be wasted trying to mitigat dust from the mass wasting of pristine, undisturbed, lands. Further, desert soils are not effectively compacted w/ water.

3) If our national and state goal is to reduce our carbon footprint then every ~~per~~ kilowatt of RE should be counted, not just the MW's generated from an industrial scale facility. Furthermore based on my knowledge, the 20,000MW "goal" is outdated. I realize that CA is now reaching for 50% RE but, since we are already near the initial 30% goal we have time to step back and learn from OUR RE efforts to date.

4) I am completely supportive of solar energy (RE) and have updated fixtures in my home as well as installed solar panels. If each and every citizen of our country took these two steps, studies show we would not need to build large-scale factories in places far from the load centers ("people") ~~and~~ which carry the unintended consequences of habitat destruction, lost property values, scaring of our open viewsheds and a long lasting affect on our piece-of-mind.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration;

Sincerely,

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Attachment 2. Places that require conservation in the Preferred Alternative of the DRECP

Active sand dunes
Avawatz Mountains (including "Bowling Alley")
Big Maria Mountains and surrounding flats
Bristol Lake (excluding mineral leasing and salt mining areas)
Cadiz Valley/Iron Mountains
Chuckwalla Bench
Coso Range area (including Olancha Dunes - not including OHV area)
Danby Lake
Desert Tortoise Natural Area (ACEC)
Eagle Mountain
Existing critical habitat
Joshua tree woodland habitat
Lower Centennial Flat
Lucerne Valley wildlife linkages
Malpais Mesa (including northwestern Talc City Hills, Santa Rosa flat & Conglomerate Mesa)
Microphyll woodlands
Morongo Basin wildlife linkages
Mule Mountains
Orocopia Mountains area
Palen Lake
Pinto Mountains area
Pisgah Valley (ACEC)
Red Mountain
Riparian areas
Riverside Mountains area
Rodman Mountains area (lands abutting existing Wilderness)
Rose Valley/McCloud Flat (area in DFA)
Sacramento Mountains
Silurian Valley (including BLM Special Analysis Area and additional acreage)
Slate Range
Soda Mountains – south slope
Sperry Hills/Kingston Range
Tehachapi Mountains and Southern Sierras – areas of conservation interest
Valley Mountain
Vidal
Wildlife Linkages
Whipple Mountains area