

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: National Parks Conservation Association <nPCA@npca.org> on behalf of Kathleen Hall Scanlon <nPCA@npca.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 12:43 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

09-RENEW EO-1

TN # 74958

FEB 23 2015

Feb 21, 2015

Mr. Chris Beale

1516 Ninth Street, MS-46, Dockets Office, MS-4, Docket No. 09-RENEW
EO-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Beale,

Someone who cares about the California desert and its renewable energy future, I believe it is essential that the 22.5 million acre Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan be finalized in a sound, safe, appropriate manner. With the goal of protecting our national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife, and wild places for future generations, I urge you to improve this important plan to better protect its public resources:

- * Protect Mojave National Preserve, adjacent Wilderness Study Areas, and key desert bighorn sheep habitat by prohibiting the Soda Mountain Solar project from being housed next door to Mojave NP. Better locations for the project clearly abound.
- * Protect the remarkable Silurian Valley adjacent to Death Valley National Park by designating the landscape as National Conservation Lands.
- * Protect Joshua Tree National Park better by preventing development in the Eagle Mountain region. We must safeguard public lands in this region from increased threats and protect important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and desert tortoises.
- * Forbid permitting renewable energy Development Focus Areas (DFA) to be designated in sensitive lands. The Lucerne region, the desert tortoise research natural area, Cadiz dunes area, and the Mountain Pass area should not be considered for DFAs.
- * Protect wildlife routes and bird migration areas by supporting the protection of Sonoran Desert Thorn Woodlands, Sand Movement corridors, and important wetlands like the Wild and Scenic Amargosa River, Salt Creek, and Bonanza Spring.
- * Analyze the ways this plan impacts the National Park Service. Despite the significant acreage of national parks in the plan area, the draft fails to include discussion of how renewable energy projects will impact their view sheds, clear night skies, and wildlife-rich neighboring lands.

Thank you for supporting preservation of the California Desert!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathleen Hall Scanlon
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