California Energy Commission
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FEBRUARY 17, 2015

TO: CHRIS BEALE, DRECP ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR JAMES RAMOS

MY WIFE, YEAR-OLD SON & I CALL THE INCREDIBLE MOJAVE DESERT HOME. MY WIFE & I MOVED HERE IN 2006 FROM THE CENTRAL COAST OF CALIFORNIA WITH THE INTENT TO LIVE IN JOSHUA TREE FOR JUST ONE YEAR WHILE I DESIGNED A HEALTH & ECOLOGICALLY FOCUSED PRIVATE RESIDENCE FOR A CLIENT. WE NEVER EXPECTED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR LOCAL DESERT & THE BEUTIFUL OUTER DESERT THAT SURROUNDS, BUT WE MOST CERTAINLY DID. MY WIFE & I HAVE BEEN LIVING IN JOSHUA TREE FOR MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS NOW AND OPERATE 3 BUSINESSES IN DOWNTOWN JOSHUA TREE. WE ARE STAKEHOLDERS IN OUR COMMUNITY, THE MORONGO BASIN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, AND OUR ENTIRE DESERT REGION AND THIS ISSUE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY & PROTECTION OF OUR LANDS IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME. I AM COMMITTED TO DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO SHOW MY SUPPORT FOR PRESERVING OUR WILD LANDS, WILDLIFE, VISTAS, OPEN SPACE, AND THE BEAUTY & SPIRIT OF THIS INCREDIBLE, LIFE-FILLED, MAGICAL DESERT.

WITH RESPECT TO THE DRECP I AM IN SUPPORT OF BROAD-VISION, LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE, BUT WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THIS IS DONE RIGHT WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE, EXPANSIVE DESERT VIEWS, PROTECTED AREAS, OUR NIGHT SKIES, OUR DESERT COMMUNITIES, AND OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE DESERT AS AN ECO-SYSTEM THAT IS CONNECTED TO OUR EXISTENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY ON THIS PLANET. BECAUSE OF THIS UTMOST IMPORTANCE, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST A REVISED & RECIRCULATED DRAFT PLAN DUE TO THE CURRENT DRAFT'S FUNDAMENTAL FLAWS IN STRUCTURE, POLICY AND SCIENCE, AS WELL AS QUESTIONABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY NEED ASSUMPTIONS.

DRECP NEEDS TO REEXAMINE THE PLANNING ASSUMPTION FOR 20,000 MW TO BE SITED IN THE DESERT. IN ADDITION THE DRECP MUST ACCOUNT FOR EXISTING AND APPROVED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS SINCE 2009 WHEN THE DRECP PLANNING AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. AND I CAN'T UNDEREMPHASIZE THAT WE MUST ADDRESS THE CONTRIBUTION OF DISTRIBUTED RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND YET TO COME. THE CALIFORNIA SOLAR INITIATIVE WAS A SUCCESS AND WE NEED MORE INITIATIVES LIKE IT. THERE ARE MANY AREAS THAT CAN HAVE ROOFTOP SOLAR INSTALLED, LESSENING OR EVEN MAKING UNECESSARY THE NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY. IN ADDITION TO THE UNDERUTILIZED "GOLD MINE" OF DISTRIBUTED RENEWABLE ENERGY, DRECP NEEDS TO CLOSELY EVALUATE EXISTING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS AND LOCATE THOSE AREAS THAT CAN BE RE-DEVELOPED TO TURN ABANDONED OR IMPROPERLY FUNCTIONING DEVELOPMENTS INTO EFFICIENT ONES. THERE ALSO NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY ON LOCATING AREAS IN EXISTING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS THAT CAN RECEIVE IN-FILL DEVELOPMENT. THIS MUST TAKE PRIORITY BEFORE CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENTS IN ANY UNDEVELOPED AREAS. "RE-POWER" AND "INFILL"!!!

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MUST BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN THE DRECP. THERE ARE SOME PLACES THAT THE DRECP HAS PROTECTED BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHMENT FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDED CONSERVATION PLACES. CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS NEED TO BE LASTING, DURABLE, ADEQUATELY FUNDED AND ENFORCEABLE. I SPECIFICALLY OPPOSE "GRANDFATHERED" HARMFUL PROJECTS ON OUR SENSITIVE LANDS INCLUDING IN THE SODA MOUNTAIN AREA AND SILURIAN VALLEY THAT JEOPARDIZE THE VERY SPECIES THAT THE DRECP SEEKS TO PROTECT

WITH DEEPEST SINCERITY & HOPES FOR A BETTER FUTURE,

NICHOLAS HOLMES
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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