California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN # 74984
FEB 23 2015

183

Dear Mr Beale, Supervisor Ramon, Jerry Harwin

We are at an important crossroad in planning for the future of our greatly valued deserts. Some of the most beautiful and wildest places in the world are here for us to cherish. I was raised in Ohio - its green & flat. I lived at the Beach for 20 years. It's cool and popular. I've lived in the Morongo Basin for 25 years now and love it more than anyplace I've had the privilege to know. I love the dark night skies & I love the abundant wildlife and living on a migratory path for birds.

I'm ~~sad~~ sad to say - much of what I love has changed. The night skies have lightend, the animals demenished, and the bird populations declined. Why? Encroachment of development. It has become abundantly clear to me that we must do all we can to mitigate our impact on the yet untouched areas. Lets not pave paradise with yet another huge solar project except where the land has already been surrounded, marred, or is no longer valuable to the birds & animals.

There needs to be conservation on both public &

private lands to meet State & federal requirements for species conservation and natural communities. These conservation designations need to be long lasting, durable, and please, adequately funded & enforceable.

It is highly important to me that wildlife corridors - truly open spaces, not just fenced in hallways - be specified, designated, monitored & protected. If we leave islands of habitat, species will not be able to move, evolve, and thrive. These critical areas need to be identified, designated as protected, and monitored. Thankfully DRECP has protected some of these areas, but more needs to be done and done scientifically, in a way that can be measured, verified, & the progress monitored to ensure the long term health of species & ecosystems like bighorn sheep and desert tortoises and our iconic joshua trees and yuccas. If the purpose of the plan, DRECP, is to fight climate change, it should not disconnect wildlife corridors that are critical to species movement due to global warming. I particularly am distressed by "grandfathered" harmful projects like the Soda Mountain area that jeopardizes the very species DRECP seeks to protect.

The plan for our deserts needs to be carefully

Constructed. Please include our local & county leaders in the decision process. Ensure our air & water are protected. Coordinate the efforts across the counties so projects aren't developed willy nilly but a vision of the whole projected. Solar & windmill fields are so destructive particularly to condor protection & migratory flocks of birds. Can we increase the density, use already disturbed lands, cover parking lots with solar fields creating shade while harnessing the sun. Please please please protect our pristine places. Protect our quality of life in our unique & marvelous desert.

Thank you for your time & consideration

Sherry B. Harwin
VP Operations, Catalyst Developement Corporation
7473 El Prado Court
Yucca Valley CA 92284
760-228-9653
Sherry@socketools.com