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California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN # 74987
FEB 23 2015

SUPERVISOR JAMES RAMOS
MR. CHRIS BEALE
ACTING DIRECTOR DRECP
SAN BERNARDINO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

DEAR SIRS.

AS A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LIVING IN JOSHUA TREE, I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INITIATION OF THE DESERT ENERGY RENEWABLE CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP). THE DESERT IS A PLACE THAT I FEEL DOES NOT GET FAIR CONSIDERATION BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TRUE WONDER AND IMPORTANCE THAT EXISTS IN THESE TREASURED AMERICAN LANDS. CONTRARY TO THE CONCEITS OF MANY, THE BLESSINGS FOUND IN OUR MAJESTIC DESERTS IS TUNED TO THE VERY CHORDS OF THE TONES OF OUR HUMAN SPIRIT AND THE TRUE SENSE DESCRIBING OUR HUMANITY IN EVERY RELEVENT RESPECT.

AS I LOOK TO THE NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE WORLD THAT MUST THRIVE WELL INTO THE MILLENNIUM AHEAD, A CAUTIOUS THOUGHT COMES

OKEY 1

TO MIND. WHY DESTROY THAT WHAT WE HOPE TO SAVE?
IF, PRISTINE DESERT ENVIRONMENTS ARE TO BE DESTROYED
BY WIDESPREAD THOUGHTLESS LAND MISUSE, WHAT WAS GAINED?
MY SUGGESTIONS ARE.

RE EVALUATE CURRENT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY REGIONS THAT ARE
NOW ON LINE AND IMPACTS ARE NOW REAL, AND BE SURE THE
EFFICIENCY IS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS POSSIBLE. AREAS THAT
ARE ALREADY IN USE SHOULD BE VERY PRODUCTIVE TO OFFSET NEEDS
TO DESTROY VIRGIN LANDS.

EXPANSION OF AREAS ALREADY DEVELOPED TO SOME EXTENT
SHOULD BE EVALUATED FOR HIGHER DENSITY OF ADDED SYSTEMS
AND KEEP THE PROJECTS AS CONSENTRATED AS POSSIBLE.

AS FOR THE NEW AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT, CONSIDERATION TO
SAVING AS MUCH PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE AS POSSIBLE SHOULD BE
ALLOWED. THE DESTRUCTION OF SAVABLE PLANTS, CACTUS, AND
OTHER ELEMENTS IS NEEDLESS AS AN EAGER PUBLIC WOULD SURELY
TRY TO TRANSPLANT MANY OF THE DISPLACED PLANTS, AT THE VERY
LEAST.

IN KEEPING WITH THE FACT THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC CARE FOR
THE WELL BEING OF OUR DARK SKIES AND MILKY WAY NIGHTS AND
THE FRESH CRISPNESS THAT IS FELT WHEN SPENDING TIME IN

(OVER 2)

DESERT LANDS, THE PROTECTION OF CRITICAL AREAS IS MOST IMPORTANT!

SCENIC CORRIDORS ARE NATIONAL TREASURES THAT MEET AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE. WE MUST KEEP THE EXPERIENCE AWE INSPIRING. THE LOCAL ECONOMIES BASED ON TOURISM IS REAL AND REQUIRE PROTECTION FOR THE FINANCIAL GOOD OF ALL.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LIST OF AREAS I HAVE COME TO KNOW AS IMPORTANT TO MANY BUT SEE THE ONES CIRCLED BY ME TO SHOW PERSONAL REGARD FOR ADDED CONSIDERATION.

I AM AN AMATEUR ASTRONOMER WHO HAS A VESTED AND ACTIVE CONCERN FOR STARRY NIGHT SKIES. MORE AND MORE WE ARE LOSING OUR DARK! THIS IS NOT GOOD! FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF OUR COSMOS AND THIS IS BAD.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS MUST BE SITED TO KEEP OUR DARKEST AREAS AS DARK AS POSSIBLE. NOT JUST FOR NOW, BUT FOREVER. SEEMS ONCE LIGHTS GET TURNED ON THEY NEVER GET TURNED OFF. THIS IS OF GREAT HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AS FLORA & FAUNA WILL SUFFER FROM UNNATURAL LIGHTING IN AREAS THAT NEED DARK.

PLEASE REFER TO THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION FOR DETAILS ON SCIENCE AND STATISTICS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ASTRONOMY I DO AS A PUBLIC OUTREACH AMATEUR

(OVER 3)

ASTRONOMER PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ SCDVA.ORG —
THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERT VIDEO ASTRONOMERS RELY ON DARK SKIES. WE NEED TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE INTRINSICALLY IMMEASURABLE ASSET KNOWING WE BUILD A MORE SENSITIVE AND CARING SOCIETY!
THIS IS PART OF THE MISSION AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL ASTRONOMERS AROUND OUR COUNTY AND WE NEED HELP PROTECTING THESE ENDANGERED RESOURCES.

IN CLOSING, PLEASE KNOW I SUPPORT DRECP TO DO A GOOD AND PROPER JOB OF PROTECTING OUR DESERT RESOURCES. PLEASE PUT PERMANENT AND LASTING PROTECTIONS ON OUR MOST IMPORTANT LANDS.

THANKS

TOM O'KEY
2-17-15

Tom 4

~~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

OKEY ADD #1