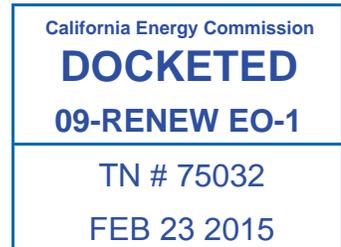


## Energy - Docket Optical System

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**From:** National Parks Conservation Association <nPCA@npca.org> on behalf of Leah Griffin <nPCA@npca.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2015 8:45 AM  
**To:** Energy - Docket Optical System  
**Subject:** DRECP NEPA/CEQA



Feb 22, 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,

As someone who cares about our California desert and has spent a great deal of time hiking and backpacking in our national parks I am keenly aware of the desert environment's fragility. I also know how important our future energy independence must come from developing renewable energy sources. That is why it is essential that the 22.5 million acre Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan is finalized in a thoughtful way. With this in mind and with the goal of protecting our national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife and wild places for future generations, I strongly encourage 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 not allowing the Soda Mountain Solar project to be sited next door to Mojave NP, as better locations for the project abound.
- \* Protect the remarkable Silurian Valley adjacent to Death Valley National Park by designating the landscape as National Conservation Lands.
- \* Better protect Joshua Tree National Park by preventing development in the Eagle Mountain region. We must safeguard public lands in this region from further threats and protect important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and desert tortoise.
- \* Do not allow for 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 how this plan impacts the National Park Service. Despite the significant acreage of our national parks in the plan area, the draft does not include discussion of how renewable energy projects will impact their viewsheds, clear night skies, and wildlife-rich neighboring lands.

Thank you for standing up for the California Desert!

Sincerely,

Ms. Leah Griffin  
3442 Fidler Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90808-2511  
(562) 822-5426