



# Fort Independence Indian Reservation

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California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN # 75286

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

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Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

February 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The **Fort Independence Paiute Tribe** is concerned about California's deserts being developed with large-scale renewable energy projects. We would rather see renewable energy projects being built in urban areas. However, we recognize that renewable energy companies have been applying, and will continue to apply, to develop more and more of our desert lands. We therefore appreciate that the Bureau of Land Management, along with the CEC and other agencies, has issued the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, to attempt to identify areas where energy development in our deserts may be less harmful to plants, wildlife, scenery, recreation and other values, while also identifying places that should not be developed.

There are many special places in our deserts that the DRECP does not go far enough to protect from renewable energy development. I ask the BLM to improve the Preferred Alternative of the DRECP by including the following places, in their entirety, in both Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and National Conservation Lands:

- Argos (Rte. 66)
- Ash Hill (Rte. 66)
- Big Maria Mountains and surrounding flats
- Bristol Lake
- Cadiz Valley/Iron Mountains
- California Valley
- Coso Range area
- Danby Lake
- Knight Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Lower Centennial Flat
- Malpais Mesa (including Upper Centennial Flat and Conglomerate Mesa)
- McCloud Flat/Rose Valley
- Mule Mountains

- Orocopia Mountains area
- Osborne Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Palen Lake
- Pinto Mountains area
- Ragtown (Rte. 66)
- Red Mountain
- Riverside Mountains area
- Rodman Mountains area
- Sacramento Mountains
- Silurian Valley
- Slate Range
- Snow Canyon (Panamint Valley)
- Sperry Hills/Kingston Range
- Valley Mountain
- Vidal
- Whipple Mountains area
- Wildrose Wash (Panamint Valley)

We also ask the BLM to make the following changes to the Preferred Alternative:

- Recommend to Congress that it make National Conservation Lands off limits to new mining and mineral leases, with the exception of small-scale rock hounding activities;
- Designate National Conservation Lands as either Visual Resource Management Class I or II, so that approved activities will only cause minimal changes to landscape character;
- Retain Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within National Conservation Lands (instead of removing that special management designation), so that there will be an added layer of protection for more specific values within these areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Stine".

Wendy Stine, Chairwoman