

February 19, 2015

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

California Energy Commission <b>DOCKETED</b> <b>09-RENEW EO-1</b>
TN # 75343 FEB 24 2015

**RE: Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Environmental Impact Report, and Environmental Impact Statement Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01**

To Whom It May Concern:

On Thursday, February 5, 2015 we walked into a public meeting on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) held at the Lone Pine High School. We were shocked and dismayed to find our property and the property of our neighbors were included and marked as "conservation land" to be acquired from private property owners. Our property is located in Cartago on the west side of Highway 395. As the owner of a large parcel of land (63 acres) we own some of the only private property in the southern end of the county that could be used for future development. Thirty one of our 63 acres is already zoned to be divided into one acre parcels. **We respectfully request that our property be removed from this designation.**

Inyo County is large in area but private land ownership is very limited (less than 2% is privately owned). For this DRECP to even suggest acquiring any part of that private land to put into conservation areas we feel will severely handicap the ability of the County to have any potential for growth. It could also cause major problems for our economy by reducing our fragile tax base. Any large construction projects like this can bring a false sense of an upswing and then when they leave we are plunged into a lower source of income. This would not be a good cycle for the County to try to plan for. We strongly feel that all private land should be removed from this plan. There is plenty of public land to use for Renewable Energy Sites and Conservation areas without buying up private land.

We are also concerned that no consideration has been given to what the current County General Plan is. People invest in property because the General Plan says the property can be used in a certain way and then a plan like the DRECP comes in and changes everything. We do not feel that this is good for the County or the people living here. Our County put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into forming a plan for Renewable Energy in our area. They held many public meetings and tried to formulate a plan that the residents could live with. They know the land, they know the water situation, they know how people live, and we feel they are better able to write a Renewable Energy Plan than someone sitting in front of a computer looking at a map or Google Earth picture that may or may not be accurate. We want to know how much consideration will be given to this work that has already been done.

We have two other concerns for our area: livestock grazing and recreation. These two items are a huge part of our economic security in Inyo County. We feel that if any grazing land is lost, that another area of equal size, in close proximity should be opened up to grazing so there is no net loss. We are concerned that the EIR/EIS's states that impacts to recreation will be unavoidable. This is totally unacceptable – our County cannot survive if our recreation dollars are impacted by this plan. These lands must remain available for multi- use recreation.

All in all we see this DRECP as asking the residents of Inyo County to give up a lot – private land, recreation land, grazing land, and economic stability with NO foreseeable benefits to the County or its residents. Yes, we have the best place for renewable energy, but we should not have to sacrifice so much so others can benefit.

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The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Troy C. Patton' and the bottom signature is 'Susan K. Patton'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.