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Basin and Range Watch Comments on RETI 2.0

Basin and Range Watch is a 501(c)(3) grassroots nonprofit that works to conserve desert landscapes and the quality of life of local communities. We oppose a general Western transmission expansion and support a much higher build-out of Distributed Energy Resources, such as rooftop solar, stationary local battery storage, and advanced grid technology.

We request a high energy-efficiency future, which would require much less utility-scale solar projects and large transmission lines.

We request that Distributed Energy Resources be given much more analysis in high-level planning.

We support using advanced transmission technology on existing transmission lines, such as advanced conductors that would increase the electricity carried on existing lines, before building new transmission lines.

We ask that RETI make public the planning process for environmental, cultural, and land use implications for the 50% RPS planning process, and analyze how the DER alternative would have much less impacts to deserts, viewsheds, local communities, and cultural and biological resources.

We ask that the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone, Imperial Valley solar Development Focus Areas, Victorville-Barstow area, and West Mojave/Antelope Valley/Tehachapi area not be used for further utility-scale renewable energy development due to unacceptable impacts to culturally significant landscapes, local communities, and biological resources.

We also request that the Lassen County CA wildlands full of sagebrush plains, volcanic mountains, and pronghorn antelope herds not be used for utility-scale wind projects or new transmission corridors, especially in view of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Thank you,

Laura Cunningham
Executive Director
Basin and Range Watch