



THE DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL INC.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY PANEL

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August 8, 1997

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RE: Harper Lake Corporation exemptions from wetlands protection

MICHAEL FROME
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The Board of Directors of the Desert Protective Council, Inc., have reviewed the proposal by the Harper Lake Corporation to exempt themselves from the environmental agreements they have made for the protection of the wetlands of Harper Lake in the Mojave Desert. The past agreement between the Harper Lake Corporation and the California Energy Commission was made to compensate for environmental damages incurred as a result of construction of their solar power plant. This agreement was freely entered into by the corporation and was acceptable at the time it was made.

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The Harper Lake wetlands have not been restored as promised, although the company did achieve its construction goal. Unfortunately, too many corporations have been unwilling to honor their agreements concerning restoration of environmental sites. Lessons to be learned from such actions indicate that restoration or money should be supplied up front before any construction permits are provided. However, in this case, the best that can be done is to continue to hold the corporation responsible for previous agreement.

This site was selected for environmental restoration because it provides critical desert wetlands habitat for a number of threatened and endangered species including the Yuma Clapper Rail. The BLM has been working to restore the Harper Lake wetlands in recent years and needs the assistance that honoring this agreement will provide.

The Desert Protective Council strongly opposes any exemption from this agreement for restoration of the Harper Lake wetlands.

Sincerely,

Janet A. Anderson
Board Member

