

## DOCKETED

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## **Save Our Desert**

The Mojave Desert of Southern California is a unique and beautiful place comprising the largest intact ecosystem remaining in the lower 48 states. Contrary to the popularly-held belief that it is a wasteland, this desert supports a wider diversity of life per acre than does a redwood forest, another icon of California's natural environment. Destruction of this land for the benefit of the energy industry is both short-sighted and unnecessary. We have seen from the Ivanpah project the folly of such ill-conceived complexes sited on fragile desert habitat. The Palen project will only replicate the this mistake.

I do not in any way dismiss the need for renewable energy, but destroying the planet to save it makes no sense at all. California is ripe with rooftops, parking lots, and other such examples of manmade infrastructure that can and should be called into immediate service as the preferred sites for solar energy generation.

California is the nation's (if not the world's) leader in technology development and innovation, yet we are following a 19th Century pattern of land use to reach our renewable energy goals. I implore you to stop the Palen project, and others like it, to save our Desert from piecemeal destruction.

Thank you.