



County of San Diego

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DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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DOCKET

09-RENEW EO-1

DATE SEP 12 2011

RECD. SEP 12 2011

September 12, 2011

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

Jim Bartel, Field Supervisor
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, CA 92101

Re: Comments for Scoping the EIS/EIR for the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, 09-RENEW EO-01 Renewable Energy Executive Order

The County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use (County) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and other available information regarding the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and appreciates this opportunity to provide comments. All of the land in the County's portion of the DRECP is unincorporated. The comments below include links to County guidelines and regulations that will be useful in preparing the environmental documents and analyzing the impacts of the proposed project in San Diego County. The County has the following comments:

1. A great deal of collaborative work between the County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, independent science advisors, and stakeholders has gone into preparation of a multiple species conservation plan for the eastern part of San Diego County (East County Plan). Approximately 71 animal species and 82 plant species are being evaluated for coverage by the plan; of these, 41 animal and 19 plant species are considered focal species for the plan. A preliminary draft map was released in 2008. Unfortunately, County budget constraints and staffing reductions have caused

progress of the East County Plan to slow. Information about the East County Plan, including the preliminary draft map and species being considered, is available at http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/mscp/ec_biology.html. The EIS/EIR should evaluate the DRECP's consistency with the draft East County Plan map.

2. The County has developed Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements for several topics. The guidelines are available at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/procguid.html> and should be used in analyzing the impacts of the proposed DRECP in San Diego County.
3. The County Board of Supervisors approved an update to the General Plan in August 2011. The updated General Plan is available at <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dplu/generalplan.html> and should be used for preparing the San Diego County portions of the EIS/EIR.

The County of San Diego appreciates the opportunity to participate in the environmental review process for the DRECP. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the environmental documents for this project or providing additional assistance at your request. If you have any questions, please contact Devon Muto, Chief of the Advanced Planning Division, at 858-694-3016 or devon.muto@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gibson", followed by the word "for" written in a smaller, cursive script.

Eric Gibson, Director
Department of Planning and Land Use