

September 12, 2011

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

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-RENEW WEO-1</b>	
DATE	SEP 12 2011
RECD.	SEP 13 2011

Submitted via e-mail to: [docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us) and U.S. mail

**RE: SCOPING COMMENTS FOR THE DRECP EIR/EIS**

The following scoping comments are submitted by Ron Schiller, 1156 N. Thorn St., Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

**COMMENT 1**

On August 16, 2011, six people traveled nearly 300 miles to provide scoping comments for the DRECP EIS/EIR only to be told that they would not be allowed to provide verbal comments during the meeting. Furthermore, the audience was not even allowed to ask questions after the initial presentations by the various agency representatives. It seems to be very evident that the agencies involved in this planning effort are not really interested hearing the concerns of the public who will be directly affected by the outcome of this plan.

There is a very high potential for the various energy projects to adversely affect access to public land that is important to local custom, culture, and traditional recreational access. Therefore, future public meetings should allow for accepting verbal public comments.

**COMMENT 2**

The format used for the Ontario scoping meeting is very objectionable because it involved the implementation of a variation of the "Delphi Technique", a tactic developed for the military by the Rand Corporation. It is often unethically used to manipulate the public involvement to support a predetermined outcome and discredit opponents. Subsequent public meetings regarding the draft EIS/EIR should allow for the public to make verbal comments for consideration during the development of the final environmental documents.

**COMMENT 3**

It is not fair for the agencies to hold a single scoping meeting in a distant location from the public who is directly affected by the proposed projects. The Ontario meeting was held on a Monday evening at a great distance from the actual area that will be adversely affected by the various energy projects. Because of the great distance and the fact that it was held on an evening during the work week, most people who had to work the following day could not attend. Future public meetings should be held in major communities centrally located within the boundaries of the DRECP planning area. At a minimum, public meetings should be held in a major city

located in the northern and southern portions of the planning area after the public has an opportunity to review the draft EIS/EIR.

#### COMMENT 4

Over the last 35 years the amount of public land readily available to the public for recreational purposes has greatly diminished because of restricted access caused by Federal and State legislation, endangered plants and animals, areas of critical environmental concern, Federal conservation planning actions, and various other reasons. As a result, the only remaining areas suitable for development for alternate energy production are either private land or public land that is very crucial for continued recreational activities such as gem and mineral collecting, equestrian activities, hunting, wildflower viewing, astronomy, historical society outings, and other activities that make up the custom, culture, and tradition of local communities within the boundaries of the planning area. The EIS/EIR must include provisions to mitigate these important activities. In cases where existing roads and trails can be rerouted around the energy project to destinations beyond the project and the EIS/EIR must make allowances to do so. However, in many instances it will not be possible to avoid unique recreational attractions. Every project will in some way diminish local recreational access which must be mitigated. This could be accomplished by reevaluating existing historic routes that were closed by previous land management activities by the BLM. There are many of these routes in the rural backcountry that led to areas with significant importance that could be simply redesignated to allow public access.

The EIS/EIR must encourage the use of private land such as fallow field or similar large tracts of non-public land to the maximum extent possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to express concerns regarding this issue of great importance to local residents. For additional clarification of these comments, please use the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Schiller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Ron Schiller  
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Ridgecrest, Ca 93555  
Phone: 760-608-3327