

California Energy Commission

Date: Wednesday, May 16,
2012

Docket Office MS-4
Docket #09-RENEW EO-011516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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DATE 5.16.12
RECD. 5.21.12

RE: El Mirage/Desert Renewable Energy Conservation (DRECP) Plan

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and user of the El Mirage Recreational area in the Mojave Desert. This special place has provided recreational activities for the community for the last 100 years. The area in particular is a special place for our family as we are involved with the Southern California Timing Association (SCTA) and their pursuit of holding land speed timing events at the dry lake bed. This is a place that generations of Californians have competed at. Hundreds, if not thousands of families have enjoyed wonderful times at this special place.

Just recently, the lake bed has been fenced and a BLM building has been built with taxpayer money to facilitate and expand the recreational uses much needed for big-city folks and local nature buffs alike.

On any given weekend, (and during the week, too) there are folks seen biking, hiking, land sailing, land speed racing, off-roading, nature watching and just plain relaxing in a safe and healthy fashion. El Mirage is like a big, safe, wonderful park to all of us, supervised by our BLM rangers.

To take a recreational area such as El Mirage and supplant it with equipment seems to be a failure of the system to protect our lands and allow for all citizens to continue using this land. There are plenty of available, un-inhabitated and un-used land areas in the desert better suited for these plans, that do not interfere with the recreational needs of the constituents.

These activities through the years have provided a positive economic impact to the greater Adelanto/Palmdale area and also given the community a place to enjoy their chosen recreational activities. Beyond that, the El Mirage recreational area provides a much larger stream of income to the community as a whole. This income is not apparent to the eye of someone who does not understand the entirety of the impact that The El Mirage Recreational Area has. We are but one group, there are many more that have reasons to be concerned about losing this precious resource.

Please consider other Federal lands for this energy project and we will be very happy to support the project.

Sincerely,



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