

To: California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
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Date: March 4, 2014

Subject: Joint comments of Conservation and Utility Stakeholders on the *Draft 2014 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update Scoping Order*

Docket Number: 14-IEP-1

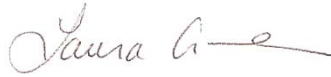
The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, The Wilderness Society, Audubon California (Conservation Stakeholders) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Edison (Utility Stakeholders) – together “Joint Conservation and Utility Stakeholders” – respectfully submit these comments to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) in regards to the *Draft 2014 Integrated Energy Policy Report Scoping Order* (Scoping Order).

The Joint Conservation and Utility Stakeholders are collaborating to work towards protection of ecosystems, landscapes and species while supporting the timely development of renewable energy resources in the California desert. We have been participating in the preparation of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) as a critical part of the effort to site renewable energy projects in the desert and provide for the conservation of the desert ecosystem. It is our hope that the DRECP – once completed – will lead to more certainty for project proponents and a more efficient permitting process for appropriately-sited renewable energy projects and related transmission; as well as enduring, science-based landscape-scale conservation of desert ecosystems and sensitive species.

We strongly support the Energy Commission’s decision to include the DRECP in the draft Scoping Order. We appreciate that the topic is broadly framed to include renewable energy planning, the DRECP and related local government initiatives and their relationship to transmission planning and procurement. These are significant topics, critical to the success of the DRECP, and the IEPR proceeding is an important forum for bringing together stakeholders, varied voices and expertise to inform the discussion and analyses.

The Joint Conservation and Utility Stakeholders thank the Energy Commission for the opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft 2014 IEPR Update Scoping Order* and look forward to continued participation in the proceeding.

Sincerely,



Laura Crane  
The Nature Conservancy



Helen O'Shea  
Natural Resources Defense Council



Kim Delfino  
Defenders of Wildlife



Garry George  
California Audubon Society



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