Energy - Docket Optical System

From: junebugnanna@clearwire.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:12 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA-CEQA Comment

California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-RENEW EO-1
TN 73925
OCT 29 2014

Dear DRECP Action Team,

Please accept these comments as part of the public comment period for the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I value the California desert for its rich natural heritage, wilderness landscapes, and outstanding opportunities for recreation, while also recognizing the importance of increasing the proportion of our energy use from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

One of the goals of the DRECP is to guide future renewable energy development toward places that have been previously degraded or provide very little ecological or cultural value. Despite this goal, the preferred alternative contains several landscapes currently identified as Development Focus Areas or Special Analysis Areas that should be removed from any development footprint and included in the conservation reserve system, either as National Conservation Lands or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. I urge your agencies to conserve, rather than identify for development, the areas below:

- All areas that have been identified as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics by either the BLM or citizen organizations. These special places have been documented for their natural features and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

- The Silurian Valley, where the majestic Avawatz Mountains and Kingston Range reside, are intact wild places where solar development should not be located. In the preferred alternative, a Special Analysis Area is located wholly within the proposed National Conservation Lands and overlaps with lands identified for their wilderness characteristics. The final DRECP plan should remove the Special Analysis Area here and add these public lands to the conservation reserve area.

- The public lands adjacent to the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness Area are prime Sonoran Desert wildlands that host a healthy bighorn sheep herd, although these lands are also slated as a Development Focus Area in the preferred alternative in the south and west. These places have outstanding wilderness characteristics and wholly compliment the rugged, natural values of the designated wilderness. I urge the agencies to remove the portions of the Development Focus Areas here that abut the designated wilderness and/or conflict with lands otherwise identified for their wilderness characteristics.

- The northwestern bajada of the Mule Mountains has been identified as having lands with wilderness characteristics, though it is proposed as a development focus area in the preferred alternative. While much of this development area may be appropriate, I urge the agencies to remove the portions that overlap with citizen-identified lands with wilderness characteristics.

- The Iron Mountains and Cadiz Valley of the California desert is the largest remaining unprotected roadless area in our state, though only half of this area is proposed for National Conservation Lands. The southern portion of this area is part and parcel of the northern portion and should be equally managed as National Conservation Lands.

In addition to ensuring that the above areas are removed from potential future development areas, I also urge the agency to maximize the reach of the National Conservation Lands and Area of Critical Environmental Concern footprint by including areas identified as lands with wilderness characteristics. Currently, the preferred alternative leaves at least 110,000 acres of citizen-identified wilderness lands out of the conservation reserve network. Particularly, the Sacramento Mountains and Bristol Lake areas are either undesignated for conservation or identified as Future Assessment Areas.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft documents and look forward to seeing the Desert Renewable Conservation Plan further improve its minimization of conflicts between future energy development and the conservation of our remaining wilderness heritage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Junko Card
Exeter California
United States

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Thorn Harris [thornharris@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

Internet connectivity in Victorville is provided by Verizon Wireless, or Time Warner Cable, Microsoft Windows is installed, and Microsoft Internet Explorer is the default browser.
Attachments: Files submitted in Microsoft Word format are acceptable. Do Adobe Acrobat files, or "PDF" files are not acceptable. Please submit in Microsoft Word format, unless you are instructed otherwise.
Electronic Signature: Electronic signature is acceptable. Please use a Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat signature. Do not use a scanned signature.
Electronic Mail: Electronic mail is acceptable. Please include your name in the subject line and your address, phone number, and email address in the body of the message.
Electronic Signature: Electronic signature is acceptable. Please use a Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat signature. Do not use a scanned signature.
Electronic Mail: Electronic mail is acceptable. Please include your name in the subject line and your address, phone number, and email address in the body of the message.
Thorn Harris, Victorville, Valley, CA.

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Debb Hengg [debbdoesgood@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:46 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

This e-mail is in protest to the energy projects being structured for our beautiful High Desert. s you may not be aware, there are just so many residents in Lucerne Valley who don't feel confident enough to speak or are simply lacking transportation to attend or computer skills to write ~ even tho they are vehemently opposed to these monstrous energy plans for our Valley.

So, for myself and on behalf of SO many others that I speak with each week ~ WE DO NOT WANT THESE ENERGY PROJECTS ANYWHERE IN OUR HIGH DESERT.

Relocate to areas of WAY beyond Barstow, areas with no residents and minimal wildlife that will be compromised or disrupted. The Desert Tortoise needs to be taken into consideration, too, as so often it is not and it's well-being is tossed aside with the sagebrush and cactus.

Our land and our lifestyles is too precious to be cluttered and ruined with ideas that will take years to serve the purpose for which you intend. Please do the right thing and honor our rights and our wishes as free Americans.

Debb Brenton
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Dave & Debb [dndheng@Reagan.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

I am strongly opposed and absolutely DO NOT WANT ANY of these energy projects in Lucerne Valley and literally, in our own backyards. There are SO many other venues for these projects that would be virtually out of sight and can handle these gargantuan projects where there are no people and little wildlife to be disrupted. Few of us want our wildlife put in danger or compromised in any way by ANY thing and fewer of us want our peaceful views and blessedly beautiful drives cluttered with what may or may not work for the purpose with which you intend.

Dave Henggeler
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: sspreserve [SilentSpiritsPreserve@reagan.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:32 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

This is to inform you that I am unable to make the meeting in Victorville this evening but that I STRONGLY and vehemently oppose ANY energy projects in our visually beautiful and spiritually peaceful Lucerne Valley.

There are many, many MANY other venues that would be less intrusive and more appropriate than upsetting an entire community and ecosystem right here in our literal lives & neighborhoods. Understandably, it will require more funds and manpower to put these projects in another location but that certainly takes a back seat to the lives of residents and wildlife that the current project locations would disrupt.

This should **not** be a political, monetary or ego decision, rather an effort to do the **right** thing NOT THE EASY thing and to protect the rights of Americans.

Most Sincerely,
Deborah
Lucerne Valley, 92356

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: sally.liu@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 2:28 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA-CEQA Comment

Dear DRECP Action Team,

Please accept these comments as part of the public comment period for the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I value the California desert for its rich natural heritage, wilderness landscapes, and outstanding opportunities for recreation, while also recognizing the importance of increasing the proportion of our energy use from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, and geothermal.

One of the goals of the DRECP is to guide future renewable energy development toward places that have been previously degraded or provide very little ecological or cultural value. Despite this goal, the preferred alternative contains several landscapes currently identified as Development Focus Areas or Special Analysis Areas that should be removed from any development footprint and included in the conservation reserve system, either as National Conservation Lands or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. I urge your agencies to conserve, rather than identify for development, the areas below:

- All areas that have been identified as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics by either the BLM or citizen organizations. These special places have been documented for their natural features and outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

- The Silurian Valley, where the majestic Avawatz Mountains and Kingston Range reside, are intact wild places where solar development should not be located. In the preferred alternative, a Special Analysis Area is located wholly within the proposed National Conservation Lands and overlaps with lands identified for their wilderness characteristics. The final DRECP plan should remove the Special Analysis Area here and add these public lands to the conservation reserve area.

- The public lands adjacent to the Big Maria Mountains Wilderness Area are prime Sonoran Desert wildlands that host a healthy bighorn sheep herd, although these lands are also slated as a Development Focus Area in the preferred alternative in the south and west. These places have outstanding wilderness characteristics and wholly compliment the rugged, natural values of the designated wilderness. I urge the agencies to remove the portions of the Development Focus Areas here that abut the designated wilderness and/or conflict with lands otherwise identified for their wilderness characteristics.

- The northwestern bajada of the Mule Mountains has been identified as having lands with wilderness characteristics, though it is proposed as a development focus area in the preferred alternative. While much of this development area may be appropriate, I urge the agencies to remove the portions that overlap with citizen-identified lands with wilderness characteristics.

- The Iron Mountains and Cadiz Valley of the California desert is the largest remaining unprotected roadless area in our state, though only half of this area is proposed for National Conservation Lands. The southern portion of this area is part and parcel of the northern portion and should be equally managed as National Conservation Lands.

In addition to ensuring that the above areas are removed from potential future development areas, I also urge the agency to maximize the reach of the National Conservation Lands and Area of Critical Environmental Concern footprint by including areas identified as lands with wilderness characteristics. Currently, the preferred alternative leaves at least 110,000 acres of citizen-identified wilderness lands out of the conservation reserve network. Particularly, the Sacramento Mountains and Bristol Lake areas are either undesignated for conservation or identified as Future Assessment Areas.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft documents and look forward to seeing the Desert Renewable Conservation Plan further improve its minimization of conflicts between future energy development and the conservation of our remaining wilderness heritage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sally Liu
Foster City California
United States

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: Rob Hendrickson [offroadracer516@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 12:05 PM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

No. 09-RENEW EO-01

I am Robby. I am also an avid user of southern california's desert lands. I enjoy hiking, biking and off roading. I am an environmentalist, who has great interest in seeing our beautiful desert lands(and all public lands) to be used in a responsible manner by ALL who want to. Your DRECP is proposing to use these lands in manner that is anything but responsible, and in no way good for the environment. It is extremely unfortunate that the deserts that so many love and enjoy are basically considered "non-environment" by a powerful few who likely spend little to no time enjoying them. Would you ever consider covering the lands surrounding Lake Tahoe with "renewables"? No, you would not, because it would mean cutting down forest to do so. The desert doesn't have forest, people who don't appreciate it see it as a barren wasteland. It is anything but. But that is exactly what it will be if this plan is put in place.
What is extremely frustrating to me is that these "renewables" you are wanting to line the desert with are again, anything but eco conscious, green, or "renewable". One windmill uses approximately 800lbs of rare earths, kills 100's of birds per year, has a realistic lifespan of 10 years, and if you have ever taken the time to drive through existing wind farms, you would see that they need wind to be of any use. The wind does not always blow in the desert. Photovoltaic solar panels have an average lifespan of 5 years, also uses high amounts of rare earths and needs to be clean to work well. Solar apitures are perhaps the most "green" but require constant cleaning, large cooling ponds, and like the others, vast tracts of lands to operate. Have you ever seen the environmental damage that the mining and processing of rare earths creates? would you consider these to be "green" practices? is the end product the only thing that needs to be "green"? Be honest with yourself and with your country. The only thing that is "green" about "green technologies" is the pockets of the companies creating them, and the campaign dollars those companies pour into washington.
Your DRECP will destroy the desert that I love forever. It will also do little to actually meet the energy demands of california. To give you an idea, 1 industrial windmill will average 25% capacity and produce 3,285,000 kWh per year. If we look at just household use, roughly 12 million homes, averaging 1,168 kWh/month.
12,000,000 x 1,168 x 12= 167,328,000,000 kWh/year / 3,285,000 = 50,936 windmills that would be needed to power ONLY the residents of California for one year. Lets say each windmill needs 20 acres (GE1.5mW requires 32 acres) you would need 1,018,720 acres!
If we were talking solar, using the absolute best example, 1 square meter of land=1,700 kWh/year,
you would need to coat 24,327 acres with solar panels. Knowing that you cannot coat the land with these panels, it would be a safe estimate that you would realistically need 5 to 10 times as much land? And again, I am ONLY talking about residential use.
I will be attending the DRECP meeting in Ontario and hope to have the chance to share these figures.