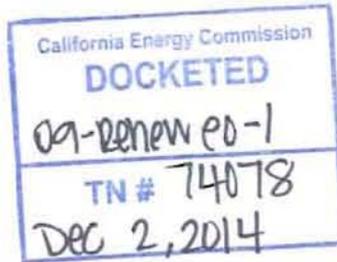


To: California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No.09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



From: Carol A. Lindemulder
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Date: 11.24,2014

Reference: DRECP comments (Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan)

Dear Sirs:

As a permanent resident of Borrego Springs, and native of San Diego, CA., I started coming down to the Anza Borrego Desert State Park when I was probably 10 years or younger, with my family. I feel I must comment in this EIR period for the DRECP. I find using a series of individual comment paragraphs to be easiest for my response.

ADDRESSING: Boundaries of Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, and use of word "Conservation"

1. Irresponsible inclusion of Borrego Springs community and immediate adjacent Park floor within DRECP

Borrego Springs is the official entrance to the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the largest state park in California. Many thousands of people visit our park every year. Most countries, and most of the United States do not have anything like this desert park, considering it's terrain, it's wildlife, and it's open residential community of peace, and natural wonders, available to all residents who live within the surround. It is also the only place for lodging of visitors, and availability of supplies, and also emergency services, like medical and fire. It has the only full service airport for the park as well.

Borrego Springs is not Palm Springs, and does not wish to be. My personal visitors have come from Germany, Australia, England, and Canada, specifically to see this amazing desert park. Many home owning residents here come from other places. We have residents from Canada, New York, New England, Utah, Arizona, Tennessee, and lots from the Pacific Northwest. Most do not arrive before October/November 1st. They should have an opportunity to comment. HOW HAVE THESE PEOPLE BEEN NOTIFIED?? A public hearing must be held in this community!

As the official entrance to this state park, there are three funding sources located within Borrego Springs, which fund land acquisition, education, tourism, and works of maintenance. These organizations are run primarily by volunteers. They are: The Anza Borrego Desert State Park Headquarters, The Anza Borrego Foundation, and the Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association. Without these groups, there would be far fewer funds available to protect this park. There would be little opportunity for maintenance, with our state limited budget. Volunteers do much of this work.

WHAT HAPPENS IF RESIDENTS lose property values, the areas lose tourism, businesses lose their customers, and the town loses people, volunteers as well as tourists and residents?

TURNING THIS COMMUNITY INTO AN ENERGY WASTELAND, totally without appeal to homeowners or tourists WILL CAUSE THAT TO HAPPEN.

2- WATER: A Life sustaining Resource which will NOT BE CONSERVED.

Borrego Springs has a lowering aquifer of concern to all. There is water restricting, and most residents are gladly participating. That includes our few resorts, working with our local water authority.

There are already two solar farms located within the town of Borrego Springs, (2 different companies) and we are notified that more are waiting in the wings. As an unincorporated community we are unable to mandate their activities once San Diego County has authorized their permits to operate. No one oversees their activities.

Because of the nature of desert, high winds, blowing sand and debris are often present. Unexpected need to wash the solar panels often, using far more water than their plans stated, (by a factor of 20-100%). They drill their own wells, use all the water they want without any controls.

IS USING UP A STATE PARK FOR AN OUTDATED ENERGY PROGRAM justification for draining the aquifer? This will surely kill the town, and THIS STATE PARK! WHAT ABOUT MITIGATION FOR SUCH A PLAN, to this community???????

Page two:

3- OTHER SPECIAL RESOURCES not available elsewhere in San Diego County.

Borrego Springs is the 2nd world DARK SKY community to be so designated. (there may be others now)

Astronomers from all over the world are come here to study our heavens, as most all other areas, even with telescopes like Mt Palomar, in San Diego County, are so light-polluted from our cities and towns, that this study no longer is as valid or available. THIS DARK SKY RESOURCE WILL LIKELY VANISH WITH ALL THE energy activity in the desert, and lights required to run it!

UC Irvine now has a special research facility, the Steele/Bernand Anza Borrego Desert Research Center, doing studies of our native natural resources, and bringing students and scholars here to Borrego Springs, and the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, to learn secrets which may benefit us all in the future. There is no other research facility like it here in the park, or this desert.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS RESEARCH, which will be polluted or made obsolete, when these energy fields take over?

We have already seen the destruction and changes to Ocotillo (town on Hwy 8) by the wind farm located there.

4- WILDLIFE (forget the word "Conservation" in this plan)

Others will comment on the fact that this plan not only DOES NOT bring any conservation of wild life, (or other resources above listed), but will destroy wildlife as it exists in Borrego Springs, and especially as migrations occur here throughout the town and surrounding desert.

Without water (see above) almost all species will not survive.

The migrating Swainson Hawks will perish as they try to cross these energy fields. They come here every year by the thousands for about 2 days, and we are a counting station.

How will the big horn sheep find water, as they come down in drought years to seek water in our town. We are a very necessary counting station, with volunteers from local residents helping to protect and maintain food and water resources in our Park.

Many, many other bird species will also perish once they get here! Records are now clear, birds lose wind in the burning rays from solar, and fall to the ground to perish. We also have in our town bobcats, coyotes, and many small species of all kinds of animals which are able to find some water sources here, if needed. Our desert plants are not the same as in Arizona, or other desert landscapes. Anza Borrego Desert State Park is unique to many species. Again, we Cannot use the word "conservation": as this DRECP is written.

The conclusions thus stated to implement this DRECP are faulty, with regard to boundaries drawn, loss of water resources, and conservation, and there is need to revisit the area with a hearing in Borrego Springs, so all affected can participate in this important decision!!

Thank You,

Carol A. Lindemulder

