From:	National Parks Conservation Association on behalf of Joan Siegwald
To:	Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject:	DRECP NEPA/CEQA
Date:	Friday, February 20, 2015 6:41:59 PM

Feb 20, 2015

Mr. Chris Beale

1516 Ninth Street, MS-46, Dockets Office, MS-4, Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Beale,

I am writing to ask that the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which covers 22.5 million acres in the California desert, be finalized in a way that will protect our national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife, and wild places for future generations. In order to better protect these resources, I encourage you to improve this important plan in the following ways:

1. Protect Mojave National Preserve, adjacent Wilderness Study Areas, and key desert bighorn sheep habitat by not allowing the Soda Mountain Solar project to be sited next door to Mojave National Preserve since there are many better locations for the project.

2. Protect the Silurian Valley adjacent to Death Valley National Park by designating the landscape as National Conservation Lands.

3. Better protect Joshua Tree National Park by preventing development in the Eagle Mountain region. Please safeguard public lands in this region from further threats and protect important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and desert tortoise.

4. Do not allow renewable energy Development Focus Areas (DFA) to be designated in sensitive lands. The Lucerne region, the desert tortoise research natural area, Cadiz dunes area, and the Mountain Pass area should not be considered for DFAs.

5. Protect wildlife routes and bird migration areas by supporting the protection of Sonoran Desert Thorn Woodlands, Sand Movement corridors, and important wetlands like the Wild and Scenic Amargosa River, Salt Creek, and Bonanza Spring.

5. Analyze how this plan impacts the National Park Service. Even though significant acreage of our national parks is included in the plan area, the draft does not discuss how renewable energy projects will impact their viewsheds, clear night skies, and wildlife-rich neighboring lands.

Thank you for protecting the California Desert!

Sincerely,

Ms. Joan Siegwald
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