From:	National Parks Conservation Association on behalf of Bruce Roberts
To:	Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject:	DRECP NEPA/CEQA
Date:	Friday, February 20, 2015 9:12:06 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,

It is essential that the 22.5 million acre Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan be finalized in a well thought-out manner. With the goal of protecting our national parks, wilderness areas, wildlife and wild places for future generations, I strongly encourage you to improve this important plan in order to better protect its public resources:

* Protect the 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 the Mojave NP, since better locations for the project exist.

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

* Better protect Joshua Tree National Park by preventing development in the Eagle Mountain region. Public lands in this region must be safe-guarded from further threats and important habitat for desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and desert tortoise should be protected.

* 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.

* Do not allow renewable energy Development Focus Areas (DFAs) 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.

* Analyze how this plan impacts the National Park Service. Despite the significant acreage of our national parks in the plan area, the draft does not include discussion of how renewable energy projects will impact their view-sheds, clear night skies, and wildlife-rich neighboring lands.

Thank you for standing up for the California Desert!

Sincerely,

Mr. Bruce Roberts
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