From:	Sierra Club on behalf of Daniel Ferra
To:	Energy - Docket Optical System
Subject:	Protect California deserts while building a renewable energy future (DRECP NEPA/CEQA)
Date:	Friday, February 20, 2015 6:44:02 PM

Feb 20, 2015

California Energy Commission
CA

Dear Energy Commission,

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) must include long-lasting wildlife protections, preservation of key landscapes like the Soda Mountain area and Silurian Valley, as well as resilient habitats for climate change adaptation. It also needs much more detailed analysis of where the right places are for solar, wind and geothermal power plants. Let's be sure we put energy projects on more degraded lands, and create stronger protections for wildlife habitat, water quality and air quality at the same time.

Please direct your staff to develop a revised Supplemental plan that addresses the draft's flaws, analyzes development areas in much greater detail, and provides protections for California's desert wildlife and habitats that last as long as the impacts of renewable energy development.

With water projects currently being planned in California, annual electricity demand of the state's water supply is expected to increase to 48,000 gigawatt hours from 42,000 gigawatt hours, Averyt said.

The largest individual consumer of electricity in California is the State Water Project, the set of pumps and aqueduct system that sends water from Northern California to residents and farmers in Southern California.

Water-related energy use represents 19 percent of California's electricity consumption, using 30 percent of the state's natural gas and burning 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel annually, according to a 2014 Congressional Research Service report. Up to 40 percent of a city's government's energy bill can be consumed by its water and wastewater treatment systems, and up to 13 percent of U.S. electric power use nationwide is water-related, the report says.

Across the West, about 20 percent of total electric power generation is used for supplying and heating water, including the region's most energy-intensive water project, Central Arizona Project. The CAP stretches 300 miles and climbs 3,000 feet in elevation before delivering Colorado River water to Phoenix.

"I find it really interesting that in the current situation and in a future where we have diminished water supplies as a consequence of climate variability and change, we're pumping water from great depths and great distances and over great mountain ranges that can compromise our ability to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions depending on where the electricity is coming from," Averyt said.

The issue becomes more pressing as both state and federal policies call for greater efficiency in the use of electricity and the current drought makes the need to secure water supply for a growing population all the more acute.

"The overarching story is, will energy intensity and emissions go up or down in the future?" said Robert Wilkinson, professor of water policy at the University of California-Santa Barbara serving as an advisor on the California State Water Plan. "They could easily go either way."

We need Sustainable Energy and Water Policies, a California Residential and Commercial Feed in Tariff would help create a great foundation to survive.

A California Residential Feed in Tariff would allow homeowners to sell their Renewable Energy to the utility, protecting our communities from Poison Water, Grid Failures, Natural Disasters, Toxic Natural Gas and Oil Fracking. It would also create a new revenue stream for the Hard Working Taxpaying, Voting, Homeowner.

Sign and Share this petition for a California Residential Feed in Tariff.
http://signon.org/sign/let-california-home-owners

Sincerely,

Mr. Daniel Ferra
2857 N Los Felices Rd Unit 114
Palm Springs, CA 92262-0636
(760) 407-9443