

Notice of Preparation

To: Via Certified Return-Receipt U.S. Mail

State Clearinghouse, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Responsible Agencies and Trustee Agencies
(See attached list)

From: California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report on the Proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

The California Energy Commission (Commission) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for purposes of preparing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be the Co-Lead Agencies for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) component of what will be a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) environmental document. The Service is publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIS concurrently with this NOP. The EIR/EIS will also address a possible amendment by BLM to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended. The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

For public agencies, we need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, if any. Your agency may need to use the EIR/EIS prepared by our agency if you have authorities related to implementation of the DRECP. For others, we are interested in your views about the scope and content of the environmental information that are of interest to you or affected organizations you represent.

DRECP Notice of Preparation

Three public scoping meetings are scheduled to take place at the following times and locations, where you may learn more about the project and submit written comments:

August 16, 2011, 7–9 p.m. Doubletree Ontario Hotel Lake Gregory Ballroom 222 N Vineyard Ave. Ontario, CA 91764	August 24, 2011, 2–4 p.m. California Energy Commission Hearing Room A 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814	August 24, 2011, 7–9 p.m. California Energy Commission Hearing Room A 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814
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The presentation portion of the scoping meeting will be available via Webex at the start of the scoping meeting. Those who cannot attend in person may listen to the presentation portion. For information to attend the Webex portion of the scoping meetings, please see the instructions at the end of this notice. You may provide written comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS electronically by email to the Commission’s Docket Unit address or in writing. Please include the docket number 09-RENEW EO-01 and indicate Renewable Energy Executive Order in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Those submitting comments electronically should provide them by email in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to docket@energy.state.ca.us. Please include your name or organization’s name in the file name. **One paper copy must** also be sent to the Energy Commission’s Docket Unit. Please hand deliver or mail an **original** copy to:

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

Submit comments within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of this NOP, by **September 12, 2011**, at the address shown above to the attention of Kristy Chew. For public agencies, we will need the name and contact information of a contact person.

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN EIR/EIS**

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Energy Commission (Commission) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will initiate the preparation of a joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and for a possible amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended.

The Commission is the lead agency under CEQA for considering approval of the DRECP. The Service and BLM are the federal co-lead agencies under NEPA. The Service will consider approval of the DRECP as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). BLM will consider approval of a possible CDCA Plan amendment.

The DRECP comprehensively addresses how participating entities with jurisdiction over renewable energy and transmission projects and related facilities in the deserts of California will conserve natural communities and species pursuant to the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP Act) and FESA. The DRECP is a proposed multi-species HCP intended to conserve threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of southern California, while also facilitating the timely permitting of renewable energy projects to help meet the State's goal of providing at least 33 percent of electricity generation through renewable energy by 2010 and the Federal government's goal of increasing renewable energy generation on public land.

The DRECP is intended to serve as a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under Section 2800 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code and a multiple species HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of FESA. As planned, the approved DRECP and associated permits would provide renewable energy developers and entities undertaking DRECP conservation efforts with authorization for the incidental take of certain endangered, threatened, and special-status plant and animal species for covered activities (as defined in the DRECP). Such authorizations would be granted by agencies that are formal participants in the DRECP.

The BLM, in compliance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, will consider the DRECP in its analysis as the basis for a possible amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended. The BLM issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for this purpose on November 20, 2009 (74 FR 60291). With this notice BLM announces the joining of the EIS for the possible CDCA Plan amendment with the Service's EIS for the DRECP. The Service and BLM will serve as co-lead agencies on the EIS. For

further information on the potential CDCA Plan amendment, please refer to the BLM November 2009 *Federal Register* notice of intent.

Responsible agencies under CEQA include state and local agencies that will approve the DRECP or take actions to help implement it. This potentially includes agencies that have jurisdiction over renewable energy projects within the DRECP Planning Area that elect in coming months to become formal “plan participants” in the DRECP. At this time, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is identified as a responsible agency, because of its role in approving the DRECP under the NCCP Act.

Several other state and local agencies have been identified as potential responsible agencies based on their jurisdiction over covered renewable energy projects, related facilities, or conservation actions within the DRECP Planning Area, but these agencies have not signed the DRECP planning agreement. Some of these agencies might decide to become plan participants in the DRECP, which will make them responsible agencies under CEQA. The potential responsible agencies include the California Public Utilities Commission, the State Lands Commission, and counties with land within the DRECP Planning Area.

In addition to being a responsible agency, CDFG is an agency with legal jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California (trustee agency), as well as with jurisdiction over fish and wildlife resources and CDFG-administered lands within the Planning Area. Besides CDFG, three other trustee agencies have been identified for the DRECP EIR/EIS: the State Lands Commission, which controls state-owned “sovereign” lands within the DRECP Planning Area; the California Department of Parks and Recreation, which manages state park land within the area; and certain campuses of the University of California, which have Natural Reserves System sites within the area.

In addition to the Service and BLM, several federal agencies may be approving or funding aspects of the DRECP and will be consulted during development of the EIR/EIS. These include the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Department of Defense.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At both the federal and state levels, recent energy policy includes increased targets for electricity generated from renewable energy sources. Physiographic conditions in California’s deserts and their proximity to areas of heavy electricity usage offer renewable energy potential of statewide and national significance. Renewable energy and transmission development is proceeding throughout this region. California’s deserts also support a variety of special-status species and other sensitive biological and natural resources. The DRECP will establish the structure to balance renewable energy development and biological resource conservation across the California desert region. The following provides a summary of the context within

which the DRECP was developed. Additional information about DRECP is available at www.drecp.org.

California has long-established energy policies to promote renewable electricity generation. Established in 2002 under Senate Bill (SB) 1078 and accelerated in 2006 under SB 107, California's RPS is one of the most ambitious renewable energy standards in the country. The RPS program required investor-owned utilities, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources until they reach 20% by 2010. Subsequent recommendations in California energy policy reports advocated a goal of 33 percent by 2020.

In November 2008, California's Governor issued Executive Order (EO) S-14-08 requiring an increase in the percentage of electricity generated by renewable resources to 33% by 2020. This standard became law with the enactment of Senate Bill No. 2 (Simitian), signed by the Governor on April 12, 2011 (Pub. Resources Code, § 25740, as amended by Stats. 2011, 1st Ex. Sess., ch 1X). Executive Order S-14-08 mandated the development of the DRECP, a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts. The proposed DRECP, when approved, is expected to further these objectives and facilitate the development of renewable projects in the California Mojave and Colorado deserts. The executive order also directed state agencies to streamline regulatory processes and minimize environmental impacts associated with this development. The DRECP was mandated to address permitting for incidental take of special-status species and impacts to their natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado deserts of California where much of the energy development will occur.

EO S-14-08 recognized the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT), which was created through Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the CDFG, Commission, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Service, along with an MOU signed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Governor of California in October 2009. The REAT is composed of representatives from the CDFG, Commission, BLM, and Service, and has a primary mission to streamline and accelerate the permitting processes for renewable energy projects, while contributing to the conservation of special-status species and natural communities at the ecosystem scale. EO S-14-08 directs the REAT to accomplish both of these goals in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of California through the DRECP.

EO S-21-09 was signed on September 15, 2009, directing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt regulations to help implement the previously established 33% state goal in EO S-14-08, but CARB has ceased work on implementing these regulations, because enactment of Senate Bill 2 made them unnecessary. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has studied a 33% RPS as part of its 2008 and 2010 Long-Term Procurement Plan proceedings. CPUC published an implementation analysis for the 33% RPS in June 2009 (CPUC 2009).

Department of the Interior Renewable Energy Goals

Secretarial Order No. 3285 establishes the development of renewable energy as a priority for the Department of the Interior (DOI) by amending and clarifying departmental roles and responsibilities, as well as establishing a Departmental Task Force on Energy and Climate Change. The order outlines how the Departmental Task Force on Energy and Climate Change will develop a strategy designed to increase the development and transmission of renewable energy from appropriate areas on public lands and the Outer Continental Shelf. It also specifies that the task force will develop best management practices (BMPs) for renewable energy and transmission projects to ensure environmental responsibility, establish clear policy direction for authorizing the development of solar energy on public lands, and recommend other actions to fulfill the goals of the order. Ultimately, the order establishes that the DOI will collaborate with other federal agencies, departments, states, local communities, and private landowners to facilitate the timely and responsible development of renewable energy and associated transmission while protecting and enhancing the nation's water, wildlife, and other natural resources.

The DRECP Process

The State of California and the Federal DOI signed an MOU in October 2009 that directs California agencies and DOI agencies to take the necessary actions to further the implementation of the Governor's EO S-14-08 and Secretarial Order No. 3285 in a cooperative, collaborative, and timely manner. The MOU provides several specific objectives to attain this goal that include development of the DRECP.

In furtherance of this process, a DRECP Planning Agreement was prepared according to the requirements of the NCCP Act. The Planning Agreement identifies the scope and goals of the DRECP, along with the process for preparing the DRECP and the roles and responsibilities of the Plan participants. The Planning Agreement was executed by the Plan participants, consisting of the CDFG, the Commission, BLM, and Service, in May 2010.

The DRECP management team consists of representatives from the REAT agencies (i.e., the Commission, BLM, CDFG, and Service), the Governor's Office, DOI, and the California Natural Resources Agency. This management team provides direction to the DRECP Director and Assistant Director. Independent Science Advisors (ISA) provided input during the planning process. The consultant team receives direction from the DRECP Director and Assistant Director in the preparation of analyses and DRECP documentation.

The DRECP Stakeholder Committee consists of representatives from the renewable energy industry, environmental groups, electric utilities, REAT agencies, other federal land management entities, counties, Native Americans, outdoor recreation groups, and other interest groups. The Stakeholder Committee provides input to the DRECP management team

through the planning process, feedback on interim products, and a forum for public participation. Working groups provide a forum for focused discussion of key planning issues. Four working groups of the Stakeholder Committee have been established to date: the Covered Activities Working Group, Covered Species Working Group, Cultural Resources Working Group, and Resource Mapping Working Group.

Formal preparation of the draft EIR/EIS is commencing and is incorporating all necessary information as it is created in connection with and as part of the DRECP process. Work on the DRECP will continue, but the DRECP planning process has progressed to the point that analysis of the DRECP's environmental impacts under CEQA can begin.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Objectives

The overall DRECP program goals include the following planning goals as stated in the DRECP Planning Agreement:

- *Provide for the longer-term conservation and management of Covered Species within the Planning Area*
- *Preserve, restore, and enhance natural communities and ecosystems that support Covered Species within the Planning Area*
- *Build on the competitive renewable energy zones identified by the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative*
- *Further identify the most appropriate locations within the DRECP Planning Area for the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects, taking into account potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and sensitive natural communities*
- *Provide a means to implement Covered Activities in a manner that complies with the NCCP Act, FESA, CESA, NEPA, CEQA, and other relevant laws*
- *Provide a basis for the issuance of Take Authorizations allowing the lawful Take of Covered Species incidental to Covered Activities*
- *Provide a comprehensive means to coordinate and standardize mitigation and compensation requirements for Covered Activities within the Planning Area*
- *Provide a framework for a more efficient process by which proposed renewable energy projects within the Planning Area may obtain regulatory authorizations and which results in greater conservation values than a project-by-project, species-by-species review would have*
- *Provide durable and reliable regulatory assurances, as appropriate, under the NCCP Act and the FESA for Covered Activities that occur within the Planning Area*

- *Identify and incorporate climate change adaptation research, management objectives, and/or policies into the final plan document.*

Covered Activities

The purpose of the DRECP is to contribute to the conservation of Covered Species and natural communities while streamlining listed species permitting for renewable energy development and transmission projects. To ensure that all relevant renewable energy projects are included and addressed, the Covered Activities are defined broadly as the exploration, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of public and private utility-scale renewable energy generation and transmission in the Planning Area.

The activity types covered by the DRECP include:

- Solar (photovoltaic [PV] and thermal) projects,
- Wind projects,
- Geothermal projects,
- Transmission facilities that support renewable energy development, and
- DRECP conservation actions.

Covered Activities generally include:

- Pre-project activities (geotechnical borings, site reconnaissance, and, depending on the type of project, installation of temporary meteorological stations or test drilling and trenching),
- Site preparation and construction,
- Related infrastructure requirements,
- Operations and maintenance,
- Monitoring, and
- Decommissioning.

Covered Species and Natural Communities

The DRECP will provide for the conservation of natural communities found in the plan area in order to meet the regulatory standards of the NCCP Act and to conserve the species covered by the Plan. The natural communities of planning interest were described in Exhibit B of the DRECP Planning Agreement. The natural communities in the DRECP include forest, woodland, riparian, scrub and chaparral, grassland and other herbaceous communities, wetland, dune, and barren and unvegetated communities. Covered Species are those species addressed in the

DRECP Notice of Preparation

DRECP for which conservation actions will be implemented and for which the participating entities will seek authorization for take under the NCCP Act and Section 10 of the FESA.

Species Proposed for Coverage by the HCP/NCCP (“Covered Species”)

Taxa	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ¹	State (CNPS List) Status ²
Federal and State Listed Species				
Mammal	Amargosa River vole	<i>Microtus californicus scirpensis</i>	FE	SE
Mammal	Mohave ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus [Xerospermophilus] mohavensis</i>	BLM	ST
Mammal	Peninsular bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis nelsoni</i> DPS	FE/BLM	ST/FP
Bird	California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	FE	SE/FP/CDF
Bird	Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	FS/BCC/BLM	ST
Amphibian/Reptile	arroyo toad	<i>Anaxyrus (Bufo) californicus</i>	FE	CSC
Amphibian/Reptile	desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	FT	ST
Plant	Amargosa niterwort	<i>Nitrophila mohavensis</i>	FE	SE
Plant	Peirson's milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus magdalenae</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	FT	SE
Plant	Triple-ribbed milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus tricarinatus</i>	FE	None
Plant	Lane Mountain milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus jaegerianus</i>	FE	None (CNPS List 1B.1)
State and Federal Unlisted Species				
Mammal	California leaf-nosed bat	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	BLM	CSC
Mammal	Mojave river vole	<i>Microtus californicus mohavensis</i>	Rank: GST1 S1	FESA: None
Mammal	Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>		CSC
Mammal	Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>		CSC
Bird	American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	FD/BCC	SE/FP
Bird	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FD/BCC/BLM	SE/FP/CDF
Bird	burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	BLM/BCC	CSC

Species Proposed for Coverage by the HCP/NCCP (“Covered Species”)

Taxa	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status¹	State (CNPS List) Status²
Bird	golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BLM/BCC	FP/CDF
Bird	Greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	BLM/FS	ST/FP
Amphibian/Reptile	flat-tailed horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	BLM/FS	CSC
Amphibian/Reptile	Mojave fringe-toed lizard	<i>Uma scoparia</i>	Rank=G3G4 S3S4	FESA:None
Plant	Barstow woolly sunflower	<i>Eriophyllum mohavense</i>	BLM	None (List 1B.2)
Plant	Desert cymopterus	<i>Cymopterus deserticola</i>	BLM	None (CNPS List 1B.2)
Plant	Mojave monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus mohavensis</i>	BLM	None (List 1B.2)
* FT status of western snowy plover: This status applies only to the Pacific coastal population and does not apply to the population occurring in the DRECP area				

¹Federal Status – FE: Federally Endangered; FT: Federally Threatened; FD: Federally Delisted; FS: Forest Service sensitive; BLM: Bureau Land Management sensitive.

²State Status – SE: California Endangered; ST: California Threatened; CSC: California Species of Concern; FP: Fully Protected (State fully protected species and their communities will be the focus of conservation actions, but take authorization cannot be issued). California Native Plant Society List - CNPS List 1B: Considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; CNPS List 2: Considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere; CNPS List 3: Plants which need more information; CNPS List 4: Limited distribution – a watch list.

PROJECT AREA

The DRECP generally covers the Mojave and Sonoran Desert regions of California and adjacent areas where renewable energy development may occur. The DRECP Planning Area includes the desert regions and adjacent lands in seven California counties: Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. The DRECP Planning Area (shown in Figure 1) covers approximately 22,587,000 acres.

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

CEQA Guidelines Section 15125 states that an EIR must include a description of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) is published, or if no NOP is published, at the time environmental analysis is commenced, from both a local and regional perspective. This environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by which a Lead Agency determines

whether an impact is significant. For the DRECP EIR/EIS, project impacts will be analyzed using existing physical conditions in the Planning Area at the time of this notice as a baseline.

ALTERNATIVES

The EIR/EIS will consider the following alternatives: (1) The proposed action, which includes approval of the proposed DRECP, the issuance of take authorizations consistent with the proposed DRECP under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the FESA, and approval of an amendment to the CDCA; (2) no action/no project, which would involve (no approval of the DRECP, Federal permit issuance, and CDCA amendment); and (3) a reasonable range of other alternatives. The EIR/EIS will include a detailed analysis of the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives and will evaluate them against the no-action alternative, which assumes the DRECP will not be implemented. The range of alternatives to be considered and analyzed will represent varying levels of conservation and impacts, and may include variations in the scope of covered activities; variations in the locations, amount, and type of conservation; variations in permit duration; or a combination of these elements.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The EIR/EIS will analyze resources that could be affected by DRECP covered activities within the Planning Area, including but not limited to impacts on the covered species listed above. The following categories have initially been identified as having potentially significant impacts from implementation of the DRECP and its covered activities or that require analysis under NEPA (e.g., Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice):

1. Agricultural Land and Production (Loss or Conversion of)
2. Air Quality and Attainment Status
3. Biological Resources
4. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases
5. Cultural Resources – Historic and Pre-historic
6. Flood Hazard, Hydrology, and Drainage
7. Groundwater, Water Supply and Water Quality
8. Land Uses, including DOD Military Operations
9. Native American Traditional Land Uses
10. Noise
11. Outdoor Recreation
12. Planned Land Uses and Policies

DRECP Notice of Preparation

- 13. Public Services, Safety Services, and Utilities
- 14. Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- 15. Visual Resources

It is anticipated the EIR/EIS will focus on potentially significant impacts in the above categories, but comments in response to the NOP, comments from scoping meetings, and ensuing analyses may identify additional environmental impacts or otherwise lead to a revision in the list of categories. The Commission will not determine which, if any potentially significant impacts are in fact significant until the EIR/EIS is prepared.

SCOPING MEETINGS

Joint Public Scoping meetings for the EIR/EIS are scheduled to take place at the following three times and locations:

August 16, 2011, 7–9 p.m. Doubletree Ontario Hotel Lake Gregory Ballroom 222 N Vineyard Ave. Ontario, CA 91764	August 24, 2011, 2–4 p.m. California Energy Commission Hearing Room A 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814	August 24, 2011, 7–9 p.m. California Energy Commission Hearing Room A 1516 Ninth St. Sacramento, CA 95814
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The presentation portion of the scoping meeting will be available via Webex at the start of the scoping meeting. Those who cannot attend but in person who would like to hear the presentation portion, please see the following directions (note that each scoping session requires unique login information). Because the remainder of the meeting will take place at multiple information stations, the Webex will conclude at the end of the opening presentations. The Webex will not be set up to receive scoping comments. Comments may only be accepted electronically by email or in writing.

Webex Instructions

COMPUTER LOGON FOR AUGUST 16, 2011, 7- 9 p.m.

- 1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 921 956 708
- 2. When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password: drecp@0816

COMPUTER LOGON FOR AUGUST 24, 2011, 2-4 p.m.

DRECP Notice of Preparation

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 928 857 947
2. When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password: drecp@0824

COMPUTER LOGON FOR AUGUST 24, 2011, 7-9 p.m.

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 921 654 002
2. When prompted, enter your information and the following meeting password: drecp@0824

TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

After logging in on the computer, an AUDIO CONFERENCE BOX will offer you the choice of phone connections:

1. To have Webex call you back: Type your area code and phone number and click "Call Me"
2. To call into the teleconference: Use the drop-down box to select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions
3. International callers: Click on the "Global call-in number" link in part (2) above
4. To listen over the computer: If you have the needed equipment and your computer is configured, click on "Use Computer Headset" and then "Call Using Computer" to use VoIP (Internet phone)

TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the unique meeting number:

August 16, 2011, 7-9 p.m. = 921 956 708

August 24, 2011, 2-4 p.m. = 928 857 947

August 24, 2011, 7-9 p.m. = 921 654 002

WEBEX TECHNICAL SUPPORT

For help with problems or questions trying to join or attend the meeting, please call WebEx Technical Support at 1-866-229-3239.

Anyone interested in more information concerning the DRECP EIR/EIS process, or anyone who has information concerning the study or suggestions as to significant issues, should contact Kristy Chew at 916-654-4818 or kchew@energy.state.ca.us. Also, information about the DRECP is available at www.drecp.org.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

This notice is being furnished to obtain suggestions and information from other agencies and the public on the scopes of issues and alternatives that will be addressed in the EIR component of the joint EIR/EIS. The primary purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues

DRECP Notice of Preparation

raised by the public and responsible and trustee agencies related to the DRECP and the covered activities that would be permitted under it. Written comments from interested parties are invited to ensure that the full range of issues related to the development of the DRECP and issuance of take authorizations are identified. All comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the official administrative record and may be made available to the public. **Written comments on this part of the Scoping process will be accepted for 45 days after the release of this NOP, until September 12, 2011.**

CEQA requires each Responsible Agency and Trustee Agency to provide the Lead Agency, within 45 days after receiving the NOP, with specific detail about the scope, significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures related to the Responsible Agency's or Trustee Agency's area of statutory responsibility that will need to be explored in the EIR/EIS. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)(1)(B), responsible and trustee agencies should indicate their respective level of responsibility for the project in their response.

You may provide written comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS in writing and by email to the Commission's Docket Unit. Please include the docket number 09-RENEW EO-01 and indicate Renewable Energy Executive Order in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Those submitting comments electronically should provide them by email in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to docket@energy.state.ca.us. Please include your name or organization's name in the file name. **One paper copy must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit. Please hand deliver or mail an original copy to:**

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



Kristy Chew, DRECP, California Energy Commission

Date: July 28, 2011

DRECP Notice of Preparation

