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Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
°C	degrees Celsius
°F	degrees Fahrenheit
AB	Assembly Bill
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AFB	Air Force Base
AVWS	audio visual warning system
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BGO	biological goals and objective
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
BP	Before Present
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CalWEA	California Wind Energy Association
C-AMA	California-Arizona Maneuver Area
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDPA	California Desert Protection Act
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEERT	Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLNWC	China Lake Naval Weapons Center
CMAGR	Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CREZ	Competitive Renewable Energy Zones
CRHR	California Register of Historic Places
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank

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Acronyms and Abbreviations (Continued)

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
CRPR	Cultural Resource Planning Report
CSC	California Species of Special Concern
CSLC	California State Lands Commission
CSP	concentrating solar power
DCL	Desert Conservation Land
DFA	Development Focus Area
DG	Distributed Generation
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
DPS	distinct population segment
DRECP	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
DWMA	Desert Wildlife Management Area
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FC	Federal Candidate
FE	Federally Endangered
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FP	Fully Protected
FS	Forest Service Sensitive
FT	Federally Threatened
ft	feet
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
FY	fiscal year
GIS	geographic information system
HBS	High Biological Sensitivity
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HMA	Hillside Management Area
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

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Acronyms and Abbreviations (Continued)

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
ISA	Independent Science Advisors
ISP	Independent Science Panel
JPA	joint power authority
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
km	kilometer
LLPA	Legally and Legislatively Protected Area
LSA	Large-Scale Solar Association
LTVA	Long-Term Vehicle Areas
LUP	land use plan
LUPA	land use plan amendment
LWC	lands with wilderness characteristics
m	meter
MBS	Moderate Biological Sensitivity
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCAGCC	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
MEML	Military Expansion Mitigation Land
mi	mile
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSCP	Multi-Species Conservation Program
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MSL	mean sea level
MTBE	methyl tertiary-butyl ether
MW	megawatt
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NCCPA	Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
NECO	Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert CDCA Plan Amendment
NEMO	Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert CDCA Plan Amendment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act

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Acronyms and Abbreviations (Continued)

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NVCS	National Vegetation Classification Standard
OHMVR Act	Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Act of 2003
OHV	off-highway vehicle
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PFEIS	Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement
PIER	Public Interest Energy Research
PL	Public Law
PRC	California Public Resources Code
PV	photovoltaic
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
REAT	Renewable Energy Action Team
RECO	Renewable Energy Coordination Office
REPG	Renewable Energy Policy Group
RETI	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Areas
ROD	Record of Decision
ROW	right-of-way
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standard
RV	recreational vehicle
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SE	State Endangered
SEZ	Solar Energy Zones
SHP	State Historic Park
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SNR	State Natural Reserve
SO	Secretarial Order
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
ST	State Threatened

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Acronyms and Abbreviations (Continued)

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
State Parks	California Department of Parks and Recreation
SVRA	State Vehicle Recreation Area
TCE	trichloroethylene
TCP	traditional cultural property
TTG	Transmission Technical Group
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VRI	Visual Resource Inventory
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VSL	Visual Sensitivity Level
WECO	Western Colorado Desert CDCA Plan Amendment
WECS	Wind Energy Conversion Systems
WEMO	West Mojave Desert CDCA Plan Amendment
WHMA	Wildlife Habitat Management Area
WSA	wilderness study area

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Glossary of Terms

Adaptive Management: Adaptive management is a process for assimilating monitoring and research data and assessing the need to potentially adjust conservation actions.

Applicants: The agencies and jurisdictions applying to the Wildlife Agencies for permits for take authorization under Section 2835 of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Defined in section 103.(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, and regulation 43 CFR 1601.0-5(a). A BLM area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems of processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The ACECs are mapped elements in the DRECP Plan Area; as it relates to DRECP, ACECs are included as Desert Conservation Lands (DCLs), see definition below. Descriptions and maps of ACECs being considered in the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) are located in Appendix D.

Biological Goals and Objectives: Biological goals are the guiding principles for the conservation strategy that define the overall vision of the DRECP. Biological goals are typically qualitative. Biological objectives are conservation targets or desired conditions. They articulate a desired outcome resulting from implementation of the DRECP's conservation measures. Objectives provide a basis for assessing whether identified conservation actions measures will cumulatively achieve the Plan Goals. To the extent feasible, objectives should be measurable and quantitative.

California Desert Conservation Area: As defined in section 601 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

Conserve: As used in the Plan-wide Biological Goals and Objectives, includes land acquisition (either in fee title or through a conservation easement), other forms of land protection, including the contribution of additional legal protections to publicly owned land, and securing funding for land management and monitoring for native species and ecological processes, in addition to other conservation tools such as grazing allotment retirement, fencing, signage, patrolling, public education and awareness, habitat restoration, revegetation and enhancement, road and trail restoration and invasives control.

Conservation and Management Actions: Specific actions implemented to achieve the resource goals and objectives. Conservation actions for the protection of biological resources may include designation of increased protection on public land, private land

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acquisition and conservation easements, habitat enhancement and restoration, and reduction/removal of stressors and threats. Monitoring and adaptive management are essential to ensure conservation actions are effective. On DRECP BLM lands, conservation actions are referenced as “BLM Allowable Uses and Use Restrictions.”

Conservation Area Reserve System: The alternative-specific reserve design associated with each alternative analyzed in the DRECP; the conservation area reserve system for each alternative consists of the Existing Conservation (i.e., Legislatively and Legally Protected Lands (LLPs) and Military Expansion Mitigation Lands (MEMLs)), the BLM DCLs, and high and moderate biologically sensitive areas (HBS and MBS areas). Also referred to as “alternative-specific conservation area” or “alternative X conservation area.”

Conservation Planning Areas: HBS and MBS areas within alternative-specific conservation area reserve systems not included in LLPs or BLM Proposed Conservation.

Covered Activities: Development and conservation activities conducted by Applicants, Participating Special Entities, and Third Parties as described in the DRECP, that will receive permits pursuant to Section 2835 of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and/or Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act, provided these activities are otherwise lawful. Covered Activities include renewable energy development (geothermal, solar thermal, PV solar, wind), transmission and conservation activities associated with conservation area management and monitoring.

Covered Species (Proposed): Those species addressed in the DRECP for which the Applicants will seek permits for Covered Activities under Section 2835 of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and/or Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act or other statutes pertaining to those species.

Desert Conservation Lands (DCLs): For the purposes of the DRECP- areas identified as biologically, culturally, or visually sensitive, or to protect other natural systems or processes and to be managed for conservation values as part of the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA); DCLs on BLM lands in the DRECP include existing and proposed ACECs, National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) lands, and areas with a wildlife allocation.

DRECP Land Cover Map: The land cover map to be used in the DRECP as the baseline vegetation layer for DRECP conservation analyses. This single, comprehensive map will be assembled from the best available data and newly generated data to define the land cover types and vegetation communities in the Plan Area.

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Existing Conservation: Existing conservation lands comprise LLPs and Military Expansion Mitigation Lands (MEMLs); in the DRECP conservation analysis, these lands are assumed to be protected and/or managed under existing regimes.

Expected Outcomes: Expected outcomes are the expected results of implementing the conservation actions. In order to understand the value of each action, and to assess the overall conservation strategy, the planning process included various tools and analyses to make detailed and, where possible, quantitative estimates of expected outcomes from each conservation action.

High Biological Sensitivity Areas (HBS): Areas shown in blue colors on the DRECP Plan-wide Biological Reserve Design context map and as an element of conservation planning areas in the alternative-specific conservation area for each DRECP alternative. High biological sensitivity signifies areas where biological resources are more sensitive to perturbation, where biological resources are concentrated, and/or where highly sensitive biological resources occur. These areas were mapped using a variety of tools and sources of GIS data and other information, including:

- desert tortoise conservation areas and least-cost corridors (based on U.S. Geological Survey modeling, as modified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service);
- Mohave ground squirrel conservation areas and range;
- flat-tailed horned lizard management areas;
- major river corridors;
- desert linkage areas;
- sand source and transport areas;
- sensitive natural communities mapping. and;
- Marxan reserve selection modeling.

Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA): Described in section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), and in regulation 43 CFR 1600. A set of decisions that amends and establishes management direction for land within an administrative area. A BLM component of the DRECP. The DRECP BLM LUPA applies to the following existing BLM land use and resource management plans (RMPs): California Desert Conservation Area Plan (CDCA) and its RMPs, Western Mojave Plan (WEMO), Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan

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(NECO), and Northern and Eastern Mojave Plan (NEMO); Eastern San Diego County RMP; Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP); and Caliente/Bakersfield RMP.

Gigawatt (GW): Measure of energy equal to one billion watts.

Kilowatt (kW): Measure of energy equal to 1,000 watts.

Legally and Legislatively Protected Lands: Existing protected lands, including, for purposes of the DRECP:

- State and Federal Wilderness Areas
- National Parks
- National Preserves
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- California State Parks
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Conservation Areas (Ecological Reserves and Wildlife Areas)
- CDFG mitigation and conservation easements
- Privately held conservation areas (including mitigation banks and land trust-protected areas)
- State-chartered Conservancy lands
- Proposed Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas

Megawatt (MW): Measure of energy equal to one million watts.

Metrics: Metrics are specific attributes that will be measured to assess the performance of the conservation actions. Several metrics may be established for each conservation action. Metrics will feed into the overall monitoring program.

Moderate Biological Sensitivity (MBS): Areas shown in green colors on the DRECP Plan-wide Biological Reserve Design context map and as an element of conservation planning areas in the alternative-specific conservation area for each DRECP alternative. Moderate biological sensitivity signifies areas where moderately sensitive biological resources occur. These areas were mapped using the same tools used to map the HBS areas.

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Glossary of Terms (Continued)

Monitoring and Research: Monitoring and research are implementation activities intended to evaluate performance of the plan and develop new information that can be used to improve plan implementation through the adaptive management program. Information gathered from monitoring and research will be synthesized and evaluated to assess the performance of the overall conservation strategy.

National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS): In accordance with and as defined in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, section 2002(a),(b)(1)(A-F), and (b)(2)(D). A BLM land use designation to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, there is established in the BLM in the BLM the National Landscape Conservation System. For the purposes of the DRECP, the NLCS lands are included as part of the Desert Conservation Lands (DCLs), as defined above. Descriptions and maps of NLCS lands being considered in the LUPA are located in Appendix D.

Other Lands: Lands within the Plan Area that are considered unavailable for Covered Activities and unavailable for Existing, Proposed, or Planned Conservation. Other Lands include but are not limited to Military lands, BLM Open OHV lands, and Tribal lands.

Permittees: The agencies and jurisdictions that may receive permits from the Wildlife Agencies under Section 2835 of the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act and/or Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act, through the DRECP.

Plan Area: The geographic area of the DRECP as depicted in Exhibit X. The Plan Area includes areas proposed for covered activities and the area in which all conservation actions would occur.

Plan-wide Biological Reserve Design Context: The REAT Agencies mapped expression of the area from within which the alternative-specific conservation area reserve systems should be assembled to meet DRECP biological goals and objectives for the landscape processes, natural communities, and Covered Species. The methods used to develop the map are described in DRECP Volume I. Also referred to as “reserve design.”

Proposed Conservation: Desert Conservation Lands (DCLs) on BLM lands as reflected in alternative-specific conservation area reserve systems analyzed in the DRECP.

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Public Land (BLM): Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the United States acquired ownership.

REAT Agencies: The DRECP Renewable Energy Action Team comprised of representatives from the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Other participating agencies include the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), California Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Independent System Operator, the National Park Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): A defined in the BLM Land use Planning Handbook H-1601-1 (2005). Public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific structured recreation opportunities (i.e., activity, experience, and benefit opportunities). Both land use plan decisions and subsequent implementing actions for recreation in each SRMA are geared to a strategically identified primary market – destination, community, or undeveloped areas. In this document, existing and proposed SRMAs are shown as Recreation on DRECP maps. Descriptions and maps of SRMAs being considered in the LUPA are located in Appendix D.

Special Status Species (BLM): BLM designation that includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended: state-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species. Refer to BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy for more detail.

Stressors: Physical, chemical, or biological factors (or conditions) that affect covered species, natural communities, and/or important ecosystem processes. The precise contribution of each stressor to a species' population may be uncertain and there may be disagreement regarding which stressors are having the biggest effect. In many cases stressors interact and it may be a combination of various stressors that are affecting a species.

Travel Management Areas: On public land (BLM), polygons or delineated areas where a rational approach has been taken to classify areas open, closed, or limited, and have identified and/or designated network of roads, trails, ways, and other routes that provide for public access and travel across the planning area.

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Visual Resource Management Classes: BLM categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes, I-IV. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape. Refer to Table 4.3-2 for the class descriptions.

Wildlife Agencies: For purposes of this document, the Wildlife Agencies are CDFG and USFWS.

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