



Bollinger Consulting Group

landscape solutions for a thirsty world
www.bollingerconsultinggroup.com

January 23, 2013

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

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

09-RENEW EO-1

TN # 69266

JAN 24 2013

I am concerned that the “Description and Comparative Evaluation of Draft DRECP Alternatives” has serious shortcomings that will result in significant impacts to the Joshua Tree Gateway Communities, and the tourism-driven economy where I live and work:

- 1) Millions of acres of variance lands were added to the process that have not been evaluated scientifically to the extent needed. Lacking information on the potential impacts on the biological, cultural and social resources of our communities, the variance lands are not acceptable in any of the proposed Alternatives.
- 2) Our communities have made a large investment in conserving desert wildlands including The Wildlands Conservancy Pioneertown Mountains Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park and Mojave National Preserve. These lands should not be included in any of the Alternatives.
- 3) One of the local consequences of this process that we’re already seeing has been a speculative boom in small properties by solar developers, many in residential areas. These speculators are betting on transmission lines that will perpetuate inappropriate solar development.

In essence, this is not the smart, scientifically based process that we were promised. I see little focus on already disturbed land and instead a rush to develop pristine Mojave Desert land in what is one of the most biologically diverse and undocumented areas in the state of California. We know that extinctions are accelerated where biodiversity hotspots are disturbed (<http://www.pnas.org/content/108/32/12971.full>), and I look forward to participating in the DRECP’s process “to provide for the protection and conservation of California desert ecosystems” while meeting our renewable energy goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Bollinger

Deborah Bollinger, Principal
Bollinger Consulting Group