



DOCKET

09-RENEW EO-01

DATE JUL 29 2011

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July 29, 2011

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

Re: Docket # 09-RENEW EO-01 Renewable Energy Executive Order

To Whom It May Concern:

Congress transferred significant lands to Red Rock Canyon State Park under the 1994 Desert Protection Act. This dramatic geological landscape is next to the land that has been brought up as a possible alternative energy site by CEC. Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association (RRCIA) believes that an energy project developed adjacent to Red Rock Canyon State Park would have a negative impact on the park. RRCIA is committed to protecting Red Rock Canyon State Park for future generations to come.

The proximity of the Cantil aka Saltdale area, which was proposed by the CEC as one of the possible sites for alternative energy development is cause for concern. It would be imprudent and highly questionable to classify this land as being "lower quality" as was stated by the CEC representative who suggested that this was the case. The rationale that a piece of land if used in the past for agricultural use is open to be exploited and developed for any purpose, including the development of an alternative energy site, is myopic and short-sighted.

Creating healthy eco-systems by looking at an entire environment and its neighboring lands is critical to the well being of Red Rock Canyon State Park. The desert is a fragile eco-system, which needs to be addressed very carefully so as not to cause further harm. During the field trip on 7/20/11, the CEC representative made reference to the water tables at the Saltdale area, and how they had dropped due to agricultural procedures in the past. Any facility that is developed at that site would likely cause a further negative impact on the water table. Water is extremely important in the desert environment. It is an extremely valuable resource that needs to be protected for use by life that exists in the desert area of Red Rock Canyon State Park.

Red Rock Canyon State Park is made up of land that has been designated as state park land in order to preserve its extraordinary biodiversity as well as its valuable natural and cultural resources. We trust that you will recognize the fragility of this desert eco-system as well as the popularity of Red Rock to the public which come to use and appreciate this magnificent and unique landscape.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Neipris-Jones
On behalf of
The Board of Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association