

September 10, 2010

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

To members of the California Energy Commission,

I write this letter to state my full support for the recommendations of the Independent Science Advisors for the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Renewable energy is a worthwhile objective that can yield significant environmental and societal benefits. But renewable energy development – solar, wind or geothermal – should be not be located on fragile desert lands. The state and federal lands of the Mojave Desert represent a valuable and irreplaceable public resource. The long-term values of these fragile lands should not be sacrificed in the name of short-term energy concerns. Energy development projects should instead be restricted to de-graded agricultural fields and other previously disturbed lands.

By law, conservation plans are required to be informed by the best available science. The Independent Science Advisors are the scientists best able to assess the potential risks to pristine desert lands. As a scientist, citizen, and taxpayer, I urge the California Energy Commission to adopt the Advisors' recommendations and ensure that thorough environmental impact assessments be conducted for all proposed development on public lands.

Sincerely,

William B. Tyler
Institute of Marine Sciences
University of California, Santa Cruz
Long Marine Laboratory
100 Shaffer Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060