

Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.

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September 24, 2012

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



Re: Draft Independent Science Review for the California DRECP

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. (DTPC Inc.) and its supporters, I am submitting comments on the Review Draft of the Independent Science Review for the California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) in the wild and to establish preserves for the desert tortoise and other desert wildlife. The DTPC Inc., in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and other state and federal agencies, helped establish the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area in Kern County, California. For almost 40 years, the DTPC Inc. has been actively acquiring and managing lands, providing outreach programs, and conducting and supporting scientific research in and around the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area.

The DTPC Inc. agrees with the critiques and recommendations presented in the Draft Independent Science Review. We applaud the Independent Science Panel (ISP) for urging DRECP planners to update their databases and maps of private non-profit conservancy lands and to include these lands in the reserve design process, to ensure that mitigation lands continue to be managed for their agreed upon use, and to continue to conserve the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area. As highlighted in section 2.9.1 and Appendix D of the Independent Science Review, the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area is critically important, both for the protection of high quality desert tortoise habitat, and for research and adaptive management. This unique, highly-protected area should be excluded from renewable energy development.

We urge DRECP planners to act on the recommendations of the Independent Science Review to ensure the continued protection of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area and other established conservation lands, and to produce a scientifically sound plan that will be of real benefit for desert conservation.

Sincerely,

Mary Kotschwar Logan
Preserve Manager & Conservation Coordinator