

23 Feb 2015

Public Comment in re DRECP + Related Documents
c/o: California Energy Commission

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

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Thank you for allowing my comments. Examples given within comments meant to be guiding, not limiting to response discussion.

① Cumulative impacts, contributions toward:
No small group or single hunter made passenger pigeons extinct, but cumulative impacts . . .

Any contribution of energy projects to cumulative impacts on rare, threatened, endangered species, or species considered for protective status, should be considered significant impact and adequate mitigation I.D.ed, and required for project(s) implementation. Or project(s) should not be allowed on public lands?

② Year-round residents vs. seasonal or migratory species: Seasonal or migratory species use or travel through airspace or land? Any International Migratory Species Treaty(ies) or Agreement(s) relevant? Adequate mitigations should be I.D.ed, and required for project(s) implementation, or project(s) not allowed?

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- ③ Bats and omnivorous or insectivore Birds:
These animals are important to integrated pest management both a) to control insect pests on agriculture (major element of Cal. economy and U.S. food security) and b) to control mosquitos, (an important disease vector in urban population areas). Damages to these bats and birds mean need for more pesticides use -- bad for environment, bad for economy, bad for our health, esp. sensitive receptors.

What are potential significant impacts of energy project(s) use of public lands on these beneficial species? e.g., white lights (vs. green) on wind turbines at night disorienting birds? Sky reflections on solar project surfaces confusing birds at dawn, dusk or day (the bird hits window phenomenon on a big scale)? Will wind turbines in use create air current/pressure changes that will overwhelm bird or bat fliers or cause internal biological damages? Noise from projects "pollute" bat sonar? Can impacts be adequately mitigated? ^{who is} whose responsible? Otherwise, should projects not be allowed?

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④ Solar projects; better alternatives:

While substantial wind isn't everywhere, California has sunshine widespread. As energy transmission over distance results in energy loss, and large concentrated utility projects are more vulnerable (to creating large problems for citizens + customers) as to vandalism, security or severe weather-caused damages, wouldn't better alternative, to desert-use for large solar projects, be at-site-of-use or near-site-of-use solar panels projects on top or in commercial, industrial, and residential rooftops? A dispersed approach, integrating smaller projects on a smart grid and inverters/technology that also allows off-grid use would be more logical.

⑤ Public-incurred costs/impacts; but
Private-accrued profits/benefits:

Some investor-owned utilities (eg P.G. + E in Cal.) don't exactly have a history of putting publics, or even customers, safety and well-being high on their agenda. They are answerable to stockholders and shorter-term profit goals. Renewables projects on public lands should be owned and operated by public-owned utility Co.s

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Comment ⑤ continued:

TO the extent project use of desert land and airspace is use that excludes other potential public uses/benefits of desert resource, then project ownership and operation by public utility company (such as S.M.U.D., vs P.G. & E) also avoids further income/wealth disparity (concentrating wealth at the top, small % of overall U.S. pop., via Wall Street, stock investing). Public Utility (ies) make better stewards of public resources, at least in these cases.

⑥ End of project "useful life"; impacts:
Who is responsible, physically and financially for dismantling and removal of energy projects at the end of their "useful-life"?
How will this be done to not create significant negative impacts on the public lands, airspace, watershed/ground H₂O? Or will ~~be~~ there be a lot of trash, waste hazardous or otherwise, when projects no longer are economically viable?

End Comments. Thank You, BJ Klosterman