

DRECP

I believe that renewable energy is a great thing. I have solar. I envision the day when all new construction is mandated to have solar. But developing large, renewable energy plants wherever a renewable energy developer wants could be critical to the wildlife and ecosystems in the sensitive, desert areas. Without a solid conservation plan, the corridors could be cut off from the Big Horn sheep; tortoise could lose their grounds and birds could continue to be caught in the wind turbines. An estimated 37 species are living within the proposed areas. The wildlife linkages are crucial to their habitat. It is essential that an overall plan for renewable energy be implemented before any additional renewable energy is developed in the California deserts.

My suggestion would be to use already disturbed lands and to try to keep as much of the wilderness as is. I do think that having an overestimation of land needed to provide adequate renewable energy is preferable to an underestimation. This would keep unnecessary lands from being used arbitrarily and renewable energy plants from being developed where it's not needed. Thus, in the long run, protecting more land and wildlife.

I would like to see DRECP and County staff working with local communities. The desert population would appreciate more meetings to learn about the projects projected for their areas and to have an opportunity to voice their concerns, ask questions and suggest ideas. We would also like to have information about the plan to be more accessible. There could be reports to our local newspapers, T.V. and radio.

Of great concern, at this time, is funding for the implementation of the plan. Without reliable sources of funding; the endurance of the management and monitoring of the plan is shaky. We have no evidence of adequate funding, yet.

These are my concerns.

Thank you,

Barry Michael Shaw

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Yucca Valley

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