

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

P.O. BOX 942874, MS-32
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
PHONE (916) 653-1067
FAX (916) 653-4570
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN 73968

NOV 10 2014



*Serious Drought.
Help save water!*

November 6, 2014

Ms. Kristy Chew
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2011071092
EIR/EIS

Subject: Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

Dear Ms. Chew:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) SCH# 2011071092. The plan encompasses Kern, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, San Diego and Tulare counties. The DRECP is a proposed multi-species plan intended to conserve the threatened and endangered species and natural communities in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions of southern California, while also facilitating the timely permitting of renewable energy projects to help meet the State's goal of providing at least 33 percent of electricity generation through renewable energy by 2020.

The Department's Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program is your partner in stewardship of the public interest, our part of which are the present and future mobility needs of California. We offer the following comments at this time:

Drainage

Ensure that any energy project roadways, components or construction activities do not adversely affect drainage for State highway and other parallel modal facilities by changing the quantity or quality of runoff that reaches the Right-of-Way (ROW) for that mode.

Landscape Architecture

Ensure each energy project considers the impact upon officially designated and eligible State Scenic Highways. For more information see the Landscape Architecture website:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/scenic_hwy.htm

Aeronautics

Address and mitigate any potential glare or light distractions for highway travelers and aircraft pilots. High towers and wind turbines along ridge tops should be avoided, and if present, should be clearly visible under all weather conditions.

Ms. Kristy Chew
California Energy Commission
November 6, 2014
Page 2

Encroachment Permits

If an energy project's access road is unpaved (per page II.3-52, et al.), the apron at the highway must be paved. Existing highway access points could also merit improvements, and need to be permitted (if not already). See the following on road connections and driveway:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Appendix_J_\(WEB\).pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Appendix_J_(WEB).pdf)

During an energy project's decommissioning, reclamation of any such highway access points would also be done via the encroachment permit process.

Placement of utilities (e.g. transmission lines, etc.) within the State ROW is dependent on highway classification (i.e. conventional or expressway/freeway). Further information can be found in the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Manual:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/pdf/manual/Chapter_6.pdf

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that is conducted on, over, or through State ROW requires an encroachment permit issued by Caltrans. Further information is available on the following website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>.

To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans clearly indicating State ROW must be submitted to the Encroachment Permits office in the appropriate Caltrans District to ascertain whether such a permit will be required. Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans during the encroachment permit process.

Enclosed for your reference is a map of the Caltrans Districts and Counties within California, providing contact information for each Districts Encroachment Permits office.

As noted, each energy project proposal would undergo individual environmental review; during that phase Caltrans would offer project specific comments. Please consult with the following Caltrans districts:

District	Counties	Contact	Phone
6	Tulare, western Kern	Michael Navarro	(559) 445-5868
7	Los Angeles	Dianna Watson	(213) 897-6696
8	Riverside, San Bernardino	Mark Roberts	(909) 383-4557
9	Inyo, eastern Kern, San Bernardino (SR 127)	Gayle Rosander	(760) 872-0785
11	Imperial, San Diego	Jacob Armstrong	(619) 688-6960

Ms. Kristy Chew
California Energy Commission
November 6, 2014
Page 3

For questions regarding this comment letter please contact Joshua Pulverman, Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Statewide Coordinator, Office of Sustainable Community Planning at (916) 653-0808, or at josh_pulverman@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



TERRI PENCOVIC
LD-IGR Statewide Program Manager
Office of Sustainable Community Planning

c: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse
Michael Navarro, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 6
Dianna Watson, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 7
Mark Roberts, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 8
Gayle Rosander, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 9
Jacob Armstrong, Sr. Transportation Planner, Caltrans District 11
Tom Franklin, State Permit Coordinator

Enclosure



District Encroachment Permit Offices



District 04
 111 Grand Avenue, 6th Floor
 P. O. Box 23660
 Oakland, CA 94623-0660
 (510) 286-4401
 (510) 286-4712 FAX

District 05
 50 Higuera Street
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
 (805) 549-3152
 (805) 549-3062 FAX

District 06
 1352 W. Olive Avenue
 Fresno, CA 93728
 (559) 488-4058
 (559) 445-6510 FAX

District 07
 100 South Main Street, Suite 100
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 (213) 897-3631
 (213) 897-0420 FAX

District 08
 464 W 4th Street MS 619
 San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
 (909) 383-4526
 (909) 383-4224 FAX

District 09
 500 South Main Street
 Bishop, CA 93514
 (760) 872-0674
 (760) 872-5215 FAX

District 10
 1976 E. Charter Way/MLK Jr Blvd (95205)
 P. O. Box 2048
 Stockton, CA 95201
 (209) 948-7891
 (209) 948-7232 FAX

District 11
 4050 Taylor St MS 110
 San Diego, CA 92110
 (619) 688-6158
 (619) 688-6157 FAX

District 12
 3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100
 Irvine, CA 92612
 (949) 724-2567
 (949) 724-2265 FAX

District 01
 1656 Union Street (95501)
 P. O. Box 3700
 Eureka, CA 95502-3700
 (707) 445-6385
 (707) 445-6317 FAX

D01- Satellite Office
 90 W. Lake Mendocino Dr.
 Ukiah, CA 95482
 (707) 463-4743
 (707) 463-4736 FAX

District 02
 1657 Riverside Drive
 Redding, CA 96001
 (530) 225-3400
 (530) 225-3097 FAX

District 03
 703 "B" Street
 Marysville, CA 95901
 (530) 741-4403
 (530) 741-4236 FAX

* Eastern Kern County and Northern San Bernardino County fall under D09's jurisdiction. Please contact the office if you have any questions.