



City of Palm Springs

Office of the City Manager

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February 23, 2015

Via E-Mail: docket@energy.ca.gov

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California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814-5512
Email: docket@energy.ca.gov

**RE: Draft Renewable Energy Conservation Plan – EIR/EIS Comments
DRECP NEPA/CEQA**

California Energy Commission:

On behalf of the City of Palm Springs, this letter presents comments on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan ("DRECP" or "Plan"), and the September 2014 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIR/EIS") prepared in support of the Plan. The City of Palm Springs objects to any provisions included in the DRECP that would represent restrictions on existing or new wind energy projects located within the incorporated limits of the City of Palm Springs.

As a participant of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("CVMSHCP"), the City of Palm Springs has joined with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments ("CVAG") in management of over 240,000 acres of open space to protect 27 various plant and animal species located within the Coachella Valley. In particular, the CVMSHCP allows for "Covered Activities" to include new ground disturbance associated with repowering or development of new wind energy facilities. A Section 10 Incidental Take Permit for the CVMSHCP was issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 1, 2008, authorizing the City of Palm Springs in cooperation with CVAG to evaluate, review, approve and permit the construction of a variety of projects, including wind energy projects.

As proposed, the DRECP identifies an Area of Edge Effects located within the Coachella Valley that overlaps and suggests development standards and requirements that contradicts with the currently adopted, approved and permitted CVMSHCP. Therefore, the City of Palm Springs objects to any measures identified in the DRECP that would otherwise contradict with the City's General Plan and Land Use regulations that otherwise allow for the development of wind energy facilities in accordance with the CVMSHCP.

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The City of Palm Springs appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DRECP, and looks forward to a successful resolution of our concerns such that the DRECP eliminates any potential overlap or inconsistencies with the CVMSHCP and the Section 10 Incidental Take Permit previously issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for "Covered Activities" in the Coachella Valley.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (760) 322-8380, or by e-mail at Marcus.Fuller@palmspringsca.gov.

Sincerely,



Marcus L. Fuller, MPA, PE, PLS
Assistant City Manager/City Engineer

cc: *David Ready, City Manager*
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