



City of  
**SANTA CLARITA**

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February 20, 2015

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN 74877

FEB 23 2015

Marsha McLean  
Mayor

Mr. Scott Flint  
DRECP Program Manager  
California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Bob Kellar  
Mayor Pro Tem

Dear Mr. Flint:

Dante Acosta  
Councilmember

I am writing on behalf of the City of Santa Clarita, California to comment on the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). While the City of Santa Clarita appreciates the overall goals of the plan to identify areas within the California desert for wildlife, cultural, and recreation uses and for placement of renewable energy facilities, we are concerned with some specific lands identified within the proposed DRECP.

TimBen Boydston  
Councilmember

Laurene Weste  
Councilmember

Since 2010, the Congress of the United States has been considering legislation authored by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and former Representative Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA-25), which involves approximately 10,200 acres of land in San Bernardino County. Attached, please find a map (*Victorville Disposal Area California*, dated March 2011) identifying the specific parcels that have been included by reference within H.R. 4332 and S. 3057 (111<sup>th</sup> Congress), S. 759 (112<sup>th</sup> Congress), S. 771, S. 2938 and H.R. 5742 (113<sup>th</sup> Congress). The federal legislation directs that the identified lands be sold by the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill purposes outlined in the six bills. A majority of the parcels contemplated within the six legislative proposals outlined above are included within the proposed DRECP.

In 2010, the lands depicted on the enclosed map were classified as being available for disposal by the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM). At that time, each of the parcels selected for inclusion in the map were reviewed and cleared for inclusion by a representative of Congressman McKeon's office with the Bureau of Land Management. The parcels were selected for inclusion on the map and incorporation by reference in the legislation because they were identified by the Bureau of Land Management as being available for sale. The same parcels have been used for all six federal bills and at no time has the Bureau of Land Management formally challenged the representation that the lands were eligible for sale.



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In testimony presented during a hearing on S. 771 before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining on November 20, 2013, the BLM representative did not testify that the lands contemplated in the bill were not classified as being available for sale or that they were being contemplated for inclusion within the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. Additionally, on October 3, 2013, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird sent a letter to Senator Boxer in support of her S. 771.

In reviewing the DRECP map, several of the parcels are also now included within the proposed Brisbane Valley Monkey Flower Area of Critical Environmental Concern and several of the parcels are included within the proposed Northern Lucerne Wildlife Linkage Area of Critical Environmental Concern. You will note that the map developed for the six federal bills identifies Monkey Flower habitat and those specific parcels are not among the properties contemplated for sale as directed by the legislation.

The City of Santa Clarita is concerned that the change in land designation from being classified as available for sale to potentially being designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern has not gone through an appropriate and rigorous public review process. To the best of the City's knowledge, at no time were the lands now contemplated for designation in the DRECP that overlap with the lands contained within the six federal bills ever discussed with the sponsors of the legislation, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein or former Congressman McKeon.

Given that the approximately 10,200 acres of land may likely be included in new legislation, similar to the past six bills, and introduced during the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, it is appropriate that those land parcels be withdrawn from the DRECP until such time as the federal legislative effort is definitively resolved. The City of Santa Clarita is formally requesting that the lands depicted as Area A and Area B on the enclosed map entitled *Victorville Disposal Area California*, dated March 2011, be withdrawn from further consideration as part of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments on behalf of the City of Santa Clarita. Should you or your staff require additional information regarding this request, please contact City of Santa Clarita Intergovernmental Relations Officer Michael P. Murphy at (661) 255-4384 or [mmurphy@santa-clarita.com](mailto:mmurphy@santa-clarita.com).

Sincerely,



Marsha McLean  
Mayor

Enclosures (2)

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cc: Members of the City Council  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Representative Steve Knight  
Kenneth Striplin, City Manager  
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager  
Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Officer



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

I write to offer my strong support of the legislation you have introduced and Senator Feinstein has cosponsored to enact the Soledad Canyon Settlement Act (S. 771).

As you know, this bill provides the City of Santa Clarita and CEMEX USA the path forward to successfully resolve a nearly fifteen year dispute involving sand and gravel contracts with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In addition to cancelling current mining contracts within the City of Santa Clarita that the city has consistently opposed, the bill directs BLM to sell 10,000 acres of public lands near the City of Victorville to compensate CEMEX for its cancelled contracts.

Your bill, S. 771, provides solutions for all parties engaged in this dispute and benefits an important watershed in Southern California. The City of Santa Clarita and its residents will greatly benefit from improved quality of life derived from large-scale sand and gravel mining operations moved to a more appropriate location. CEMEX is made whole for its cancelled contracts in Santa Clarita through the proceeds of other public lands already identified for disposal. Moreover, the natural resources located adjacent to the Upper Santa Clarita River, which contain critical riparian forest woodland and coastal sage scrub habitats, is protected and conserved to the benefit of the region and downstream into Ventura County.

S. 771 is supported by the City of Santa Clarita, CEMEX and additional stakeholders who see this as a solution to address the concerns of a fast growing community.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If your office should have any questions about this issue, please contact Todd Ferrara, Deputy Secretary of External Affairs in my office at (916) 653-5656.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Laird'.

John Laird  
Secretary for California Natural Resources

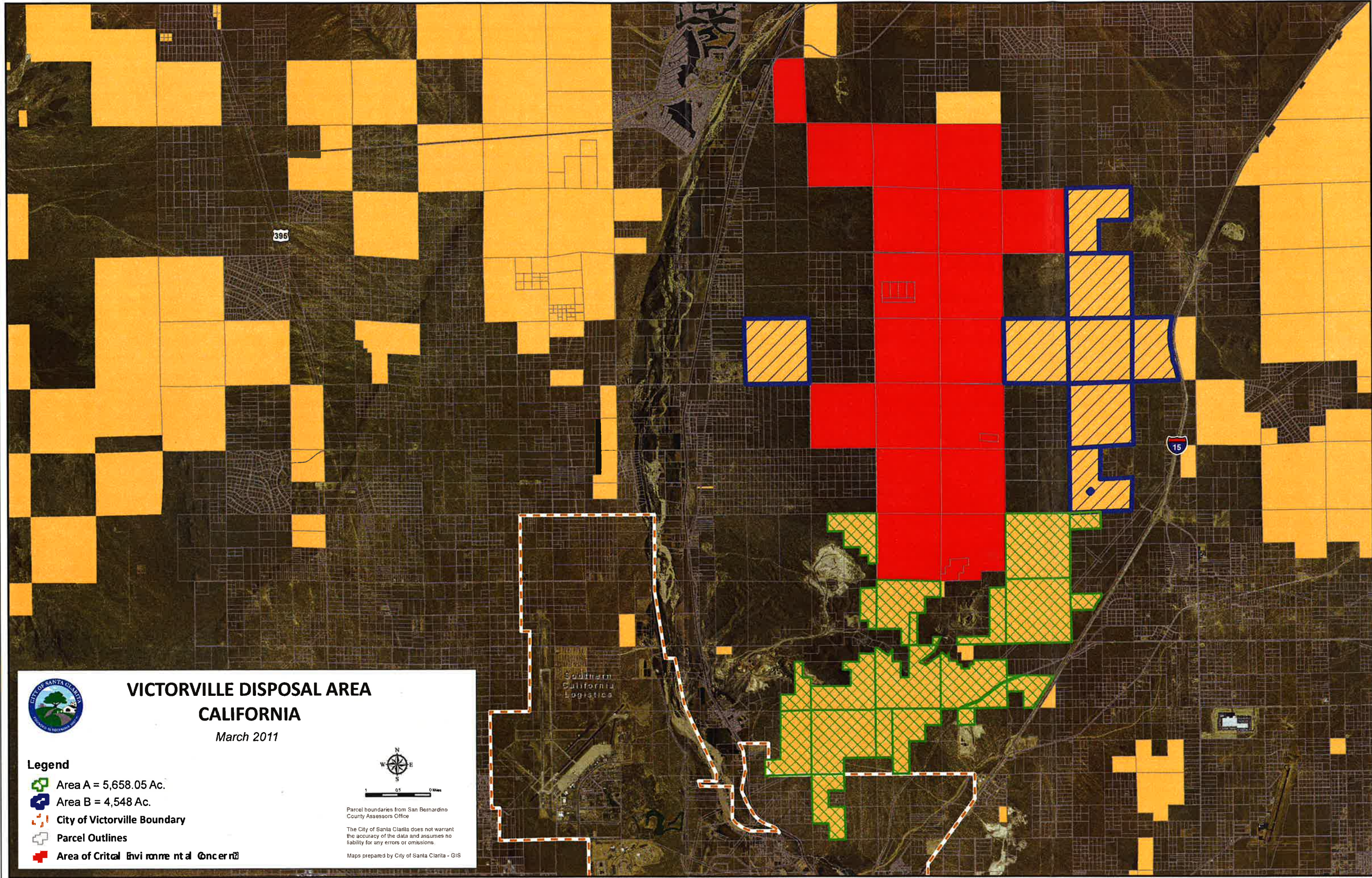
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>

Baldwin Hills Conservancy • California Coastal Commission • California Coastal Conservancy • California Conservation Corps • California Tahoe Conservancy  
Cochella Valley Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Delta Protection Commission • Delta Stewardship Council • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation  
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery • Department of Water Resources  
Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission • Native American Heritage Commission • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy • San Diego River Conservancy  
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board



**cc:** The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon  
The Honorable Julia Brownley  
The Honorable Tony Cardenas  
The Honorable Brad Sherman  
Jim Kenna, State Director, Bureau of Land Management  
City of Santa Clarita  
State Senator Fran Pavley  
State Senator Steve Knight










# VICTORVILLE DISPOSAL AREA CALIFORNIA

March 2011

### Legend

-  Area A = 5,658.05 Ac.
-  Area B = 4,548 Ac.
-  City of Victorville Boundary
-  Parcel Outlines
-  Area of Critical Environmental Concern



1 0.5 0 Miles

Parcel boundaries from San Bernardino County Assessors Office

The City of Santa Clarita does not warrant the accuracy of the data and assumes no liability for any errors or omissions.

Maps prepared by City of Santa Clarita - GIS