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February 23, 2015

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office MS-4
Docket No 09- Renew EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: DRECP NEPA/CEQA

On behalf of the Desert Valleys Builders Association (**DVBA**) representing nearly 200 member companies active in the Coachella & Imperial Valleys, this comment letter is written to address two (2) very specific areas of concern within the proposed DRECP Plan document.

The first area of concern is the proposed 140 mile radius extending beyond the proposed DRECP boundary zone. This item is referenced in Appendix H, pages 26-27, stating that the scale of the analysis for potential take situations would warrant an extension of the boundary lines. **The direct negative impact this extension would cause is to supersede and overlap on the currently authorized Coachella Valley Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). This plan was formally permitted by US Fish & Game on September 8, 2008 and US Fish & Wildlife on October 1, 2008.**

The second area of concern is the proposed formation of an Incidental Take Permit as applies to the Golden Eagle. This area of concern also relates to the first issue noted above, as the extension of the DRECP boundary zone would cause the Incidental Take permit to become required in the previously approved CVMSHCP area. This is of significant concern to our members within the western portion of the Coachella Valley, specifically as it pertains to the renewable energy industry & wind generation sites. **Existing siting within this area is placed under the process of the CVMSHCP and therefore must continue to be recognized under that land use designation.**

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DRECP Comment Letter

February 23, 2015

Our office has had several conversations with Ken Corey, USFW (DRECP Contact personnel) and John Kalish, BLM Palm Springs Manager, with regards to these two issues. With regards to both of these issues, *we were "assured that there was no extension of DRECP boundary lines beyond the current Alternative Plan Proposal – map design", but subsequently we ascertained that statement to be erroneous with regards to the aforementioned Issue #1.*

Additionally, we attempted to make contact with Amedee Brickey of USFW for further discussion regarding the Golden Eagle Take Permit, but have not received any return response to our written inquiries or calls.

Therefore, this Letter of Comment is to request the following:

- 1) **No extension of any boundary zone of the DRECP Proposed Plan into the CVMSCHP zone.**
- 2) **No requirement of Incidental Take Permit for Golden Eagle within the previously approved designated zone.**

Thank you for review of this correspondence.

Regards,

Gretchen Gutierrez
CEO

Desert Valleys Builders Association

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