

Mr. Greg Ballmer
[REDACTED]
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DRECP BLM, CA Energy Commission

Subject: Help ensure our magnificent California desert is protected for future generations!

Dear DRECP BLM, CA Energy Commission

Protecting the California desert's wildlife cultural riches and recreation areas while also ensuring California is addressing our clean energy needs is important to me.

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan needs improvements to protect the California desert's treasured lands.

First the plan should protect places that have been identified as wilderness quality lands in the California desert.

I also support adding more than three million acres of public lands to BLM's National Conservation Lands system for their wildlife cultural scenic and recreational values. Silurian Valley is one of many places that should be added to the National Conservation Lands to protect it from proposed renewable energy development.

The proposed renewable energy "Development Focus Areas" should be modified to confine development to the most suitable low conflict areas address community concerns and protect wildlife habitat and wildlands.

There are appropriate places for development and the DRECP should help guide projects to those places. Where there is development in places like the Salton Sea funds generated from development there should be used to help restore other parts of this unique and important wildlife area.

All too often important public works are designed and implemented by individuals and policies informed by consideration for efficiencies and convenience at the expense of irreplaceable natural resources. While outsiders may view the California deserts as wastelands ripe for exploitation long-term residents and knowledgeable biologists have a deeper appreciation for the fragile beauty and delicate desert ecology. It is essential that voices expert in desert ecology and intimately aware of the biological resources of the California deserts be consulted and their advice incorporated in the DRECP.

Please work to strengthen the DRECP by addressing these issues. Together we can protect the desert and expand needed clean energy.

Sincerely
Mr. Greg Ballmer