

Mr. Hugh Sutherland

Feb 12 2015

DRECP BLM, CA Energy Commission

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

Dear DRECP BLM, CA Energy Commission

We must move to renewable energy but building out wildlands to perpetuate centralized energy is not the way to start the sustainable future. The appropriate action is to take advantage of the already disturbed landscape that is the urbanized areas by installing photovoltaics on every roof tied to the new smart grid. Once we see how much energy rooftop solar produces we can do the math and decide how much of our wildlands need to be impacted to produce the balance...or better yet reduce our energy consumption sufficiently to avoid "developing" our last open spaces.

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.

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

Sincerely
Mr. Hugh Sutherland