

## Energy - Docket Optical System

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**From:** Micheal Graves <micheal\_graves@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 8:20 AM  
**To:** Energy - Docket Optical System  
**Subject:** DRECP comments

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**09-RENEW EO-1**

TN # 75143

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Dear Staff,

Please accept my DRECP comment. While incomplete, it shall have to do as my opinion on the matter.

Please understand that this collaborative process is the single greatest fraud I have ever witnessed; these environmental groups accepting the killing of endangered species and plants, while taking the rest of the public land for 'conservation'. Lawsuits should prevail should the public be denied the right to travel on public lands. As an avid off roader, I know I am the enemy of these groups; and too many in government are complicit in this land grab and 'de jure' declaration of new wilderness like designations.

Mike Graves

Burbank, CA 91505

DRECP NEPA CEQA

Dear Staff,

I would like to submit my comments.

1. The Jan 9 cutoff for public comments was too short and so is the current 23rd of February, although I appreciate the extension.

2. The DRECP is an unnecessarily large coverage of land. Kern County issues permits for renewable energy without offsetting other people's property, or changing the land use or zoning public lands. This appears to be an attempt to manage a large swath of public lands in a manner that adversely effects motorized recreation. I believe the conservation zones will shut out citizens such as me, without protecting wildlife any better than it does now. I do not believe off road travel negatively affects animals or the surrounding plant life in a measurable way.

With the DRECP I see a glaring example of hypocrisy. While land use designations vary, many limit the travel of motorized vehicles from a small area, or to a few trails, to not motorized use at all. There is a great amount of restriction at this time, for a very small chance that an endangered animal will come to harm.

Many assertions have been made regarding off road use, that the activity scares animals, destroys habitat, with little to no proof.

Yet, with the DRECP, many thousands of acres will be altered in a way that no recreational motorized recreation ever could. In any place that serves as a solar farm, plant life will have to be scraped to prevent the loss of the sun's rays from hitting the solar panels. I have never seen a solar farm where the panels are more than 3 feet from the desert floor. How much will that impact the animals in that acreage? Couldn't the animals simply migrate? And in a sense 'over-populate the surrounding area pretty much on their own? There could be a fair amount of debate on this.

Any corridor that serves the transmission of electricity becomes a magnet for birds, including the crows, who use the perch to hunt desert tortoises. I suppose we could bury the transmission lines, and we do some places, but the new installations I see in the desert include many lines above ground.

The windmills...are loved and hated. My wife hates the way they look. I don't have a problem with the looks. I have walked into a windmill tower, around it, and looked at the surrounding area. A fair amount of earth was pushed, holes for concrete were poured, the concrete was poured, the dirt compacted, and so many roads, and not narrow roads at all, that have been permanently made a part of the landscape. I see someone paints the dirt green to give the dirt a more pleasing color, perhaps it is some kind of fertilizer; I don't know. I know the plants aren't growing back, not yet at least. To allow this kind of mass dirt movement in the face of CA law, or a lawsuit by any of the NGO's, many who sue, repeatedly, the government agencies, who manage these lands over motorized recreation is a monumental outrage. For

many years I have read and listened to the testimony of those who want motorized recreation abolished because of the footprint left behind, and now I see a footprint on a magnitude many hundreds of times larger than motorized trails ever left. Its as if there is no recognition of the obvious; so let me state this clearly: the emperor is wearing no cloths. And while I love renewable energy, and read about it almost any chance I get, I recognize that this is being paid for in part with taxpayer dollars, and I know that much of the public doesn't understand the true cost, and subsidization of the 'farm' owners. The DRECP is the biggest cop out/ most hideous example of exception making for the rich and the powerful that I have witnessed. It is on par with the CA high speed 'bullet' train for exception making to adhesion to CA environmental law. And I find it interesting that the political party that crafted and fashioned the reasons for the these laws is the one taking the lead in granting exceptions to their laws. Although the DRECP could lead to future prosperity through lower energy bills (however distant that may be, unless legislation forces costs per megawatt to equal fossil fuel energy generation, and provided that Warren Buffet and other 'farm' owners see fit to have low rates for the public, ever), while the so called 'bullet train' will doom CA taxpayers into a scheme that will drain their wallets without ever using the train, and it has no hope of ever making a profit. Therefore, the 'bullet train' stands is not sustainable, while the DRECP at least has a sliver of a chance at meeting the requirements of what we would consider sustainable.

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