



## DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

### Renewable Energy and Transmission

Renewable energy development is important to meet climate change goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable energy technologies covered in the DRECP include solar, wind and geothermal generation. A goal of the DRECP is to identify development focus area (DFAs) with high-quality renewable energy potential and access to transmission in locations where impacts can be managed and mitigated. This will:

- Provide more permitting certainty
- Make survey and mitigation requirements more efficient
- Provide land sufficient to produce up to 20,000 megawatts (MW) of energy
- Help California meet its long-term renewable energy and climate change goals

A request to build a renewable energy project in a DFA would still go through the typical permitting process, including environmental review, but would benefit from the DRECP environmental document and established survey and mitigation requirements.

The renewable energy strategy component of the DRECP is one part of California's comprehensive strategy for addressing climate change and meeting the energy needs of residents and businesses. This state-wide strategy includes utility-scale renewable energy development and associated transmission, distributed generation, energy conservation, demand response, strong energy efficiency standards, and investment in research and development. Utility-scale renewable energy plays an important and complementary role in this overall strategy, allowing for immediate and sizeable deployment of renewable energy generation, grid stability, and optimal use of the state's best renewable energy resources, while allowing for technologies with unique benefits such as energy storage.

While the DRECP will streamline large-scale renewable energy development in appropriate places in the desert, every element of California's overall strategy will be needed to meet long-term climate goals. The DRECP will not limit or supplant gains in energy efficiency or deployment of small-scale renewable energy. The actual demand for renewable energy generation in the desert will depend on market factors and state and federal policies, as well as other influences.

#### The DRECP will help meet California and the Nation's Renewable Energy Goals

- ▶ The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) establishes a long-range goal of reducing the 1990 level of GHG emissions by 80% by 2050.
- ▶ The Renewables Portfolio Standard requires that at least 33 percent of retail electricity sales in California come from renewable resources by December 31, 2020.
- ▶ The President's Climate Action Plan, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and Secretarial Order 3285 direct the Department of the Interior to prioritize renewable energy permitting on public lands.