

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: John Ellis [jfellis@mchsi.com]
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To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Cc: 'Jane McEwan'
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California Energy Commission

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I am strongly opposed to including the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTRNA) as part of the Development Focus Area. Multiple alternatives for *Development Focus Areas* in the DRECP encompass most of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area, as well as a large area of critical habitat in the adjacent Rand Mountains and Fremont Valley. By recommending that power plant developers *focus* on areas that include the DTRNA and other public lands comprising critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, the participating government agencies threaten 40 years of land-use planning, management, and protection of threatened and endangered species by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. *Development Focus Areas* should not include existing Research Natural Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, critical habitat or lands acquired with public donations and mitigation funds for the protection of habitat for the desert tortoise, burrowing owl, Mohave ground squirrel and other sensitive species.

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