



California Energy
Commission



California Department
of Fish and Wildlife



U.S. Bureau of
Land Management



U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Subject: Notice of Availability, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Date: September 26, 2014

California State Clearinghouse #: 2011071092

BLM #: BLM/CA/PL-2014/025+1793

The California Energy Commission (CEC), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as Lead Agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), have prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).

What is the Proposed Project? The DRECP is a long-term, utility-scale renewable energy and conservation plan. The DRECP is comprised of three elements that form an integrated interagency plan for permitting renewable energy and electric transmission line development in the Mojave and Colorado/Sonoran Deserts of southern California: 1) BLM's proposed Land Use Plan Amendments to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, Bishop Resource Management Plan, and Caliente/Bakersfield Resource Management Plan; 2) the FWS's proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (General Conservation Plan); and 3) the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) proposed Natural Community Conservation Plan.

For additional information or to read the Draft EIR/EIS, visit the DRECP website at: www.drecp.org.

What is included in the Draft EIR/EIS? The Draft EIR/EIS describes the Proposed Alternative, evaluates five alternatives (plus a No Action Alternative, defining the actions expected to occur if the DRECP is not approved). It describes the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of each alternative, and presents mitigation measures that could avoid or minimize these impacts, if adopted by the CEC, CDFW, BLM, USFWS, or other responsible agencies.

Impacts of the Proposed Plan. The EIR/EIS describes impacts in approximately 80 environmental resource impact categories, within 23 environmental resource areas. Of these 80 impact categories, there are 17 significant unmitigable impacts – 8 of these significant impacts would occur only in the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would not have the conservation and LUPA benefits of the five action alternatives. The analysis in the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS suggests the Preferred Alternative will be most effective at achieving the DRECP goals of conserving the unique desert landscape, minimizing and mitigating the effects of incidental take of sensitive species, streamlining renewable energy production, and meeting other DRECP Planning Goals.

Sites Listed Pursuant to Government Code section 69526.5. Pursuant to Government Code section 69526.5, CalEPA maintains lists of sites that potentially contain hazardous waste and other forms of contamination. Some of these sites are located in the DRECP area. The list of sites, including all sites in the DRECP planning area, may be found at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/default.htm>. For more information about the lists maintained pursuant to Government Code section 69526.5, see <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/Background.htm>.

Availability of the Draft Plan and EIR/EIS. The Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS will be released for public review on September 26, 2014. It will be available for review and download at www.drecp.org, local area libraries and agency offices, and a DVD will be provided upon request. To request a DVD, please send an email request to [drecp.info@energy.ca.gov] or call (916) 654-4818 with the mailing address. For a list of local area libraries and agency offices that have the document (most on DVD), please see the lists below or go to www.drecp.org/draftdrecp.

Submitting Comments on the Draft Plan and EIR/EIS. Written comments must be postmarked or received by electronic mail or fax no later than **Friday, January 9, 2015**. Information on submitting comments may be found at www.drecp.org.

To submit comments, please deliver or send them to the following:

Email Address: docket@energy.ca.gov

Fax: (916) 654-4421

U.S. Mail or Other Delivery Address:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

When attaching comments to an e-mail, please use either Microsoft Word format or Portable Document Format (PDF). Please also include "DRECP NEPA/CEQA" in the subject line or your email comment or first paragraph of your mail comment.

When submitting comments on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS, please include the name and means of contact for a person who would be available for later consultation if necessary. Please note that comments and information submitted will be available for public review at www.drecp.org. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be aware that any information submitted as part of your comment will become part of the public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other internet search engines. You may choose to withhold contact information, but the agencies will not be able to consult with you if clarification of your comment is needed. While you may request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, agencies cannot guarantee the ability to do so.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Informational Overview Video. The agencies have prepared an Informational Overview Video on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS. It is available at www.drecp.org.

Informational Webinar. An Informational Webinar will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2014.

The Informational Webinar will be an opportunity to learn about the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS, how to navigate the plan and analysis, and how to provide public comments. To assist members of the public that may not have access to high-speed internet, several agency offices will be open to the public to view the Informational Webinar. Oral comments will not be taken during the Informational Webinar. The Webinar will be recorded and will be available at www.drecp.org following the Webinar.

What: Informational Webinar on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS

When: Thursday, October 9, 2014

Time: 4 PM – 6 PM

To join the Webinar via internet: Go to <https://energy.webex.com>

Enter the meeting number: **921 097 196**

Enter the meeting password: **drecp@Oct9** and follow the on-screen directions.

To join via TELEPHONE ONLY (no visual presentation): Call **1-866-469-3239** (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number: **921 097 196**.

To join via MOBILE DEVICE: Download the WebEx app from www.webex.com/overview/mobile-meetings.html.

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.

To watch the Webinar from an agency office, see the list of locations on the following page.

Public Workshops. A number of Public Workshops will be held during late October and early November 2014. Dates, times, and locations will be posted on www.drecp.org. The workshops will provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS, to speak with the specialists who developed the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS, and to provide comments on the Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS. Written comments may be submitted or made orally at the workshops.

Informational Webinar and Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS Document Viewing Locations	
<p>Bakersfield Bureau of Land Management Bakersfield Field Office 3801 Pegasus Drive Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661) 391-6000 Office hours: 7:30am-4pm</p>	<p>Barstow Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office 2601 Barstow Road Barstow, CA 92311 (760) 252-6000 Office hours: 8am-4:30pm</p>
<p>Bermuda Dunes California Department of Fish and Wildlife Bermuda Dunes Field Office 78078 Country Club Drive, Suite 109 Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203 (760) 200-9158 Office hours: 8am – 5pm</p>	<p>Bishop Bureau of Land Management Bishop Field Office 51 Pacu Lane, Suite 100 Bishop, CA 93514 (760) 872-5000 Office hours: 8am-4:30pm</p>
<p>Borrego Springs Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Anza-Borrego Visitor Center – Discovery room 9200 Palm Canyon Drive Borrego Springs, CA 92004-5005 (760) 767-5311 Office hours: 9-5pm</p>	<p>Carlsbad U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Service Office 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250 Carlsbad, CA 92008 (760) 431-9440 Office hours: 8am-4:30pm</p>
<p>El Centro Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office 1661 So. 4th Street El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 337-4400 Office hours: 8am-4:30pm</p>	<p>Moreno Valley Bureau of Land Management California Desert District 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos Moreno Valley, CA 92553 (951) 697-5200 Office hours: 8am-4pm</p>
<p>Needles Bureau of Land Management Needles Field Office 1303 S. Hwy 95 Needles, CA 92363 (760) 326-7000 Office hours: 7:30am-4pm</p>	<p>Ontario California Department of Fish and Wildlife Inland Deserts Region Office 3602 Inland Empire Blvd, Suite C-220 Ontario, CA 91764 (909) 484-0167 Office hours: 8am–5pm</p>
<p>Palm Springs U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office 777 East Tahquitz Canyon Way Suite 208 Palm Springs, CA 92262 (760) 322-2070 Office hours 8:00am–4:30pm</p>	<p>Palm Springs Bureau of Land Management Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office 1201 Bird Center Drive Palm Springs, CA 92262 (760) 833-7100 Office hours: 8am-4:30pm</p>

Informational Webinar and Draft DRECP and EIR/EIS Document Viewing Locations	
Ridgecrest Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office 300 S. Richmond Rd. Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760) 384-5400 Office hours: 7:30am-4pm	Sacramento Bureau of Land Management California State Office - Public Room 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623 Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 978-4400 Office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm
	Sacramento California Energy Commission – Library 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 654-4292 Office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Libraries with the Document on DVD

Imperial County Libraries

Brawley Public Library
400 Main Street
Brawley, CA 92227

Camarena Memorial Public Library
850 Encinas Avenue
Calexico, CA 92231

Meyer Memorial Library
105 South Lake Avenue
Calipatria, CA 92233

Imperial County Library
1125 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

El Centro Public Library
1140 N. Imperial Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

Holtville City Library
101 E. Sixth Street
Holtville, CA 92250

City of Imperial Public Library
200 W. Ninth Street
Imperial, CA 92251

Westmorland Branch Library
200 S. C Street
Westmorland, CA 92281

Inyo County Libraries

Inyo County Free Library
168 N. Edwards Street
Independence, CA 93526

Lone Pine Library
Corner of Washington & Bush Streets
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Bishop Library
Corner of Warren and Academy Streets
210 Academy Avenue
Bishop, CA 93514

Big Pine Library
500 South Main Street
Big Pine, CA 93513

Furnace Creek Library
Located in Death Valley National Monument
Cow Creek Road
Death Valley, CA 92328

Tecopa Library
408 Tecopa Hot Springs Road
Tecopa, CA 92389

Los Angeles County Libraries

Lancaster Library
601 W. Lancaster Blvd
Lancaster, CA 93534

Lake Los Angeles Library
16921 East Ave O #A
Palmdale, CA 93591

Palmdale City Library
700 E. Palmdale Blvd
Palmdale, CA 93550

Los Angeles Public Library
630 W 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2002

San Diego County Libraries

San Marcos Library
2 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

San Diego County Library – Julian
1850 Highway 78
Julian, CA 92036

San Diego County Library – Ramona Branch
1275 Main Street
Ramona, CA 92065

Central Library
820 E Street
San Diego, CA 92101

San Bernardino County Libraries

Adelanto Branch Library
11497 Bartlett Avenue
Adelanto, CA 92301

Apple Valley Branch Library
15001 Wakita Road
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Barstow Branch Library
304 E. Buena Vista Street
Barstow, CA 92311

Big Bear Lake Branch Library
41930 Garstin Drive
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Hesperia Branch Library
9565 Seventh Avenue
Hesperia, CA 92345

Needles Branch Library
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, CA 92363

Twentynine Palms Branch Library
6078 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

Victorville City Library
15011 Circle Drive
Victorville, CA 92395

Yucca Valley Branch Library
57098 Twentynine Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Kern County Libraries

Kern County Library – Arvin
201 Campus Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

Beale Memorial Library
701 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Kern County Library – Baker
1400 Baker Street
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Kern County Library – Bryce C. Rathbun
200 West China Grade Loop
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Kern County Library – Eleanor Wilson
1901 Wilson Road
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Kern County Library – Holloway-Gonzales
506 East Brundage Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Mojave Branch
16916 1/2 Highway 14, Space D2
Mojave, CA 93501

Kern County Library – Northeast
3725 Columbus Street
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Kern County Library – Southwest
8301 Ming Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93311

Kern County Library – California City
9507 California City Blvd
California City, CA 93505

Kern County Library – Delano
925 Tenth Avenue
Delano, CA 93215

Kern County Library – Frazier
3732 Park Drive
Frazier Park, CA 93225

Kern County Library – Kernville
48 Tobias Street
Kernville, CA 93238

Kern County Library – Lamont
8304 Segrue Road
Lamont, CA 93241

Kern County Library – Clara M. Jackson
(Mcfarland)
500 West Kern Avenue
Mcfarland, CA 93250

Kern County Library – Ridgecrest
131 East Las Flores Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Kern County Library – Shafter
236 James Street Suite 2
Shafter CA 93263

Kern County Library – Taft
27 Cougar Court
Taft, CA 93268

Kern County Library – Tehachapi
1001 West Tehachapi Boulevard, Suite A-400
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Kern County Library – Wasco
102 7th Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Kern County Library – Rosamond
3611 Rosamond Blvd
Rosamond, CA 93560

Riverside County Libraries

Banning Library District
21 W. Nicolet Street
Banning, CA 92220

Palo Verde Valley Library District
125 West Riverside Drive
Blythe, CA 92225

Calimesa Library
974 Calimesa Blvd
Calimesa, CA 92320

Canyon Lake Library
31516 Railroad Canyon Road
Canyon Lake, CA 92587

Cathedral City Library
33520 Date Palm Drive
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Coachella Library
1538 7th Street
Coachella, CA 92236

Desert Hot Springs Library
11691 West Drive
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240

Indio Library
200 Civic Center Mall
Indio, CA 92201

La Quinta Library
78-275 Calle Tampico
La Quinta, CA 92253

Moreno Valley Public Library
25480 Alessandro Blvd
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Palm Desert Library
73300 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Rancho Mirage Public Library
71-100 Highway 111
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Other Libraries

California State Library
914 Capitol Mall Rm 400
Sacramento, CA 95814-4802

Humboldt County Library
1313 3rd Street
Eureka, CA 95501-0553

Fresno County Library HQ
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA 93721-2204

San Francisco Public Library – Ref Center
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102-4705