

Leave DRECP Alone

WHAT'S HAPPENED

The **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)**, which was finalized in 2016, provided historic conservation gains for public lands in California and provided a precedent-setting blueprint for how to balance renewable energy development with conservation on our nation's public lands. Local stakeholders, as well as thousands of citizens from throughout California and across the country, provided input over an 8-year process to shape the final plan.

But, on February 2nd, the Department of Interior issued a **notice to re-open the plan**, potentially putting at risk more than 4 million acres of vital conservation lands.

Help us take action to stop Trump from rolling back protection for our California Desert

Please attend the public meeting in Bakersfield on **Tuesday, March 6: 5-7 PM** at the BLM office, **3801 Pegasus Drive 93308** (near corner of Merle Haggard Rd and Highway 65) *(come even if only for a short amount of time)*

or

Submit a letter to the BLM. The 45-day public comment period will close March 22. We have until then to speak up for our Desert, and tell the Administration to keep this plan intact.

or

To submit a comment via email to:

BLM_CA_DRECP@blm.gov, or;

Write to BLM at:

**BLM- California State Director
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825**

You may also submit your letter in person at the March 6 BLM public meeting,

KEY TALKING/WRITING POINTS

I oppose this administration's attack on our California Desert public lands and urge the BLM not to reopen the DRECP.

It is unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money. Why?

1. Amending the DRECP is a direct attack on one of the California Desert's largest conservation achievements. Leave this hard-won plan alone.
2. The DRECP is a sensible, widely-approved plan based on years of collaboration between state and federal agencies, renewable energy developers, conservationists, recreationalists, and other stakeholders.
3. The DRECP is a strong, science-based plan that was adopted after 8 years of careful

analysis.

4. 16,000 public comments were submitted – most asking for more conservation, not less.
5. This historic compromise required the hard work of hundreds of thousands of participants over 8 years. To ask us to weigh in all over again is insulting to the residents of our region.
6. The plan identified 400,000 acres for renewable energy development, which is more than enough for California to meet its renewable energy goals.
7. The plan was meticulously documented through Database. There is no need to change any land use designations or management unless there is significant new information, *which there is not*.
8. Natural resources are at risk.
9. Reopening this plan will jeopardize the Desert's most sensitive natural and cultural resources, as well as the places we go to enjoy.
10. The plan protected 4.2 million acres of the Desert's most sensitive natural and cultural landscapes and designated 3.6 million acres for recreation, such as hiking, camping, rock hounding, and off-road recreation. Development would destroy these places and reduce opportunities for local residents to enjoy our public lands.
- 11.** This attempt to reopen the plan is not about renewable energy. It's about the administration's hostility to conservation and to the wishes of the residents of our region. ***The Department of the Interior is blatantly undermining public process on your public lands!***