DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

California Energy Commission

Integrated Energy Policy Report Lead Commissioner Workshop

Integrating Environmental Information in Renewable Energy Planning Processes

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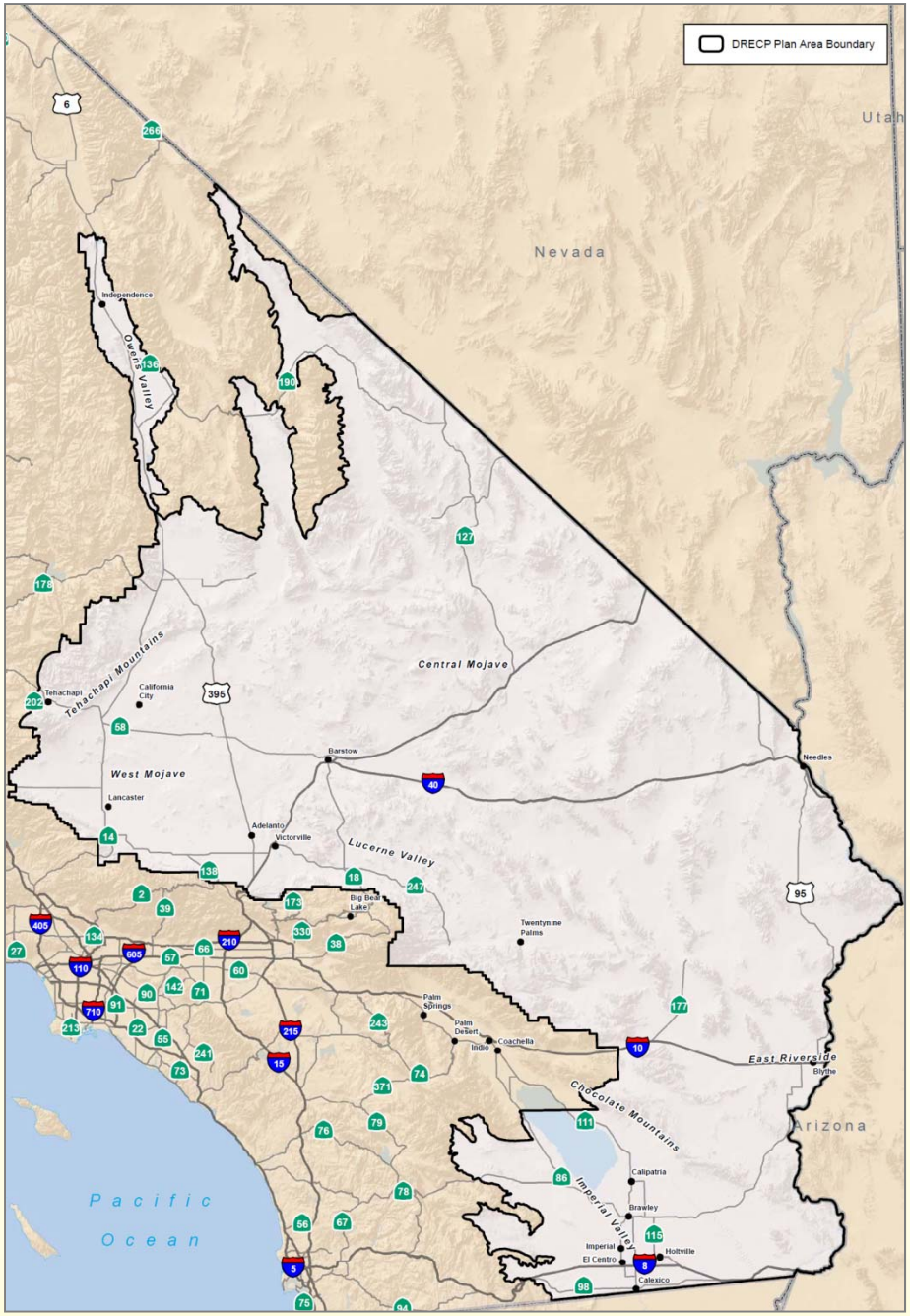
Director, DRECP

What is the DRECP?

- BLM Land Use Plan Amendment
- Natural Community Conservation Plan
- General Conservation Plan
- EIR/EIS
- Developed by the Renewable Energy Action Team
  - California Energy Commission
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - United States Fish & Wildlife Service

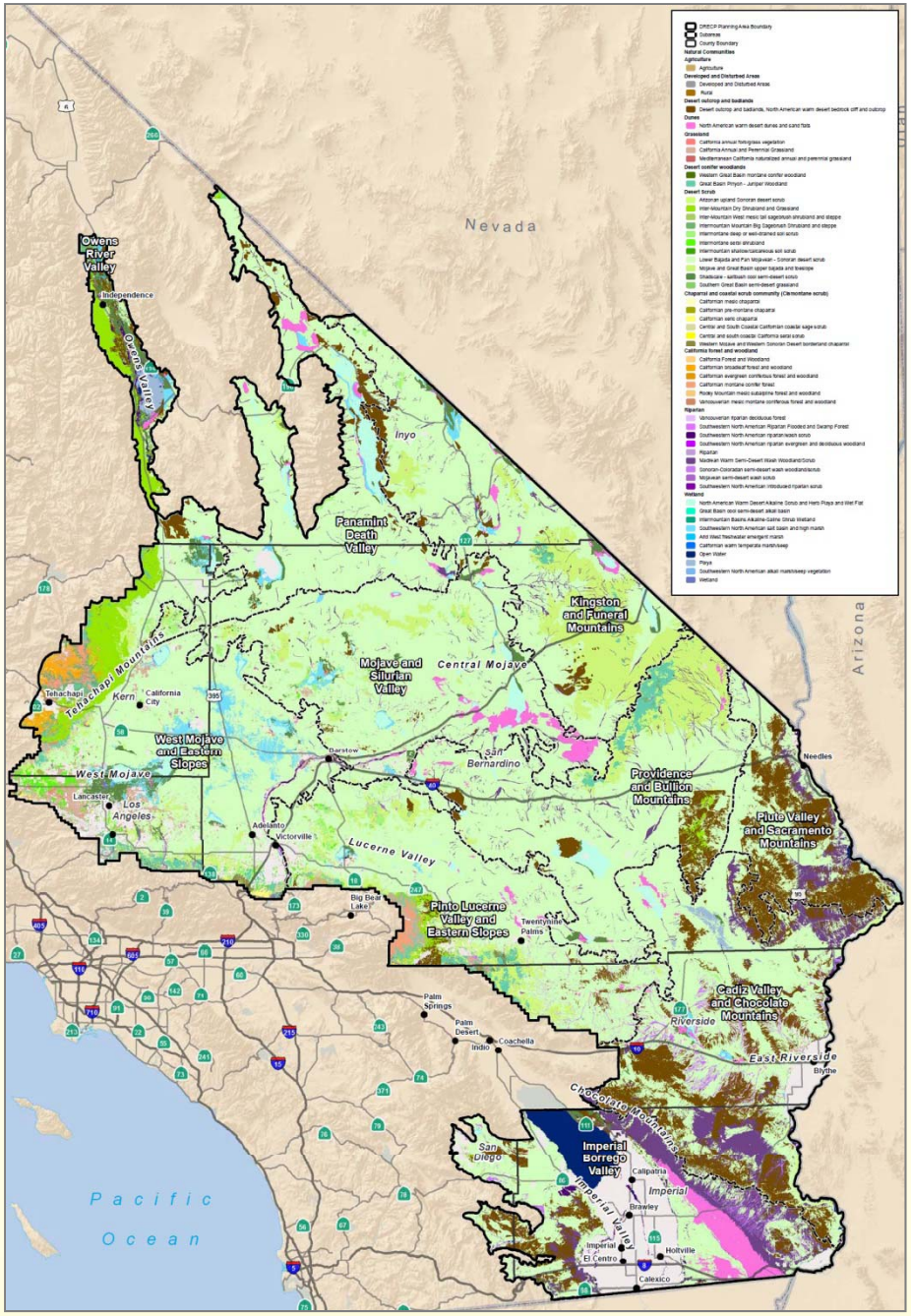
Plan Area

- Mojave & Colorado Deserts
- 7 Counties
- ~ 22,500,000 acres



Plan Area

- 10 ecoregion subareas
- 31 natural communities



Goals

- Facilitate utility renewable energy development and transmission
  - Solar (photovoltaic and thermal)
  - Wind
  - Geothermal

Goals

- Conserve species and natural communities
  - Desert tortoise, Desert bighorn sheep, Mohave ground squirrel, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, golden eagle, California condor, burrowing owl, microphyll woodlands, dunes, among others

Status

- Preparation of the draft DRECP
  - LUPA/NCCP/GCP/EIR/EIS
- Public review and comment
  - Scheduled for release end of Summer 2014

Planning Considerations and Challenges

- BLM and other federal agencies manage over half of planning area, including many important habitat areas.

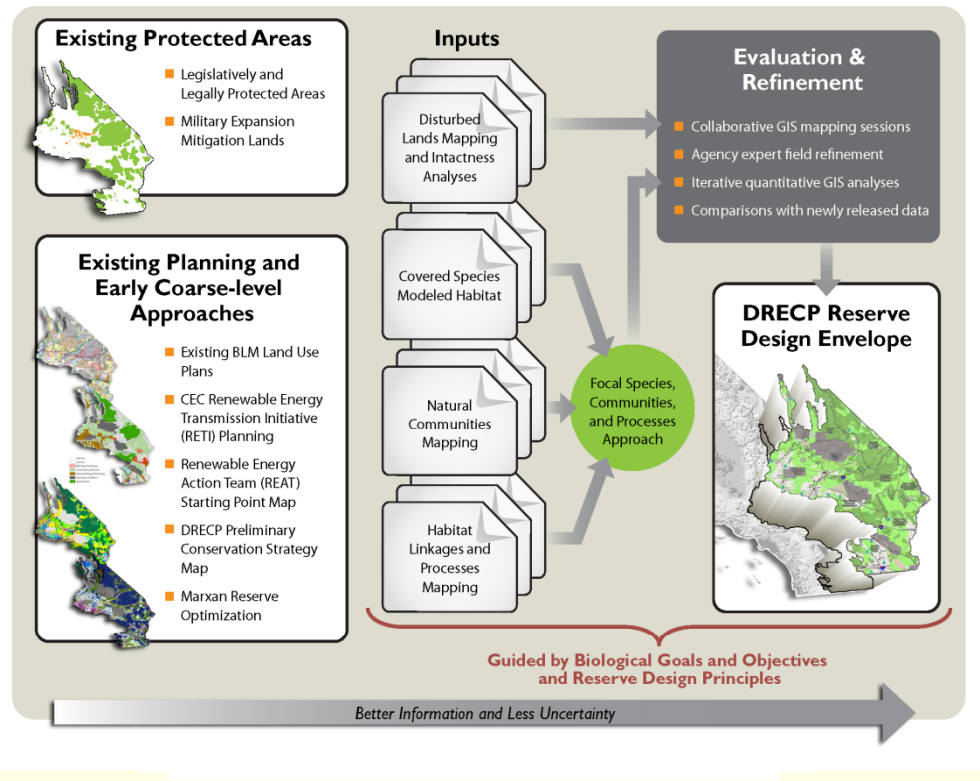
- DRECP spans portions of 7 counties, and county participation will vary from county to county.

Planning Considerations and Challenges

- CEC jurisdiction is limited to certain types of projects.
- State Lands Commission jurisdiction is geographically limited.

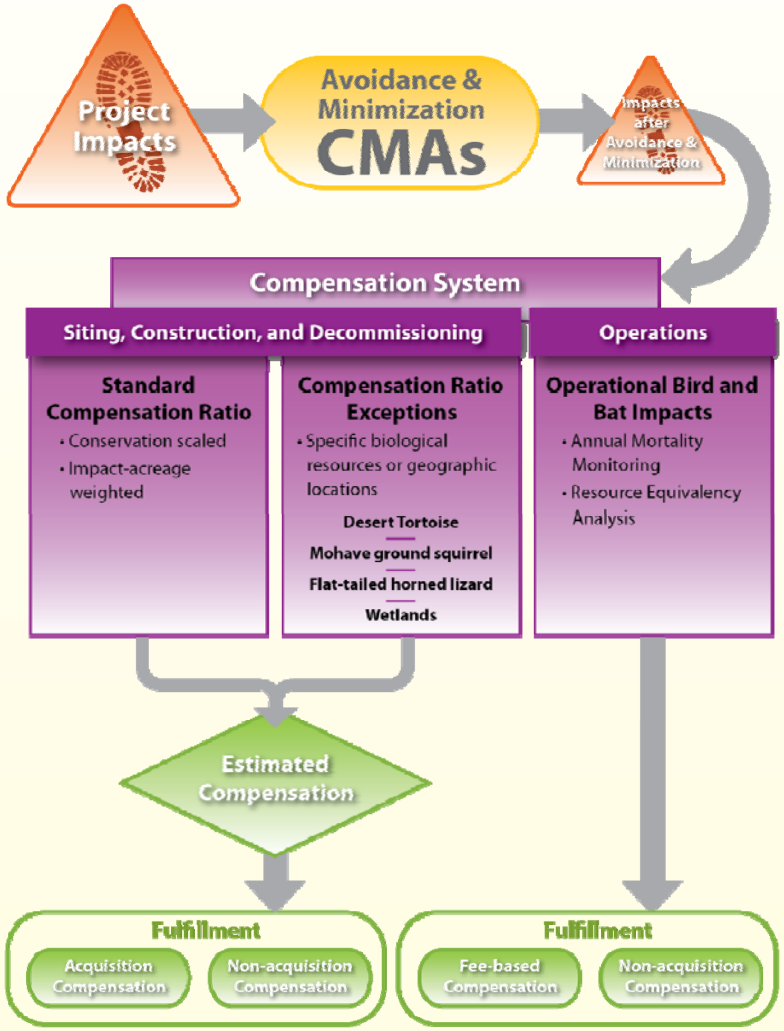
Mitigation-related Elements

- Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope
  - Existing Protected Areas
  - BLM LUPA Conservation Designations
  - Conservation Planning Areas
- Conservation Priority Areas
  - On public and private lands



Mitigation-related Elements

- Standardized compensation ratios
- Compensation for operational impacts to birds and bats
- Acquisition and non-acquisition based compensation



Mitigation-related Elements

- Implementation Structure
  - DRECP Coordination Group
    - Would manage mitigation fee revenues
    - Would direct and oversee land acquisition

- Plan-wide Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program
  - Effectiveness monitoring framework
  - Adaptive management framework
    - Integrated climate change modeling tools
    - Other modeling tools (intactness, conservation values)

Questions?

DRECP website: http://www.drecp.org