

# California Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)

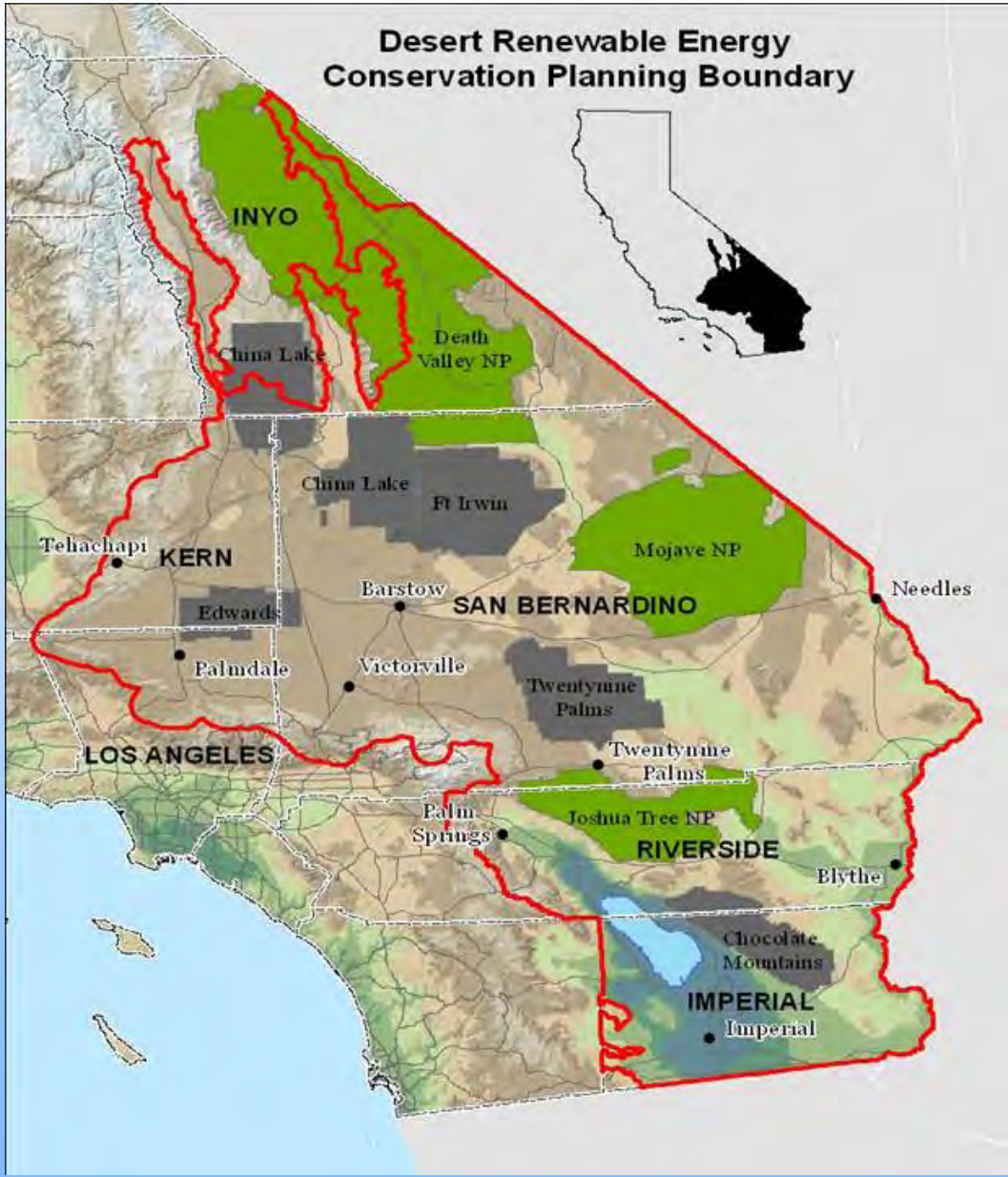
First Stakeholder Committee Meeting

March 23, 2010

Riverside, CA



# Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Boundary



- Planning Area boundary
- Counties and major cities
- DoD and National Park lands

# Natural Community Conservation Planning Act

- California Fish & Game Code Chapter 10, Section 2800
- Broad-based planning to provide for protection of the state's wildlife heritage while continuing to allow appropriate development and growth.
- Tool in protecting California's natural diversity while reducing conflicts between protection of the state's wildlife heritage and reasonable use of natural resources for economic development.
- Process to promote coordination and cooperation among public agencies, landowners, and other private interests
- Voluntary planning process that can facilitate early coordination to protect the interests of the state, the federal government, and local public agencies, landowners, and other private parties.
- Mechanism that can provide an early planning framework for proposed development projects within the planning area in order to avoid, minimize, and compensate for project impacts to wildlife.

# DRECP Planning Goals

- Maintain and enhance biological diversity in the planning area
- Conserve viable populations of endangered, threatened and key species
- Minimize the need for future listings
- Enable economic growth
- Address public use of public lands within the reserve area

# Basic Tenets of Reserve Design

- ▣ Conserve target species throughout plan area
- ▣ Larger reserves are better
- ▣ Keep reserve areas close
- ▣ Keep habitat contiguous
- ▣ Link reserves with corridors
- ▣ Reserves should be diverse
- ▣ Protect reserves from encroachment

# Benefits of NCCP Approach

## With NNCP

- ▣ Regional scale habitat systems
- ▣ Single permit authority
- ▣ Cost sharing w/ state & fed. agencies
- ▣ Pre-established requirements
- ▣ Mitigation certainty & flexibility
- ▣ No disruption from future ESA/CESA listings
- ▣ Active management
- ▣ Funded biological monitoring

## Without NCCP

- ▣ Habitat fragmentation
- ▣ Multiple permit authorities
- ▣ Developers and local agencies bearing the costs
- ▣ Project by project negotiations
- ▣ Mitigation uncertain and inflexible
- ▣ Disruption from future ESA/CESA listings
- ▣ Passive or no management
- ▣ Ad-hoc biological monitoring



# NCCP Phases

- ▣ Planning agreement
- ▣ Committees
- ▣ Independent scientific input
- ▣ Biological data collection
- ▣ Preserve design
- ▣ Development of draft plan
- ▣ Public review of draft plan
- ▣ Final plan development
- ▣ Jurisdiction approval of final plan
- ▣ State and Federal permit issuance
- ▣ Implementation

# Current DRECP Activities

- Develop work plan
- Assemble Stakeholder Committee
- Assemble Independent Science Advisors
- Plan for first stakeholder meeting in Riverside on March 25, 2010
- Plan for Independent Science Advisors 3 day workshop in April, 2010



# Stakeholder Committee Membership

- Stakeholder agencies – BLM and CEC
- Ex-officio agencies – USFWS, DFG
- Counties – policy level staff designated by the CAO
- Environmental organizations
- Renewable energy developers

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