

California Energy  
CommissionDepartment of  
Fish and GameBureau of Land  
ManagementU.S. Fish and  
Wildlife Service

## **Public Meeting to Discuss and Comment on the draft *Best Management Practices and Guidance Manual: Desert Renewable Energy Projects***

On November 17, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-14-08. This renewable energy-focused Executive Order increases the California Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) target to 33 percent by 2020 and establishes planning and conservation processes for permitting renewable energy projects. The Executive Order directs the California Energy Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to work collaboratively with other state, federal and local agencies and interested stakeholders to establish a comprehensive and integrated strategy to accelerate the permitting of renewable portfolio standard projects in the California desert region while minimizing environment impacts and conserving valuable natural resources. The primary objectives are to identify areas in the Colorado and Mojave deserts suitable for future renewable energy development, to identify areas to conserve, and to develop a conservation strategy that will lead to completing the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). Another major requirement of the Executive Order is to prepare a best management practices (BMP) manual by December 31, 2009.

The draft Best Management Practices and Guidance Manual has been developed collaboratively by the Energy Commission, CDFG, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and with input from the Desert Managers Group that is developing BMPs for solar energy projects. The draft BMP manual will be available on October 5 at [[www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020/documents/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020/documents/index.html)].

A public workshop to discuss and solicit comments on the draft BMP manual will be:

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009**

**10 a.m.**

City of Victorville

14343 Civic Drive

Training Rooms 1 and 2

Victorville, CA 92392 (see map)

(wheelchair accessible)

For details on how to participate via WebEx or telephone,  
see the "Participation through WebEx" section below.

## **Purpose**

This draft BMP manual has been prepared to: help ensure that desert renewable energy project developers understand and meet federal, state and local renewable energy and environmental requirements; assist developers in designing renewable energy projects that minimize environmental impacts; and assist in accelerating the environmental review of renewable energy projects in the local, state, and federal permitting processes.

Because this document builds upon existing National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidance, implementing the activities and practices listed in this manual will support efforts to comply with NEPA, CEQA and other federal, state, and local environmental laws. Following the suggestions in this manual will facilitate the issuance of required permits for a project and improve the efficiency of the regulatory process.

To assist the agencies in reducing the time associated with the permitting process, project developers should propose appropriate project design features and environmental impact avoidance and mitigation measures as part of their applications to the appropriate local, state or federal lead agencies. This draft BMP manual contains valuable suggestions that will assist developers in designing projects that minimize environmental and public health/safety impacts. Incorporating all applicable BMPs into the development of a renewable energy project before an application is filed is fundamental to an accelerated permitting process. Ideally, for projects to be permitted in a time-efficient manner consistent with the Executive Order, renewable energy developers should complete the critical actions identified in the BMP manual before they file applications with BLM, the Energy Commission and other lead agencies.

## **Written Comments**

Written comments on the draft BMP manual must be submitted by 5 p.m. on October 27, 2009. Please provide written comments specific to a page number and bullet, and suggested wording. The draft manual is available at [www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020/documents/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020/documents/index.html). Include the docket number 09-Renew EO-01 and indicate "Renewable Energy Executive Order" in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please hand deliver or mail an original copy to:

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

The Energy Commission also encourages written comments by e-mail. Please include your name or your organization's name in the name of the file. Those submitting comments by e-mail should provide them in either Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.state.ca.us]. One original paper copy must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit at the above address and docket number.

Workshop participants may also provide an original and 10 copies at the beginning of the workshop. Written materials relating to this workshop will be filed with the Dockets Unit and become part of the public record.

## **Public Participation**

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [**PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us**]. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [**mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us**]. If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this forum, please call Paul Richins at (916) 654-4074, or by e-mail at [**prichins@energy.state.ca.us**].

Notices, documents, reports, and public comments are posted on the Energy Commission's website at [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020>]. To receive notices and information about the implementation of the Executive Order, sign up for the electronic list server on this webpage.

## **Participation through WebEx**

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meeting@10.
3. After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. **CLICK CANCEL.**
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## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

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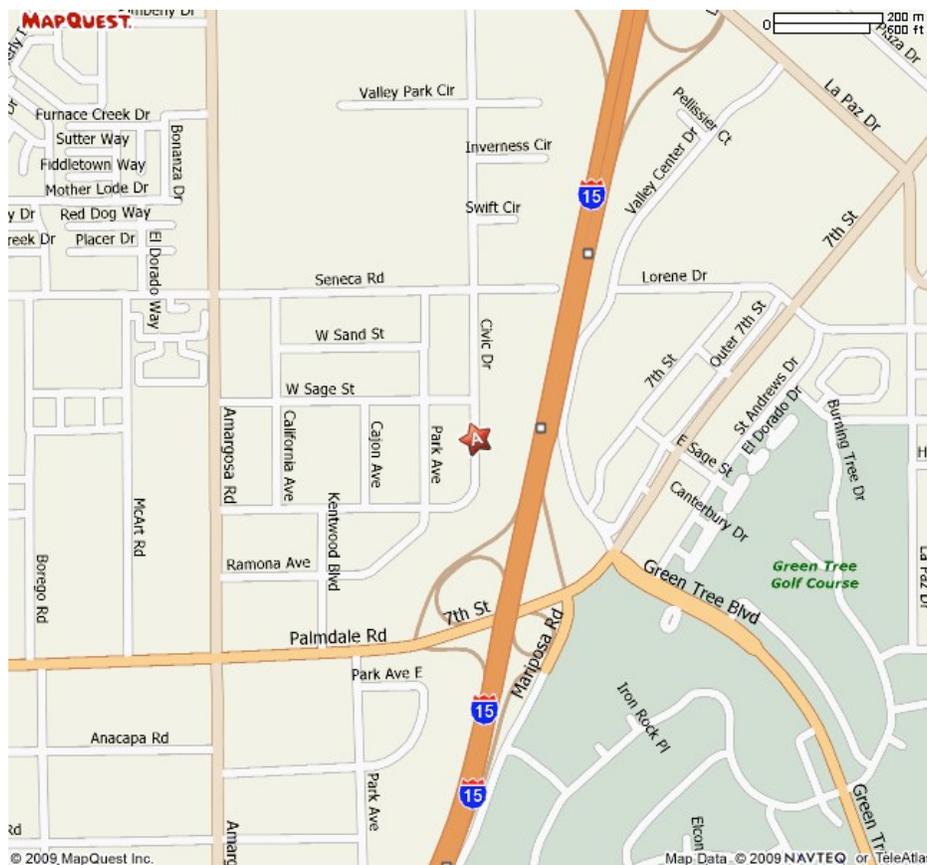
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Date: September 30, 2009

Mail Lists: Renewables, Wind, 33by2020, Siting, Solar PEIS, and RETI