

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

Notice of Availability

Draft *Planning Agreement* for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

Governor Schwarzenegger's Renewable Energy Executive Order (Executive Order S-14-08) directs the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) – comprised of the California Energy Commission, Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -- to develop and implement the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).

When completed, the DRECP will embody a conservation strategy that identifies areas in the Mojave and Colorado Desert regions suitable for renewable energy project development and areas that will contribute to conserving sensitive species and natural communities. The plan will also serve as the basis for obtaining binding, long-term endangered species incidental take authorizations and regulatory assurances, and facilitate and streamline the process of approving renewable energy projects.

The REAT agencies are using the state's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) process to prepare this plan. The first phase of the NCCP process is to draft a *Planning Agreement* and distribute it for public review and comment. The purpose of the *Planning Agreement* is to specify the roles and responsibilities of the REAT agencies while they develop the DRECP and to identify the DRECP's scope. The agreement preliminarily defines the types of renewable energy-development activities to be covered by the plan as well as the natural communities and species to be addressed through resource-conservation planning. The *Planning Agreement* also outlines processes for independent scientific and public input and an interim process for renewable energy project review.

The REAT agencies request public review and written comments on this draft *Planning Agreement*. Written comments should be submitted by 5 p.m. on November 17, 2009 to the following docket:

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

Please include the docket number 09-Renew EO-01 and indicate "Draft Planning Agreement" in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments.

The Energy Commission encourages receiving written comments by e-mail. Please submit comments using either a Word or Portable Document Format (PDF) file to [\[docket@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us). Please include your name or your organization's name in the electronic file's name. One original paper copy must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit at the above address, including the docket number. Comments filed with the Dockets Unit become part of the public record.

Information about the implementation of the Executive Order and DRECP are posted on the Energy Commission's website at [\[www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/33by2020). Please sign up for the electronic list server on this webpage if you wish to be advised of newly posted notices and reports.

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

Date:

Mail Lists: 30%by2020, RETI, Wind, Renewables, and Solar PEIS

Note: California Energy Commission's formal name is State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission.