

AGENDA
PUBLIC INTEREST ENERGY RESEARCH (PIER) WORKSHOP

**California Desert Research: Reducing the Biological Impacts
of Solar Energy Development**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011 (1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California
Hearing Room B

Workshop Objectives:

- Present study plans for PIER-funded desert research projects
- Share information on key biological issues in California desert renewable energy siting and development that are being addressed by research
- Provide a forum for researcher collaboration
- Solicit input on additional desert research needs

- 1:00 – 1:10 **Introductions, Workshop Objectives, and Agenda Review**
 Misa Milliron and Linda Spiegel, PIER Environmental Area
- 1:10 – 1:30 **Cumulative Biological Impacts Framework for Solar Energy Projects
in the California Desert**
 Frank Davis, UC Santa Barbara
- 1:30 – 1:50 **Potential Habitat Modeling, Landscape Genetics and Habitat
Connectivity for the Mohave Ground Squirrel**
 Todd Esque, US Geological Survey
- 1:50 – 2:10 **Mapping Habitat Distributions of Desert Rare Plants from Optimized
Data**
 Kara Moore and Patrick McIntyre, UC Davis
- 2:10 – 2:30 **Population Viability and Restoration Potential for Rare Plants Near
Solar Installations**
 Kara Moore and Bruce Pavlik, BMP Ecosciences
- 2:30 – 2:40 **Break**
- 2:40 – 3:00 **Desert Tortoise Spatial Decision Support System**
Nathan Strout, Redlands Institute, University of Redlands
- 3:00 – 3:20 **Use of Habitat Suitability Models and Head-Start Techniques to
Minimize Conflicts between Desert Tortoises and Energy
Development Projects in the Mojave Desert**
 Brian Todd, UC Davis

3:20 – 3:30	Comments and Additional Questions from Attendees
3:20 – 3:30	Discussion: Researcher Collaboration/Data Sharing
3:40 – 4:00	Discussion: Additional Energy-Related Biological Research Needs and Priorities in the Desert
4:00	Adjourn