

**DRAFT
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:

- Provide broad outreach and overviews of 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Misa Milliron and Linda Spiegel, PIER Environmental Area</i>
1:10 – 1:30	Cumulative Biological Impacts Framework for Solar Energy Projects in the California Desert <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Frank Davis, UC Santa Barbara</i>
1:30 – 1:50	Potential Habitat Modeling, Landscape Genetics and Habitat Connectivity for the Mohave Ground Squirrel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Todd Esque, US Geological Survey</i>
1:50 – 2:10	Mapping Habitat Distributions of Desert Rare Plants from Optimized Data <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Kara Moore and Patrick McIntyre, UC Davis</i>
2:10 – 2:30	Population Viability and Restoration Potential for Rare Plants Near Solar Installations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Kara Moore and Bruce Pavlik, BMP Ecosciences</i>
2:30 – 2:40	Break
2:40 – 3:00	Desert Tortoise Spatial Decision Support System <i>Nathan Strout, Redlands Institute, University of Redlands</i>
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Brian Todd, UC Davis</i>

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