

Presentation Overview

- Introduction to the DRECP
- Planning Process
- Draft DRECP Overview
- Public Participation
- Key Planning Topics

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

The Draft DRECP:

- A long-term adaptable plan
- Streamlines renewable energy project review and approval
- Conserves sensitive species
- Conserves other resources
- Conservation designations on BLM land



The DRECP will...

- Help California and the nation meet renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- Identify areas appropriate for renewable energy development and coordinate state and federal environmental review and permitting process.
- Identify conservation areas for sensitive cultural resources, plant and wildlife species and provide a framework for adaptive management in the face of climate change.

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22.5 million acres across 7 Counties:

- Imperial
- Inyo
- Kern
- Los Angeles
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Diego

Includes federal and non-federal lands



DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

CALIFORNIA NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANS (NCCPs)







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Climate Change – Conservation Challenges

- Physiological Tolerances
- Vegetation Changes
- Rate of change vs. dispersal and movement
- Water Availability

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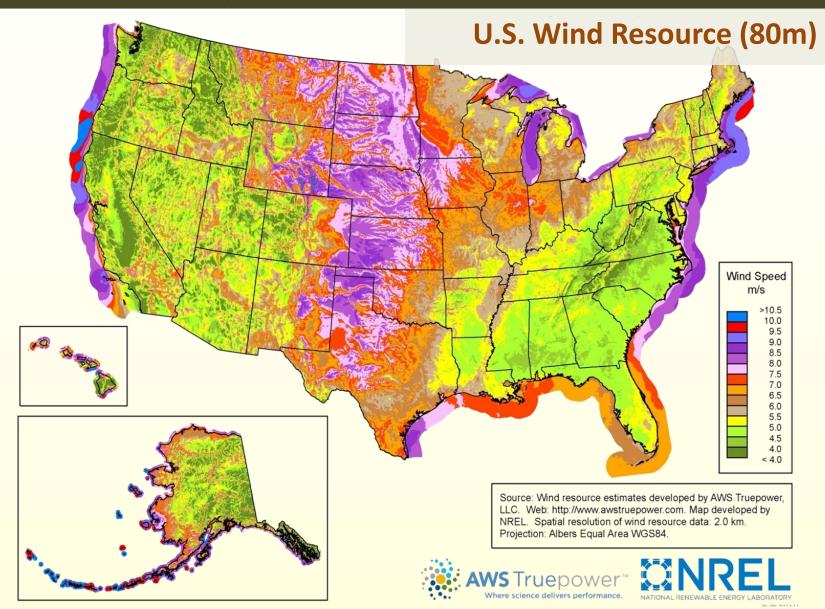
Climate Change – Energy Challenges

- Increase in Demand
- Power Plant Generation and Efficiency
- Hydroelectric Generation
- Transmission

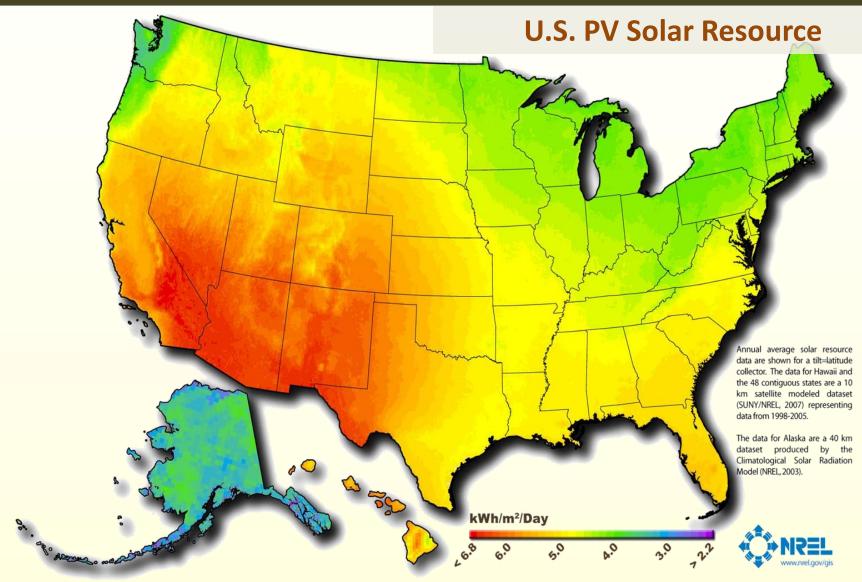
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Energy Generation Development

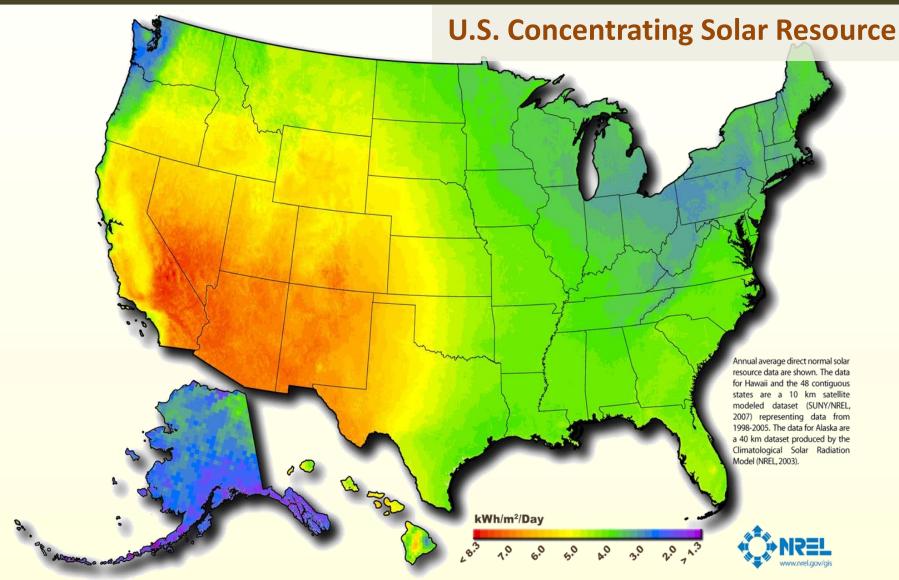
- Renewable Energy Resource Distribution and Quality
 - Wind Resources
 - Solar Resources
 - Geothermal Resources

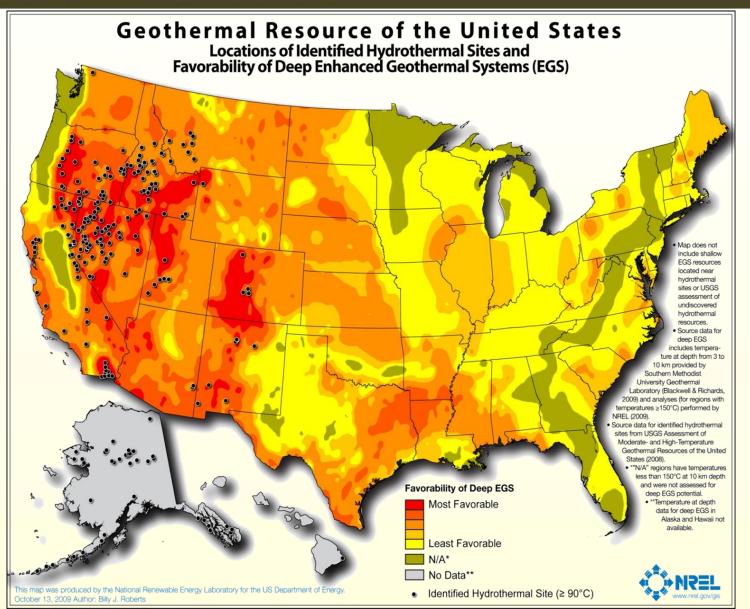


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Energy Generation – How Much? Where?

- Population and Economic Growth Forecasts
- Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation
- Electric Vehicles and per-vehicle electric consumption
- Electrification of other economic sectors

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Conservation Perspective

- Develop the most disturbed areas first
- Emphasize conservation of habitat connectivity at all landscape levels
- Minimize development impacts
- Coherent and coordinated mitigation approach

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Energy Perspective

- Develop the most disturbed areas first
- Provide flexibility for development
- Access to transmission
- Reliable permitting process
- Known requirements

Why do we need the DRECP?

- Identify appropriate areas for renewable energy projects
- Create incentives for developers to site projects in identified areas
- Conserve sensitive species, their habitats, and ecological processes
- Protect the cultural, recreation, and other values of the desert on BLM administered lands

Planning Process

Planning Process – REAT Agencies

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The Draft DRECP was prepared by a partnership of state and federal agencies:

- California Energy Commission
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service









Planning Process – Timeline

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2008: Planning Process Initiated 2010:
Planning
Agmt.
Signed by
REAT
Agencies

2010-2013: Public Stakeholder Comm.

2010 & 2012: Science Advisors

2012: Preliminary Alts Released Sept. 26, 2014: Public Draft DRECP Released

Planning Process – Stakeholder Input

- Stakeholders helped shape the DRECP
- Stakeholder Committee process
 - Collaborative information sharing
 - State and Federal Agencies, Local Governments, RE
 Developers, RE Industry Associations, NGOs, Utilities, Native

 American Organizations, and Off-Highway Vehicle
 Organizations
 - Day-long meetings, approx. every month for over 3 years
 - Open to the public
 - Broadcast and recorded via WebEx

Planning Process – Science Input

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- Science helped shape the DRECP
- Science input has occurred throughout
 - DRECP Independent Science Advisors
 - DRECP Science Advisory Panel
 - Independent species expert reviews
 - Species modeling forum
 - Conservation Biology Institute support

Recommendations of
Independent Science Advisors
for
The California
Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
(DRECP)

Prepared For Renewable Energy Action Team:

California Department of Fish & Game U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service U.S. Bureau of Land Management California Energy Commission

Prepared By The DRECP Independent Science Advisors

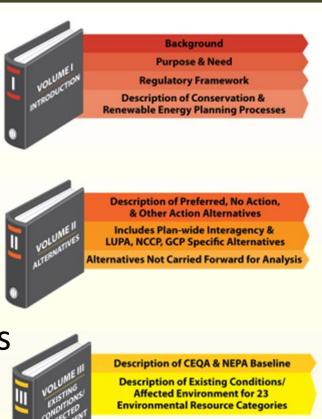


Draft DRECP Overview

DRECP Overview – Document Organization

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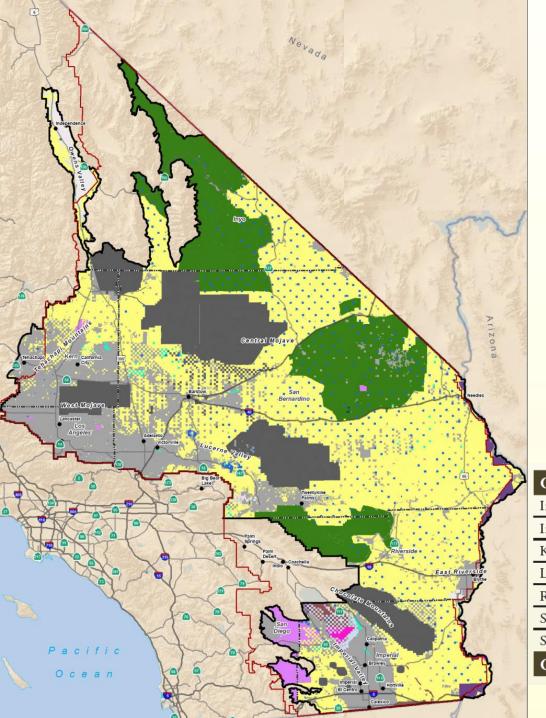
The Draft
DRECP &
EIR/EIS
comprise 6
volumes - plus
appendices











DRECP Planning Area Boundary				
CDCA Plan Boundary				
County Boundary				
Land Ownership				
Federal Lands				
United States Bureau of Land Management				
U.S. Department of Defense				
United States Bureau of Reclamation				
United States Department of Agriculture				
United States Fish and Wildlife Service				
United States National Park Service				
State Lands				
California Department of Fish and Wildlife				
California Department of Parks and Recreation				
California State Lands Commission				
Other State Lands				
Other Lands				
Tribal Lands				
Private				

County	Nonfederal	Federal	Total Acres
Imperial County	1,071,000	1,704,000	2,775,000
Inyo County	320,000	2,668,000	2,987,000
Kern County	925,000	821,000	1,746,000
Los Angeles County	625,000	55,000	680,000
Riverside County	301,000	1,846,000	2,147,000
San Bernardino County	2,075,000	9,907,000	11,982,000
San Diego County	267,000	200	268,000
Grand Total			22,585,000

DRECP Overview – Plan Components

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

Bureau of Land Management

Land Use Plan Amendments

US Fish & Wildlife Service

General Conservation

Plan



California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Natural Community Conservation Plan

DRECP Plan Components

 A BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA)



LUPA Lands

Land Use Plan Amendment

Agency: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Total Acreage: 9,834,000



General Conservation Plan

Agency: US Fish & Wildlife

Service

Total Acreage: 5,420,000

 A General Conservation Plan (GCP) covering nonfederal lands





NCCP Lands

Natural Communities Conservation Plan

Agency: California Dept.

of Fish & Wildlife

Total Acreage: 18,986,000

DRECP Overview – Covered Activities

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DRECP Covered Activities

Pre-construction and construction activities

Operation and maintenance activities

Decommissioning of Renewable Energy
Projects

- Renewable energy development within Development Focus Areas (DFAs)
 - Solar
 - Wind
 - Geothermal
- Transmission development within and outside DFAs
- Biological conservation and compensation actions
- Conservation and compensation actions for recreation, cultural, visual, etc. on BLM lands

DRECP Overview – Renewable Energy

- Plans for up to 20,000 MWs of new generation and transmission in Plan Area to 2040
 - Used as a planning assumption to develop a ground disturbance acreage estimate
- DRECP also assumes 20,000 MWs of customerside generation installed in 2040
 - Approximately 10x more than what is installed today

DRECP Overview – Renewable Energy

- DRECP does not prescribe 20,000 MWs be constructed
 - Actual amount will depend on technological changes and public policy
- 20,000 MWs would result in an estimated 177,000 acres of ground disturbance.
- DRECP analyzes the effects of constructing and operating up to 20,000 MWs under a range of alternatives

DRECP Overview – Renewable Energy Designations

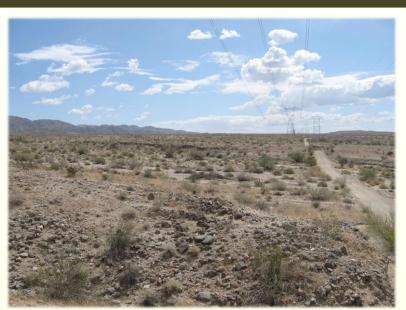
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Development Focus Areas (DFAs)

 Areas available for renewable energy projects with development incentives

Study Areas

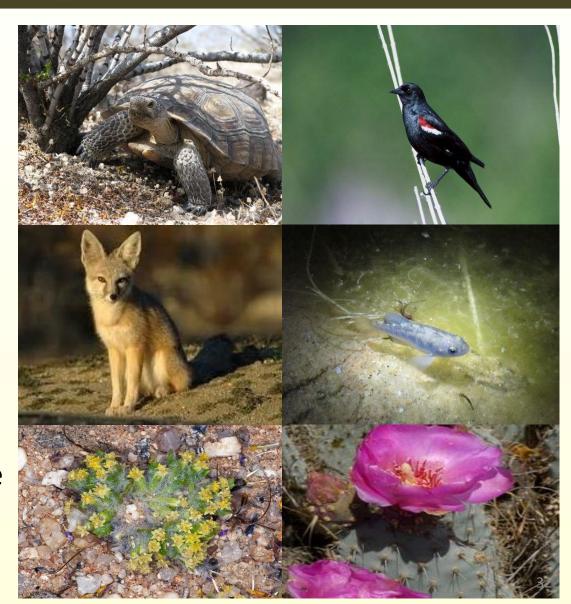
- Lands that could be appropriate for development, but require further study (3 types)
 - Special Analysis Areas
 - Future Assessment Areas
 - DRECP Variance Lands





DRECP Overview – Biological Conservation Strategy

- Conserve covered species, their habitat, natural communities, and ecological processes
- Biological Goals and Objectives
- Landscape design
- Conservation and Management Actions
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program



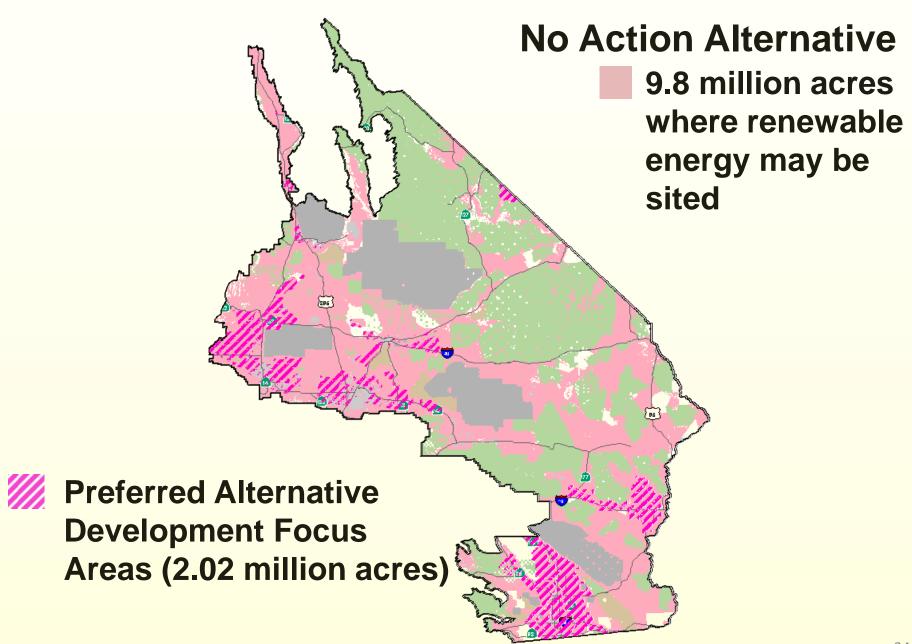
DRECP Overview – Alternatives

- 6 Alternatives evaluated in the DRECP
 - 5 Action Alternatives
 - 1 No Action Alternative
- Agencies have selected a Preferred Alternative from the 5 action alternatives

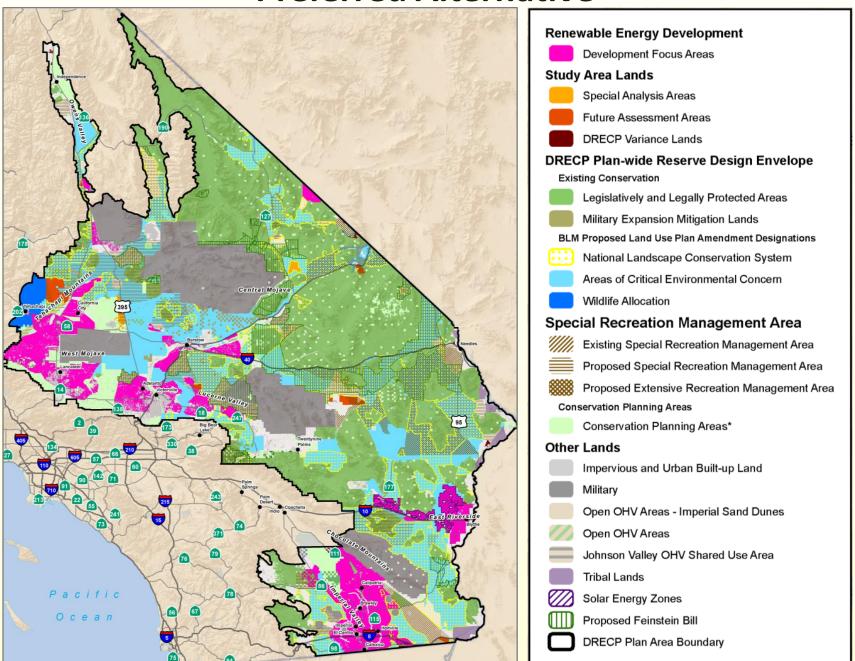




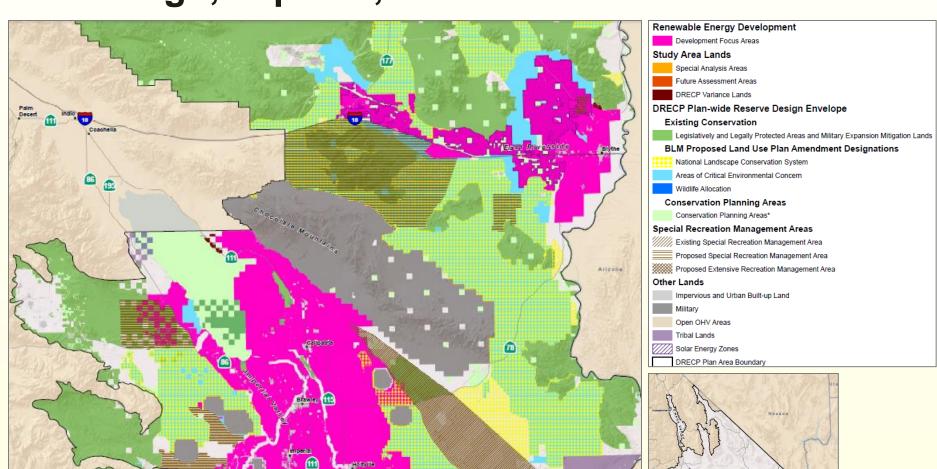




Preferred Alternative



San Diego, Imperial, and East Riverside



DRECP Overview – Preferred Alternative

- Biological Conservation Strategy 15 million acres
- BLM Conservation Designations 4 million acres
- DFAs 2 million acres
- Study Area Lands 183,000 acres
- BLM Recreation Designations 3.6 million acres

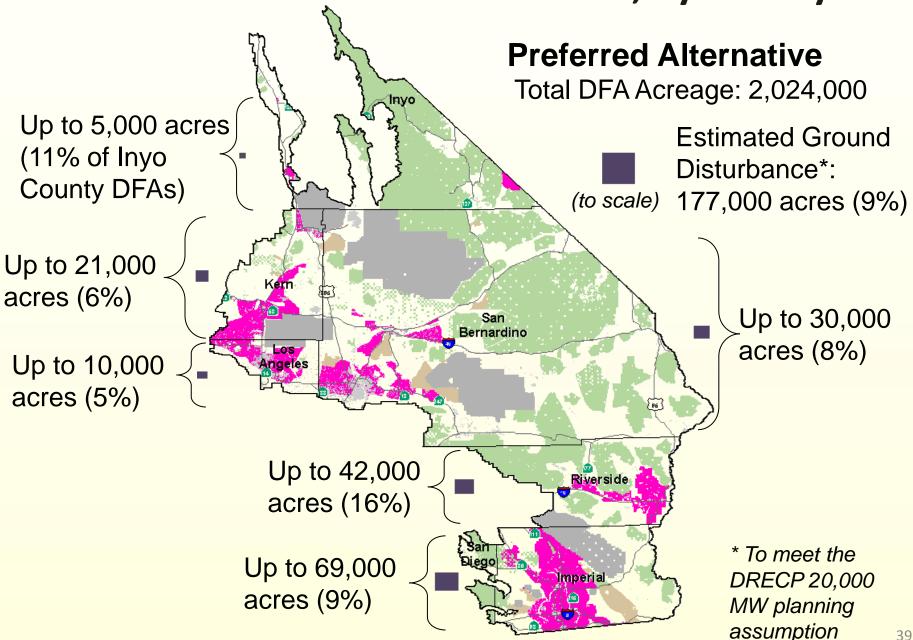
DRECP Overview - Preferred Alternative

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Estimated Ground Disturbance, Preferred Alternative

Up to 177,000 acres (9% of the DFAs) Estimated Ground **Disturbance in DFAs** Total Acreage of DFAs: 2,024,000

Estimated Ground Disturbance, by County



DRECP Overview – Environmental Analysis

Rights-of-Way and Land Tenure

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23 Resource Areas considered in the state & federal environmental analysis

Air Quality	BLM Land Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics**
Meteorology and Climate Change	Mineral Resources
Geology and Soils	Livestock Grazing**
Flood Hazard, Hydrology, and Drainage	Wild Horses and Burros**
Groundwater, Water Supply, and Water Quality	Outdoor Recreation
Biological Resources	Transportation and Public Access
Cultural Resources	Visual Resources
Native American Interests	Noise and Vibration
Paleontological Resources	Public Safety and Services
Land Use and Policies	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
Agricultural Land and Production	Department of Defense Lands and Operations**
BLM Lands and Realty—	40

DRECP Overview – Environmental Analysis

Operations

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10 Resource Areas found to have significant impacts in 1 or more alternatives

RESOURCE AREAS CONSIDERED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS			
Less than Significant Impacts	Significant Impacts*		
Air Quality	Biological Resources		
Flood, Hazard, Hydrology, and Drainage	Agricultural Resources		
Land Use and Policies	Cultural Resources		
Geology and Soils	Native American Interests		
BLM Lands and Realty (rights-of-way and	Groundwater, Water Supply, Water Quality		
land tenure)	Meteorology and Climate Change		
BLM Land Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and Lands with Wilderness	Mineral Resources		
Characteristics	Outdoor Recreation		
Livestock Grazing	Paleontological Resources		
Wild Horses and Burros	Visual Resources		
Transportation and Public Access			
Noise and Vibration			
Public Safety and Services			
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice			
Department of Defense Lands and			

DRECP Overview – Implementation

- No new government entity created
 - All existing agencies retain current authority and responsibility
- Improved agency coordination and communication
- Implementation will include tribal and public participation and ongoing input
- Provides funding for implementation

DRECP Overview - Role of Local Government

- Local governments may use the DRECP to inform their independent land use planning decisions
- DRECP does not affect local land use planning or permitting authority for renewable energy projects
- Local governments have the option to apply for permits from the USFWS and CDFW to cover renewable energy projects within their local jurisdictions

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

Comprehensive Public Outreach and Communication

- Document Released (September 26, 2014)
 - Fully noticed and announced
 - Available on multiple websites
 - Hardcopy Volumes distributed to agency offices and libraries
 - Distributed 750+ hardcopy Executive
 Summaries; 1,200 DVDs
 - DRECP Brochure and 13 Fact Sheets

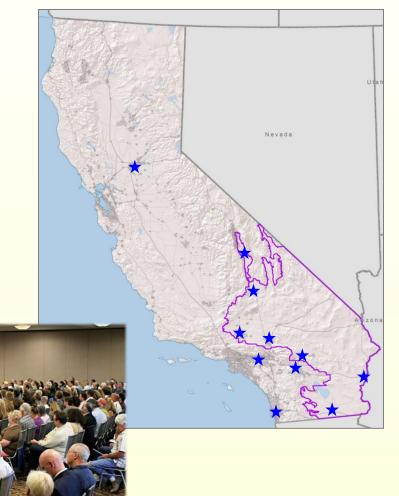




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Comprehensive Public Outreach and Communication (cont.)

- Public Meetings
 - 11 Meetings
 - 10 originally planned; 1 added
 - Throughout the state
 - Multi-format
 - Presentation
 - Open House
 - Public Comment



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Comprehensive Public Outreach and Communication (cont.)

- Web-based outreach and resources
 - Informational Video
 - Informational Webinar

Notice of Two Informational Webinars

California Energy Commission (Energy Commission), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) staff will conduct two webinars to provide information on the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) on Webinar 1

Renewable Energy and Permitting Monday, December 15, 2014
10:00am-Noon

Webinar 2
Conservation
Wednesday, December 17, 2014
11:00m-4:30m

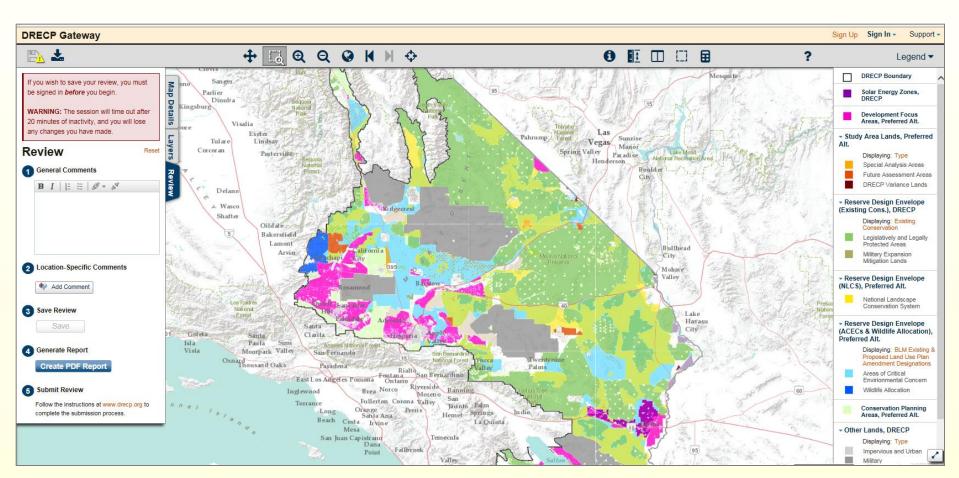


- Innovative online data & mapping tool
- User-friendly, free
- View, edit, and analyze maps and data
- Include custom maps with comments



DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

Comprehensive Public Outreach and Communication (cont.)



Public Participation – DRECP Availability

- Public Comment Period Closes: February 23, 2015
- Draft DRECP available at:
 - www.drecp.org
 - www.blm.gov/ca
 - www.fws.gov/carlsbad/PalmSprings/RenewableEnergyDocs.html
- DRECP Gateway: http://drecp.databasin.org
- Also available for review at:
 - Local libraries in the Plan Area and BLM, CEC, USFWS, and CDFW offices
- DRECP Listserv: http://drecp.org/about/contact.html#listserver
- DVD available on request

Key Planning Topics

Relationship to Other Planning Efforts

- Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI)
- Existing HCPs and Resource Management Plans
 - BLM CDCA and RMPs, National and State parks plans
 - DoD INRMPs
 - HCPs: Coachella Valley MSHCP, Tehachapi Uplands MSHCP, Lower Colorado MSCP, IID Plan
- County
 - General Plans
 - Renewable Energy initiatives

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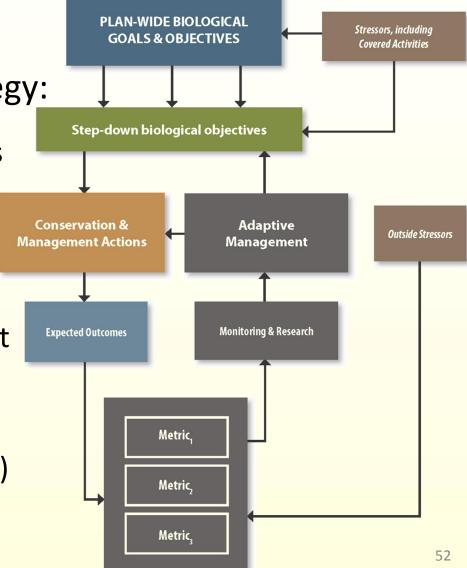
Essential Elements of the Biological Conservation Strategy:

Biological Goals and Objectives (BGOs)

Plan-wide Reserve Design Envelope

 Conservation and Management Actions (CMAs)

Monitoring and Adaptive
 Management Program (MAMP)

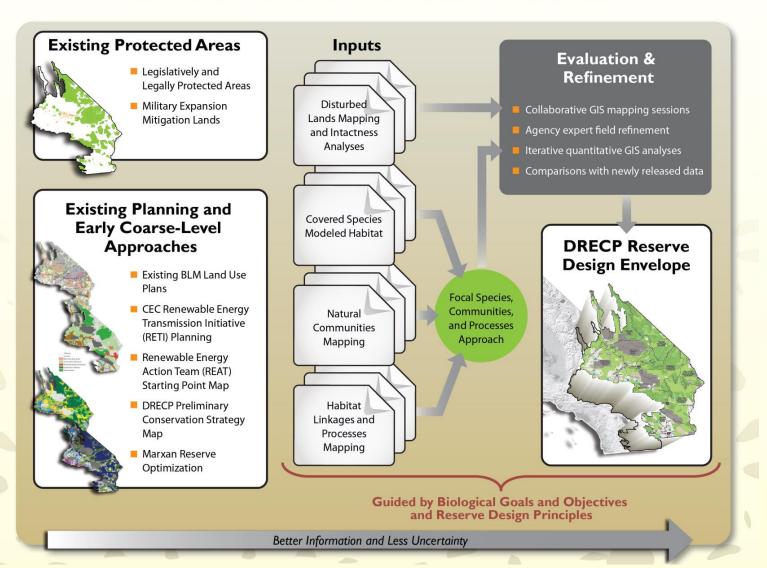


Covered Species			
Reptiles and Amphibians	Agassiz's desert tortoise Flat-tailed horned lizard	Mojave fringe-toed lizard Tehachapi slender salamander	
Birds	Bendire's thrasher Burrowing owl California black rail California condor Gila woodpecker Golden eagle Greater sandhill crane	Least Bell's vireo Mountain plover Swainson's hawk Tricolored blackbird Western yellow-billed cuckoo Willow flycatcher (including southwestern) Yuma clapper rail	
Fish	Desert pupfish Mohave tui chub	Owens pupfish Owens tui chub	
Mammals	California leaf-nosed bat Desert bighorn sheep Mohave ground squirrel	Pallid bat Townsend's big-eared bat	
Plants	Alkali mariposa-lily Bakersfield cactus Barstow woolly sunflower Desert cymopterus Little San Bernardino Mountains linanthus	Mojave monkeyflower Mojave tarplant Owens Valley checkerbloom Parish's daisy Triple-ribbed milk-vetch	

Natural Communities			
California Forest and Woodland	California Broadleaf Forest and Woodland	Californian Montane Conifer Forest	
Chaparral and Coastal Shrub	Californian Mesic Chaparral Californian Pre-Montane Chaparral Californian Xeric Chaparral Central and South Coastal California Seral Scrub	Californian Coastal Sage Scrub Western Mojave and Western Sonoran Desert Borderland Chaparral	
Desert Conifer Woodland	Great Basin Pinyon-Juniper Woodland		
Desert	North American Warm		
Outcrop and Badland	Desert Bedrock Cliff and Outcrop		
Desert Scrub	Arizonian upland Sonoran Desert scrub-Sonoran Desert scrub Intermontane Deep or Well-Drained Soil Scrub- Sonoran Desert Scrub Intermontane Seral Shrubland Inter-Mountain Dry Shrubland and Grassland	Intermountain Mountain Big Sagebrush Shrubland and Steppe Lower Bajada and Fan Mojavean-Sonoran Desert Shrub Mojave and Great Basin Upper Bajada and Toeslope Shadescale-Saltbrush Cool Semi-Desert Scrub Southern Great Basin Semi-Desert Grassland	
Dunes	North American Warm Desert Dunes and Sand Flats		
Grasslands	California Annual and Perennial Grassland	California Annual Forb/Grass Vegetation	
Riparian	Madrean Warm Semi-Desert Wash Scrub Mojavean Semi-Desert Wash Scrub Sonoran-Coloradan Semi-Desert Wash Woodland/ Scrub	Southwestern North American Riparian Evergreen and Deciduous Woodland Southwestern North American Riparian/Wash Scrub	
Wetland	Arid West Freshwater Emergent Marsh Californian Warm Temperate Marsh/Seep	North American Warm Desert Alkaline Scrub and Herb Playa and Wet Flat Southwestern North American Salt Basin and High Marsh	

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DRECP RESERVE DESIGN PROCESS



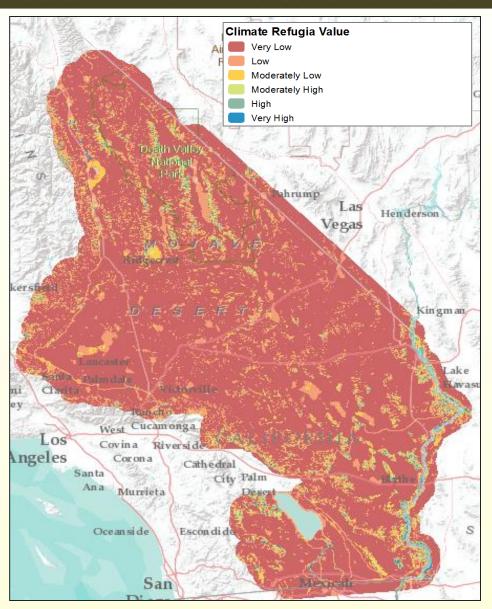
Addressing Climate Change

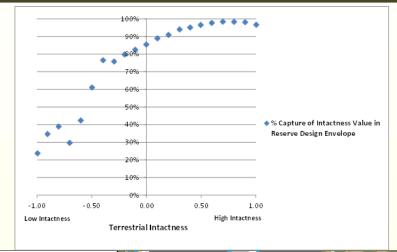
DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

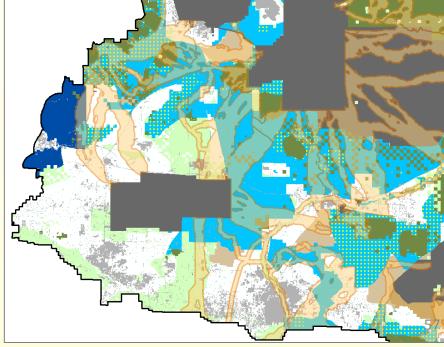
The California deserts are expected to become warmer and may become drier...as climate change progresses...Species will need to cope with decreasing and less consistent water availability and an increasing number of days above current minimum temperatures.

- DRECP addresses climate change effects primarily through providing for Adaptation and Resiliency
 - Reserve Design
 - Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

Addressing Climate Change

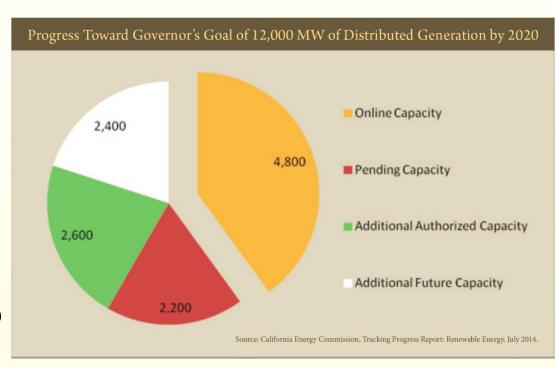






Distributed Generation

- Distributed generation represents an increasingly important element of California's energy portfolio
- The state has ambitious goals for DG
- The state is committed to overcoming barriers to DG to achieve these goals



For more information, visit: www.drecp.org

