

February , 2018

San Bernardino County Supervisors
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

RE: DRECP and San Bernardino County Renewable Energy and Conservation Element

Dear Supervisors Lovingood, Rutherford, Ramos, Hagman and Gonzales:

We are concerned citizens who care deeply about the rural character of San Bernardino County's unincorporated communities and value our region's natural resources: land, air, water and wildlife.

San Bernardino County is once again at a crossroads in terms of comprehensive planning for the development of renewable energy. Currently, there are a number of proposed renewable energy projects under the County's jurisdiction that would fundamentally erode the quality of life in our rural, unincorporated communities. Additionally, the Department of Interior (DOI) has recently decided to amend the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) to provide for more utility scale renewable energy development, while diminishing conservation measures in its Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA).

As citizens we have spent countless hours participating in both the San Bernardino County Partnership for Renewable Energy and Conservation (SPARC) process and the DRECP, communicating our concerns about the potential adverse social, recreational, economic and environmental impacts of utility scale renewable energy on our rural, unincorporated communities and public lands.

We believe the County has made some positive steps, but more must be done to protect San Bernardino County residents' quality of life and our natural resources.

We urge you to act immediately to send Renewable Energy Policy 4.10 and RE 4.10.1, 4.10.2 and 4.10.3 to the Planning Commission and to adopt these measures as they stand as they provide the best means of protection against utility scale renewable energy projects that would fundamentally harm the fabric of our communities. This suite of policies is essential in prohibiting utility scale renewable energy projects under the County's jurisdiction that would create adverse impacts on our unincorporated communities' quality of life or economic development.

Additionally, we request you act swiftly to submit a comment during the DRECP scoping period that reflects the values of your constituents and makes it clear to Department of Interior (DOI) that the September 2016 DRECP LUPA Record of Decision should stand as is and there should be no further changes to the allocations of conservation, recreational or renewable energy designations in this comprehensive plan. We firmly believe the County has the right and obligation to comment on this federal process because additional renewable energy development on federal land will have an impact on air quality, water resources, economic development, recreation and the physical health of citizens.

Sincerely,