

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Workshop Teaches New Skills to Empower the Community To Defend The California Desert

Yucca Valley, California. The upcoming workshop will teach community members how to better fight inappropriate development on public land and craft meaningful comments that will have to be considered by agency decision makers. It will be offered on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 9:30 to 3:30pm at the Yucca Valley Community Center (<http://www.yucca-valley.org/departments/comsvcsdept.html>). The workshop will be taught by expert environmental lawyers and conservationists and utilize active, participatory learning. It will focus on the National Environmental Policy Act and is being organized by the California Desert Coalition (CDC) and Advocates for the West with generous support from Conservation Lands Foundation and the Morongo Basin Conservation Association.

The National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) guides decision making in our national parks, monuments and a variety of public lands across the west. Desert residents are faced with increasingly complex public policy issues, such as the reopening of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), which is being triggered by both external and internal forces and will affect every aspect of the quality of life in the desert. The workshop is being offered at this time because more desert advocates are needed to defend the desert we love.

Specifically, the workshop will teach participants how to:

- Best defend our national parks, monuments and other public lands against the threat of harmful industrial projects that would damage our communities, water, wildlife and air quality
- Understand the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an important environmental law that guides all decision making on public land
- Craft substantive comments that must be considered by agency decision-makers
- Effectively analyze complex programs and projects on federal land

The California Desert Coalition (<https://www.cadesertcoalition.org/>) is a nonpartisan, issue advocacy group that exists to give the people of the California desert a voice in its future. We build coalitions to promote a deeper understanding of public policy issues and to stitch together the voices that are responsible for these decisions.

Advocates for the West (<https://advocateswest.org/>) has been utilizing litigation to defend the West's natural treasures and wildlife for the benefit for all for over 16 years. Advocates for the West seeks to hold government accountable for its mandated duties to protect and preserve our environment

Conservation Lands Foundation (<https://conservationlands.org/>) is the only non-profit in the country solely dedicated to protecting the National Conservation Lands with the goal of protecting, restoring and expanding these spectacular landscapes through education, advocacy and partnerships. Conservation Lands Foundation carries out its work by supporting its Friends Grassroots Network.

The Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA) (<https://www.mbconservation.org/>) **MBCA** advocates for the healthy desert environment that nurtures the region's rural character, cultural wealth and economic well-being..

RSVP REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP. PLEASE EMAIL seth.shteir@gmail.com by May 12, 2019.

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