

MBCA News
Wednesday, May 27, 2015

REMINDERS TO ACT:

California Desert Conservation & Recreation Act: Voice Support ASAP!

Learn about this important conservation legislation and write a letter to help protect our beautiful and fragile California desert!

Join MDLT staff, the Wilderness Society and the National Parks Conservation Association for letter writing to targeted elected officials and an update about the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 (CDCRA of 2015).

Light snacks and beverages provided.

RSVP Required to Seth Shteir, NPCA (sshteir@npca.org)

When: Thursday, May 28, 2015 from 6-8pm

Where: Mojave Desert Land Trust Gateway Headquarters,
60124 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree, CA

The CDCRA of 2015 would create two new national monuments, designate wilderness and wild and scenic river segments and add lands to our national parks. Importantly, all land designations would affect only federal, public lands! This important bill has been introduced into the U.S. Senate and would also protect Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa near Pioneertown as a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), transfer Mojave Desert Land Trust properties to Joshua Tree National Park and balance recreational needs in the California desert by legislatively protecting five existing off road vehicle areas so that motorized recreationists will continue to have legal places to ride.

Our Congressman, Paul Cook has agreed to submit the companion CDCRA legislation to the U.S. House of Representatives. If this bill is to receive bipartisan support in Congress, it is critical to let Congressman Cook know **NOW** that we need his support of the CDCRA in its entirety & that he needs to submit legislation **without delay**.

Send send a personal letter to:

Congressman Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)

14955 Dale Evans Parkway, Apple Valley, CA 92307-9804

cc: James Ramos (Chair) – San Bernardino County Supervisor
SupervisorRamos@sbcounty.gov

BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement: WEMO (Western Mojave) BLM Route Network Project Plan: Voice your Concerns!

An important and ongoing issue across the Morongo Basin is illegal and disrespectful use of off-road or off-highway vehicles in residential areas. The most recent related event is the publishing of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed plan update for West Mojave (WEMO) motorized routes. The Morongo Basin and our nearby high desert neighbors to the east (Lucerne Valley etc.) are affected by this plan. The BLM's recommended alternatives double (yes, double) the number of motorized route miles.

The California ORV Watch (www.orvwatch.com) has been monitoring and educating on

this topic since 2004, and MBCA is a long-time partner of COW. MBCA Director Pat Flanagan, with assistance from Board of Advisors member Stephanie Weigel, has (once again) spent an inordinate number of hours working to make sense of the BLM-provided data and prepare and interpret it for the general public. [Their work on WEMO can be seen on the COW website](#), along with a number of other useful resources including already-submitted comment letters (see the column on the right). We encourage you to visit this page, take a look at the maps and comment letters, then write your own comment to the BLM.

Comments due by June 4, 2015:

e-mail: cawemopa@blm.gov; or

snail mail: Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District,

Attn: WMRNP Plan Amendment

22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 922553

Also be sure to "cc" your comments to our County Supervisor James Ramos – we need the County to know our positions and defend our interests. Why should the County allow BLM to usurp our County Service Area (CSA roads)?

cc: James Ramos (Chair) –San Bernardino County Supervisor

(SupervisorRamos@sbcounty.gov)

County plans to update General Plan:

The County is planning to update the General Plan - the map for development and land use decisions. The project is scheduled to kick off next month and expected to be officially adopted in April 2018. Internal interviews will start in August as the first phase of the project, while community workshops should begin in October. The Daily Press [article](#) online, May 23, 2015 provides background. MBCA will provide updates in future E-Blasts with talking points to use in comment letters.

In Conclusion

Wonderful news from Lorrie L. Steely, Mojave Communities Conservation Collaborative (MC3): *In a unanimous decision by the CPUC Commissioners today, SCE's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the **Coolwater-Lugo***

***Transmission Project was dismissed!!!!** This project will not be built without SCE starting all over again from the beginning. Maybe they will reconsider the location choice if there is a "next time" for a project in this area.*

This has been a long time coming & a lot of hours put in by a lot of people across the desert. Thank you High Desert for speaking up for your communities!!!!

It's a great pleasure to once again CONGRATULATE a local grass-roots organization that has scored a major victory!

Sincerely,

Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2015 MBCA Board

Sarah Kennington, President

Steve Bardwell, Treasurer

David Fick, Vice President

Marina West, Recording Secretary

Pat Flanagan, Director
Ruth Rieman, Director
Laraine Turk, Director

Meg Foley, Director
Claudia Sall, Events Director

www.mbconservation.org

*MBCA advocates for a healthy desert environment
that nurtures our rural character, cultural wealth,
and economic well-being.*