

MBCA News  
Saturday, September 20, 2014

Please note the following updates to items featured in the previous E-Blast:

**MBCA sponsored Candidates Virtual Forum**

You will receive notification and a link to the Virtual Forum on our website as soon as it is published.

**State Mining and Geology Board hearing: Eagle Mountain battle**

Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, 9:00 AM

Location: Palm Desert Civic Center, Council Chambers, 73-510 Fred Waring Dr.

Donna Charpied, Executive Director of The Desert Protection Society (DPS) reports that Kaiser is making a last ditch, all-out effort to retain their Eagle Mountain mining rights.

This is a crucial point in the fight for Eagle Mountain. During the "Good of the Meeting" section of the Agenda at the Mining and Geology hearing on Oct. 1st, DPS asks supporters to address the Board with these points:

- 1) advocate that Eagle Mountain be returned back to JTNP,
- 2) mention the malfeasance (see details in link to LA Times article below) around Kaiser having been granted permission to mine again, and
- 3) request that Eagle Mountain be the "stand alone" focus of the agenda at a future State Mining and Geology Board hearing.

More background information can be found in news stories on Eagle Mountain published by [KCDZ radio](#) over the last few months. The [Los Angeles Times](#) published the related story of conflict-of-interest in the Office of Mine Reclamation.

**Palen Solar Electric System receives preliminary approval from CEC**

The proposed Palen Solar project would be sited on the eastern edge of JTNP.

The [CEC approved](#) the plan to erect one mega-tower surrounded by 1,900 acres of mirrors and left open the possibility of future expansion to an additional 1,900 acres.

While the California Energy Commission (CEC) is expected to give final

approval, MBCA is preparing arguments questioning the accuracy of CEC's findings in their role as the lead agency in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. MBCA's research shows that CEC's environmental analysis is misleading regarding the combined height of the tower and solar receiver. Stay tuned for a future E-Blast: MBCA may ask you to write the CEC in support of our findings and to request clarity and transparency in their analysis.

**Altamira Housing Project: COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED**

Don't delay in sending your comments to ensure they are included in the packet Commissioners receive by the date of the Planning Committee meeting (the cut-off date has not been verified.) See [MBCA's website](#) for project specific documents obtained from the County, assessments by MBCA, and information for submitting your comments.

Thanks again for your continuing interest and support!

Sincerely,  
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2014 MBCA Board

Sarah Kennington, President  
Steve Bardwell, Treasurer  
Pat Flanagan, Director  
Ruth Rieman, Director  
Laraine Turk, Director

David Fick, Vice President  
Deborah Bollinger, Director  
Meg Foley, Director  
Claudia Sall, Events Director  
Marina West, Recording Secretary

[www.mbconservation.org](http://www.mbconservation.org)

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