

MBCA News  
Monday, January 6, 2014-1

The New Year begins as 2013 ended, with the need to share with you an important issue concerning renewable energy in the Mojave Desert.

1. Soda Mountain Project Public Comment Opportunity – January 11

The National Parks Conservation Association has alerted us to an important opportunity for public comment on the Soda Mountain Solar Project near Barstow. This 350 megawatt photovoltaic project could be constructed adjacent to the Mojave National Preserve. As the NPCA's Fact Sheet notes, "This project is the poster child for inappropriately sited renewable energy projects and threatens bighorn sheep migration corridors, desert tortoise habitat, the integrity of adjacent wilderness study and natural areas and scenic viewsheds." As MBCA has always considered the welfare of the Mojave Desert as of major concern to the Morongo Basin, we encourage you to share your concerns.

A pre-meeting to inform and prepare you for the Public Comment session will be held on Friday, January 10, from 7-9 PM at the Joshua Tree Art Gallery, with excellent speakers (and refreshments!). The BLM Public meeting is the next afternoon, Saturday, January 11, from 1-4 PM at the Travelodge Inn at the West end of Yucca Valley.

Go to our website to read the NPCA Fact Sheet about the Soda Mountains Project.  
[http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/mbca/pages/117/attachments/original/1389024835/Soda Mountains Solar Alert and Fact Sheet Final.pdf?1389024835](http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/mbca/pages/117/attachments/original/1389024835/Soda_Mountains_Solar_Alert_and_Fact_Sheet_Final.pdf?1389024835)

2. MBCA Annual Meeting – Saturday, January 25

If you haven't already, please mark your calendar to attend our Annual Meeting with Special Guest Speaker Angelina Galiteva of the California Energy Commission and other local environmental speakers. This will be a great opportunity to better understand how the state of California is progressing toward a greener energy future and how this affects life in the Morongo Basin.

MBCA's Directors will also provide a brief overview of MBCA's 2013 accomplishments and introduce you to our 2014 Board of Directors and our Board of Advisors.

That's Saturday, January 25, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. More details are [here](#) on our website.

3. Annual Dues Renewal and Membership Request

This is the traditional time of year when MBCA asks you to renew your membership and we also invite non-members to join our organization. We'd love to have your help in supporting our efforts to maintain a healthy and prosperous desert living environment in communities across the Morongo Basin. You can renew or join [here](#).

Your 2013 MBCA Board

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