

MBCA News
Thursday, October 23, 2014

Now is the Time for Action! Attend the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Draft public comment meeting for San Bernardino Co.

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Time: 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn - 12603 Mariposa Road, Victorville, CA 92395

Details [here](#)

National Park Conservation Association's DRECP PRE-MEETING

STRATEGY SESSION: Pre-meeting session to review the Plan and provide suggested substantive comments that can effectively shape the Plan. This will help you develop comments to deliver to the decision makers present.

Time: 2:30-4:00pm

Location: Comfort Suites - 12281 Mariposa Road, Victorville, CA 92395

Carpooling is available! RSVP to Seth Shteir (sshteir@npca.org) of the National Parks Conservation Association for background information and talking points and copy Peggy Lee Kennedy (peggylee.kennedy@gmail.com) for carpool information or to reserve a space in a van (\$5 gas donation requested).

The draft DRECP and Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) were released in late September. The clock ticks: the 90-day public comment period ends January 9, 2015. Public meetings are scheduled throughout the DRECP planning area between Oct. 20 and Nov. 13. They are designed to help the public understand the draft DRECP EIR/EIS and to facilitate public comments. Meetings will include a presentation, information stations and an opportunity to submit recorded verbal and written comments.

We encourage you to attend this Victorville meeting because it is located in our County and County officials will be present. We need the engagement of the County in this process! County Supervisor Robert A. Lovingood represents Victorville – he is a champion for citizens in the DRECP “impact zone.”

The Morongo Basin fielded the largest attendance at the previous public meetings. While we are not satisfied with the Draft EIR/EIS, changes have been incorporated that are beneficial to our Basin. We believe our numbers have influenced the Draft. **Our voices are vital to ensure further improvements!**

Some important comments on the Draft EIS/EIR are:

- An extension of at least 30-days is necessary. The draft EIS/EIS is too lengthy (8,000 pages +) to accommodate informal public participation in the usual 90-day comment period. The public needs sufficient time to grasp the document to provide substantive comments.
- A second round of meetings in the desert communities is needed because of the depth of the document.
- Desert communities are not adequately reached in the meeting locations. Additional meetings in the communities of the impact zone are needed. i.e. Lucerne Valley, the Morongo Basin, Blythe, Needles.

If you are unable to make the meeting in Victorville, other meetings closest to the Morongo Basin are:

- 1.) Thursday, November 6, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Ontario Convention Center 2000 E. Convention Center Way Ontario, CA 91764
- 2.) Friday, November 7, 4:00-6:30 p.m. UC Riverside, Palm Desert Center Auditorium 75080 Frank Sinatra Dr. Palm Desert, CA 92211

Some of these meetings will be broadcast by WebEx to allow for remote attendance. Visit www.drecp.org to confirm meeting details and WebEx availability.

You may pickup your own (free) copy of a DVD with the Draft DRECP EIR/EIS at Oasis Office Supply in Yucca Valley after Sat. Oct. 25.

You may also:

- * view at the public libraries in 29 Palms and Yucca Valley;
- * download from www.drecp.org (remember: it is a very big file!);
- * request a DVD by emailing a request to drecp.info@energy.ca.gov or calling (866) 674-9996 and provide a mailing address.

Hope to see you in Victorville on October 29th!

Sincerely,
Sarah Kennington, President

Your 2014 MBCA Board

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www.mbconservation.org

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