

APPROVED November 11, 2016

MBCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 PM, Yucca Valley Community Center

Regular Meeting Call to Order: 5:12 pm

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Bardwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruth Rieman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Fick (@5:15 pm)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claudia Sall
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Flanagan (w/prior, arrived@5:55 pm))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seth Shteir (w/prior)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg Foley (w/prior, arrived@5:28pm))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laraine Turk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Kennington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marina West

Introduction of Guests, Board Directors, and Advisory Members

No Guests present

Agenda Input and Approval

SK adds Cell Phone Towers. RR says that SPARC/Aspen can be changed to Pilot Project

RR/LT to approve agenda

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 8, 2016

Postponed. MW to resend draft minutes to BOD.

Treasurer's Report

SB gave the Treasurer's Report \$53,691.61, and stated that he has received the \$4,000 funds from the Rose Foundation for the Tribal/Native American event in November 2016. He further reported on interest earnings for Q3, memberships and a donation from Judy Marchyn.

SB gave a brief report on the upcoming Tribal Gathering and the logistics of making payments to vendors and reimbursing travel expenses for attendees.

Report unanimously accepted

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Capacity Building & Organizational Issues

1) Finance Committee report – SB

SB proposes a policy for fiscal sponsorship. As an example the CalFIRE recently released a grant opportunity and we were asked to be a fiscal sponsor without any Board guidance. SB agreed to produce a draft document for Committee review and eventual presentation to the BOD.

2) D&O insurance status – SB

SB has done some research on insurance through another contact and obtained the same denial. The issue lies with a connection between the organization and individual biographies. SK and LT have some ideas for adjusting biography structure to eliminate the concerns.

SB mentioned the last remaining policy would be regarding Ethics or Code of Conduct. CS & MF will do a little research in an attempt to find a non-profit policy we can use. CS stated another manner in which this can be resolved is through the director handbook.

3) Grants status: Rose “Indigenous Place, Space, & Presence”; AWAC & Edison DWL

SB stated that, in PF's absence, there is a concern about how the bills will be paid. CS stated that she is available for the event. No other director present is available to attend and assist. The issues of how individual people will be reimbursed, especially if expecting cash.

PF noted that the majority of the money is for the Salt Song and Bird Song signing groups but that each individual is to receive a share of the total. She said that the total to be disbursed is \$6,100 (max disbursement for singers) and another \$500 is coming to MBCA for the lodging. PF reported that the 29 Palms Inn will be donating most of the food as a contribution to the budget shortfall noted previously. PF will follow-up with the new budget and timeline for the event.

4) DWL 2017 budget – CS & committee

CS passed out the 2017 Draft Budget. She then discussed the shared costs of the January meeting still need to be worked out. The Annual Meeting date has been set for January 21, 2017. The discussion moved to the history of the Annual Meeting with it now including both MBCA membership content and a lecture content. The DWL-S Committee will be meeting after today's BOD meeting and will be discussing these issues further.

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5) Pilot Project (SPARC/Aspen) – RR

RR passed out the list of pilot projects. RR has committed to researching the “car charging station” corridors. MW will continue to pursue possible avenues for the water agency. RR further mentioned that Lucerne Valley is focused on a micro-grid project.

6) MBCA Advisors Gathering: response from letter; reschedule – SK

SK reached out to see who might want to resign and has not received any responses. Several memberships were garnered from this outreach.

7) Climate Resolve Group/ Hi-Dez Corridor offer to represent MBCA in CEQA litigation

The BOD has discussed the pros and cons and in light of all other items on our action list decided to decline the offer. MW agreed to notify Climate Resolve of the Board’s decision.

8) MBCA membership & end-of-year donation appeals – SK

SK noted that many members have requested that they would appreciate an annual membership reminder. She added that the timing for this notice is now.

LT suggested that we have a “student membership rate”.

MSC: RR/MW to establish a new category of membership for students (any level) at a cost of 50% of regular membership.

9) MBCA Nominations Committee

CS noted that the Board member packet is in draft form and will email LT the contents for her to review. The Committee will be comprised of RR, MF, and SK. RR reported that she has prepared a list of suggested nominees.

SB will continue as Treasurer, MW as Secretary, DF as Vice President, SK as President.

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10) Clean 'n Green Team re-mobilization – SK

SK reported that a volunteer is needed to watch the CalTrans Safety Video if we are to continue. A commitment was not made at the meeting.

Outreach / Communication

1) mbconservation.org report; Facebook “boosts”; audio from DWL program- LT

LT reported that Stacy Doolittle has volunteered to assist with the Facebook outreach. LT gave an overview of the recent website layout changes, updates and page/content modifications. Directors were given an opportunity to make comments and suggestions.

LT reported that the new site pages will be up and running in the next month or so.

2) DWL Sept. 24, Moving Toward Community-Based Renewable Energy – MW

Report differed until after the Committee meets.

3) MBCA Annual meeting & program 2017: topic; recognition long-time volunteers - CS

Report was postponed to future meeting.

4) Ruth Denison scholarship: publicity, application, award –SB, LT, MW

Report was postponed to future meeting.

Conservation Issues

1) Solar project updates: Soda Mountain; Palen Solar; JT Airport

Report was postponed to future meeting.

2) JT Community plan / Altamira Housing appeal denied by BOS on Sept. 13 - PF

The upcoming Community Plan meetings were mentioned. PF noted that during the last several LUS issues, they do not pay attention to the Community Plans. MF noted that she was informed that the Morongo Valley exercise is a “from scratch” not an update of the existing plans. It was agreed that we should do a coordinated comment outreach at both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors meetings on the subject of Community Plans.

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3) WildEarth Guardians petition: list Joshua tree as endangered (11/14 deadline) – SS

PF gave the report stating that there are opposing views on this issue. This prompted a discussion of the need for a webpage focused on "viewpoints" and including data supporting the viewpoints not necessarily a position of MBCA.

4) BEAT 1.3 – MW

The North Slope folks have crafted a letter in response to SPARC with a pending deadline of October 17, 2016. SB had some concerns about the length of the letter and layout, repeating of content. In the end, all agreed that the draft letter was headed in the right direction and a motion was made to sign-on to the final letter.

MSC: RR/LT to sign-on to the final SPARC comment letter. Unanimous.

5) CA. Senate Bill 1386 passed to address climate change

Report was postponed to future meeting.

6) Eagle Crest final EA / BLM Eagle Mt. segregation – SS

PF reported that the comment deadline is November 6, 2016. MW will reach out to SS regarding the EA and the possibility for generating a comment letter.

7) Transmission corridor issues:

- a. 368 Energy Corridor meeting - RODs signed in 2006 for transmission corridors
 - along the north boundary of the MNP (27-225)
 - along Route 66 (27-41)
 - along I-10 (30-52)

SK asked what input MBCA should have in this issue. It was suggested and SK agreed to call Frazier.

b. Contingent S / West of Devers corridor project

SK asked what input MBCA should have in this issue. It was suggested and SK agreed to call Frazier.

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8) Basin solar installers list - SB

SB has created a list of solar contractors and this will be posted on the website but MBCA will not be endorsing any of the contractors. This will be a resource only.

Community Reports & Events

1) SB Co. Environmental Element meeting (Sept. 21, 10AM)

Report was postponed to future meeting.

**2) MBCA Excellence in Communication Award from
LAURENELLOFTHIDESERT.com– Oct. 22 3:30- 5PM @ Cali Greens Café YV –
renewable energy news; local updates; award ceremony; photo booth; food**

All were reminded of this upcoming event.

**3) So. CA. energy + water + green living 2016 summit – Oct. 26 & 27, Rancho Mirage;
Oct. 26 (opening evening reception) & 27 (summit); full conference pass: \$75.**

No new information to report.

4)

TUE OCT 25	5:00 – 8:00 PM	Marine Corps Public Meeting Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Tortoise Relocation Alternatives	Joshua Tree Community Center 6171 Sunburst Street
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**5) Community Plan Workshops #2 *Roadmap to Making it Happen:*
Pioneertown (Nov. 15); Morongo Valley (Nov. 16); HVCC (Nov. 17);**

This item was covered in a previous agenda item.

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REMEMBER DATE

DWL Landscape Tour – April 23-24, 2017

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 10, 5:00 PM / YV Community Center

MBCA



morongo basin conservation association

October 13, 2016

Assets –	Checking	\$32,046.85
	CD	<u>\$21,572.76</u>
	Total	\$53,691.61
Deposits:	memberships	\$110.00
	Donations- (Judy Marchyn)	\$85.00
	Fall DWL donations	\$168.00
	Rose Foundation Tribal Gathering grant	\$4,000.00
	Interest CD	\$264.18
	Interest checking	<u>\$1.28</u>
	Total	\$4,628.46
Expenditures	Quickbooks	\$12.95
	VIP printing	\$61.56
	David S. Miller (fall dwl layout & set-up)	\$157.50
	Laraine Turk (Let's go native, fall dwl flyers)	\$73.50
	Terri Quinn (Catering)	\$250.00
	Town of Yucca Valley (fall dwl room rental)	\$202.50
	PayPal fees	<u>\$3.20</u>
	Total	\$761.21

POST OFFICE BOX 24, JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA 92252 email: INFO@MBCONSERVATION.ORG
WWW.MBCONSERVATION.ORG

MBCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit, community based, all volunteer organization



2017 Budget for Desert-Wise [DWL] Series Program & Annual Meeting

	Budget	Totals
<i>Annual Meeting Lectures</i>		
Room rental [paid for out of regular board funds]	n/a	
Speaker Honorariums:	400	
Supplies	0	
Refreshments – Terri Quinn/50 people	300	
Printing: Programs, Flyers, Welcome Poster, Nametags, Business Cards	128	
Publishing: Programs, Welcome–Program Poster, Flyers, Business cards-publishing & printing	260	
Advertising: Z107.7	500	
TOTAL: 2016 Annual Meeting/Energy Symposium	1588	1588
<i>Desert-Wise Landscape Tour: April 23 & 24, 2016</i>		
Publication: Programs, Directions, Event posters, "Register Here" poster, ½ page Flyers, Volunteer Nametags, 3 newspaper Ads, printing supplies, complementary tickets	1290	
Supplies: 25 Name tags & lanyards, print & ink for 260 flyers, additional clipboards & pens, 300 entry stickers, other supplies	150	
Printing: 350 Programs with Direction Inserts, 850 ½ page Flyers, Posters, Arrow decals, 2-18x24 posters	1175	
Advertising: newspaper, radio [Z107.7-1017-3 weeks, Star—300]	1200	
Essay Award certifications [Windwalkers, Cactus Mart, Unique Nursery]	350	
Host/Docent Reception—Refreshments	350	
PayPal Fees [absorbed by MBCA general fund]	50	
Additional Directional Signs [for 2 days]	0	
Event Liability Policy	400	
TOTAL: 2017 Desert-Wise Landscape Tour	4965	4965
<i>2017 Desert-Wise Event - TBD</i>		
TOTAL: 2017 Fall Desert-Wise Event		2600
TOTAL OF 2017 DESERT-WISE LIVING SERIES EVENTS		\$9153

Grant funding received for 2017 = \$3000 [MWA-AWAC]

10/13/2016

Update to Pilot Project/Finance committee

1. Ruth will dig into the information that Professor Martinez-Morales referred to regarding Alternative Fuel Fueling Corridors being requested by the Federal Hwy Admin. to local and state officials and see if local governments are interested: Cities, County, NPS and others.....

Subject: Nominations for Alternative Fuel Fueling Corridors Due!

The Federal Highway Administration has called on state and local officials to nominate routes to be designated as alternative fuel fueling corridors, where drivers can find electric vehicle chargers, and alternative fuels including natural gas, propane and hydrogen.

Nominations for corridor designations are due to the FHWA no later than August 21, 2016.

The Fast Act (Sec. 1413) includes a program to designate and promote these corridors. The program does not provide any dedicated funding to support the development of such corridors or to fund infrastructure but such funding could possibly be provided in the future or provided by state authorities.

2. Marina is investigating possible water agency projects including Micro-grids and CCA.
3. Lucerne Valley (LEVDA) pursuing Federal grant under SunShot Initiative for a microgrid.

Project description	Goals/Purpose	Qualifying elements	Lead Agency(s)	Funding Sources	Possible consultants
Water district micro-pumping grid at one or more well sites. Includes: Photo voltaic panels Replace pump equip with most efficient equipment Install battery storage, install micro-grid controller and automation, surge protection	Reduce electric consumption by at least 6% Produce 100% on site electric generation Relieve grid congestion by pumping and storing during the most advantages times. Ability to be responsive to grid –capacity issues. Demonstrate viable use of micro-grid for public water agencies.	Under-privileged/economic disadvantaged communities Water is a critical resource. Water pumping is a large consumer of electricity Ability to change pumping/ consumption schedule for grid stability. Local contractors/local jobs Meets the goals of CEC	CA State governing body: Special District or Water Agency	CA Energy Commission /EPIC Research Plans Tesla-- opens new uses and business for their batteries	Jill Dominquez, Energy Consulting (recommended by Negar Vahidi-Aspen Enviro-Grp) Alfredo A. Martinez-Morales/ UCR So Cal Research Initiative for Solar Energy Bill Powers/Powers Engineering
Electric Vehicle Recharge Station in Joshua Tree	Provide electric recharge station for visitors to the JTNP (none exists). Encourage low carbon transportation.	National Park/tourist destination		CA Energy Commission /EPIC Research Plans <i>The Fast Act (Sec. 1413) includes a program to designate and promote</i>	Same as above

CCA created via JPA with Water Districts				<i>these corridors</i>	
Lucerne Valley Community MicroGrid	Community solar/Micro Grid project for local benefit on lands identified as suitable in an area with no habitat value – flat – fallowed ag. land– plus screened by existing rows of tamarisk trees – a suitable place for it that no other community has. (Would just that “not NIMBY” concept qualify for “recognition”?)	Local generation and distribution of electricity to a rural, low-income community.	LVEDA probably leads the scoping on this project	CEC grant programs ie EPIC or US Dept of Energy programs ie (SunShot)	Same as above “Desert Solar”

CEC has awarded monies for renewable energy pilot projects via EPIC: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/epic.html>

One example GRANT REQUEST FORM (GRF) <small>CEC-270 (Revised 02/13) CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION</small> New Agreement EPC-14-059 (To be completed by CGL Office) Division Agreement Manager: MS- Phone ERDD Kiel Pratt 43 916-327-1412 Recipient's Legal Name Federal ID Number Trane U.S., Inc. 25-0900465	Laguna Subregional Wastewater Treatment Plant Advanced Microgrid Term and Amount Start Date End Date Amount 5/8/2015 3/30/2018 \$ 4,999,804
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MBCA's DWL Committee wrap up report re 9/24/2016 lectures: Moving Toward Community-Based Renewable Energy

Task list complete:

- Marina sent thank you notes to presenters sent: Peter Brooks, Darrell Reynold, Alfredo Martinez- Morales, Nicholas Holmes, Eva Soltes, Frank Luckino-(Marina)
- Laraine provided an evaluation summary report from the collected responses of the attendees.
- Laraine posted the PPTs from Peter, Darrel and Alfredo on the website.
- Laraine reported that total attendees (signed in or seen and known) were 58; 40 were "guests," 8 Board members, 5 speakers, 5 volunteers. *(This is based on the list I sent out earlier and there still might be names missing but I didn't hear back from anyone. List attached again.)*
- We received 17 evaluations *(summary attached)*. Probably the only "trend" to note in this small pool of responses was that almost everyone is doing some kind of water conservation, especially shorter showers and being careful about landscape watering. It's also worth noting that one person specifically wished we had focused more on the local presentations, and there were a couple of people who thought the speakers were interesting but not specifically related to our local issues.

Budget vs actual event costs: below

2016 DWL Lecture – Sept 24 2016	Budget	Actual
Honorariums	600.00	.00
Lecture Halls Rental: Town of YV	200.00	202.50
Advertising: Publication expenses: Z1077 radio-	1400.00	500.00
Catering: Terry Quinn & Sub-sandwiches	300.00	297.52
Printing/Publishing VIP- posters and ½ sheet flyers/Miller, D	350.00	219.06
DWL committee hosted presenter Professor Martinez-Morales- at KoKopelli post event	.00	86.57
TOTAL:	2850.00	1305.65

OCT MBCA

MBCA

Desert-Wise Living Program, Moving Toward Community-Based Renewable Energy, 9/24/16
EVALUATION SUMMARY

How did you first hear about this event?

6 Email from MBCA 7 Friend or Family
4 Social Media 2 Radio 1 Hi Desert Star

HOME SOLAR

Do you have solar panels at your home?

6 Yes 11 No

If not, how strongly are you considering adding them?

3 I'm not considering solar, because:

2 I rent.

0 Can't afford it.

5 I use very little electricity.

2 Other: * Encouraging owners. * Not practical for "mobile" home owners of park limit installation to roof only.

3 I am thinking about it and hope to install in 1-3 years.

3 I am undecided whether to pursue it.

WATER CONSERVATION

Please check any of these water conservation measures that you are currently taking:

13 Short showers

5 Gutters and water barrels for landscape watering

8 Gray water system

14 Careful landscape watering

5 Other: * Dishpans, shower buckets, swamp cooler drains to plants. * Native. * Hand water. * Drip - 6 stations with timer.

PROGRAM EVALUATION COMMENTS

Simplify info/more applications. Good program.

Good job and thanks

* Some of the graphs were very hard to see/read because of the size of the text & distance from screen.

* Admirable but overly ambitious: tied to get too much into the timeframe.

* The last presentations were very interesting and got short shrift.

Good presentation!

Thank you for having this event.

Thanks for all the information; challenging and exciting times ahead!

1. Peter Brooks. How does his expertise relate to Desert Wises water conservation for local users? Interesting talk but not relevant to our water issues.

2. Darrell Reynolds. Fascinating talk - but is generally is a function of the O&M for Mojave Water Agency but does not really address the issues affecting the Morongo Basin water and conservation issue.

Great program. I would like to see the PowerPoint presentations available on MBCA website.

Excellent!

9/25/16

Comments received orally:

1. Program was great
- 2) program too technical
- 3) Eva clearly not happy on a number of levels. She wanted way more headliner and way more attention and I think she thought we were show casing Harrison House. I believe Her comments are repeated in writing and probably verbally to others. I apologized but she didn't seem to care beyond her own perspectives.

- 1) puzzlement over the inclusion of the local speakers' topics as they did not jive with the lecture title
- 2) first 2 local speakers were too long: mr holmes said he was taking the time allocated for ms soltes but in fact they both spoke [we were caught off guard for speakers re-organizing the speaker time allocation of our event]
- 3) luckino should have been positioned before the other local speakers as he was more relevant and interesting to the seminar theme.
- 4) first 2 lecturers spoke more to water authorities rather than ratepayers so there wasn't much takeaway for local action.
- 5) what did these lectures have to do with the desert-wise landscape theme?

MBCA

Desert-Wise Living Program, Moving Toward Community-Based Renewable Energy, 9/24/16 EVALUATION SUMMARY

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9/25/16



County Administrative Office Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

July 29, 2016

Board of Commissioners
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subj: RETI 2.0 Request for County Comments

Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on RETI 2.0 via the seven questions submitted to county governments by your staff. I am writing for two reasons: first, to confirm our commitment to responding to the questions in a timely manner; second, to emphasize key concerns County of San Bernardino continues to have both regarding RETI 2.0 and the DRECP.

To guide your ongoing research, I refer you to two important County documents:

- Position Paper on DRECP that we submitted to CEC on February 12, 2015. In this document, the County emphasized five fundamental positions on DRECP compatibility, or lack thereof, with County priorities;
- Board of Supervisors Resolution 2016-20, stating the County's position on the DRECP LUPA.

In brief, the County continues to hold and recommend the following summarized positions related to siting of utility-oriented renewable energy generation facilities (with emphasis added on central points):

1. Protect desert community values and economic development opportunities by:
 - a. Focusing renewable energy development on private land in areas that have marginal economic development potential, have been previously disturbed, or have been contaminated, in addition to federal land in the County
 - b. Focusing mitigation and conservation on federal land in the County
 - c. Minimizing mitigation and conservation on private land in the County
2. Encourage distributed generation that addresses local needs while allowing excess energy to be sold to the grid
3. Maintain County land use authority
4. Retain access to and availability of mineral resources in the County
5. Seek means to improve economic benefits of renewable energy development to the County of San Bernardino

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANICE RUTHERFORD
Second District

JAMES RAMOS
Chairman, Third District

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Fourth District

JOSEF GONZALES
Fifth District

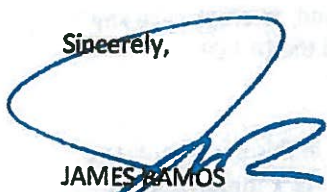
GREGORY C. DISTENFELD
Chief Executive Officer

Per the above-noted Resolution, the County has expressed its general and tentative support for five (5) of the Development Focus Areas (DFAs) identified in the BLM DRECP LUPA (North of Kramer Junction, Trona, Hinkley, El Mirage, and Amboy), recognizing that further County evaluation of all BLM DFAs will continue in the preparation, public review and ultimate adoption of its Renewable Energy Element. Further analysis of these five (5) DFAs may confirm, modify or eliminate the tentative support stated. We have numerous strong concerns about the remaining DFAs in other areas of the County.

Please note that the County has never received any substantive response to these concerns nor has there been any clear effort to revise the DRECP to address the issues raised by the County and its constituents. We respectfully observe that we are somewhat perplexed by the shift from DRECP to RETI 2.0. We emphasize that, in the context of these documents, the County of San Bernardino strongly urges the CEC and its RETI 2.0 affiliates to carefully consider our expressed positions, priorities and concerns in the process of defining future transmission corridors and refinement of DFA locations.

If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

October 17, 2016

(Sent by email: Linda.Mawby@lus.sbcounty.gov)

Planning Commission for
San Bernardino County
c/o Ms. Linda Mawby
County of San Bernardino Government
Center Covington Chambers- First Floor
385 North Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, Calif. 92415

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

Re: Draft Renewable Energy and Conservation Element

We are a coalition made up of the following community groups, businesses, agencies and individuals: Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA), Johnson Valley Improvement Association, Homestead Valley Community Council, Morongo Basin Conservation Association, Lucerne Valley Market/Hardware, Basin and Range Watch, California Desert Coalition, Desert Protective Council, Alliance for Desert Preservation ("ADP"), Mojave Communities Conservation Collaborative, Brian Hammer, Marina D. West, John Smith, Pat Flanagan, Bill Lembright, Jim Harvey and Jenny Wilder. Together, we represent a broad spectrum of residents, businesses, organizations, recreationists and conservationists in the High Desert of San Bernardino County.

This letter sets forth our comments on the proposed draft, dated July 29, 2016, of the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element ("RECE") of the County's General Plan, and supplements oral comments made by some members of our coalition at the Planning Commission's RECE workshop on August 4, 2016 and at a meeting with Terri Rahhal (in Lucerne Valley) on September 20, 2016, as well as written comments submitted by ADP to the Planning Commission by way of a letter dated September 2, 2016 (the "September 2, 2016 Letter").

As noted in the September 2, 2016 Letter, the proposed RECE makes great strides in the right direction, compared to the utility-scale approach embraced by SPARC in its earlier stages. The proposed RECE now points toward a much more enlightened emphasis on point-of-use models. The Distributed Generation model promotes the highest number of long-term high paying local jobs, sustains the tax base through property value preservation, and protects the

valuable open spaces so critical to the economies of most of the desert communities. It is the fastest, safest, and cleanest way to ramp up renewable energy generation in San Bernardino County (which will sometimes be referred to in this letter as the "County").

We will suggest below the addition of language and overlay zones that, if incorporated into the RECE, would allow its stated goals and objectives to become concrete realities.

1. The Centerpiece of the RECE Must Be Overlay Zones Showing the Only Places Where Utility-Scale Solar Will Be Permitted.

The RECE needs simplicity and clarity. Developers, planners, contractors, the labor force and the general populace need a clear statement on where industrial-sized solar renewable energy projects can go. Vague criteria will not make this clear. Geographically specific maps, i.e., solar overlay zones -- stating exactly where such projects can be developed -- will provide such clarity.

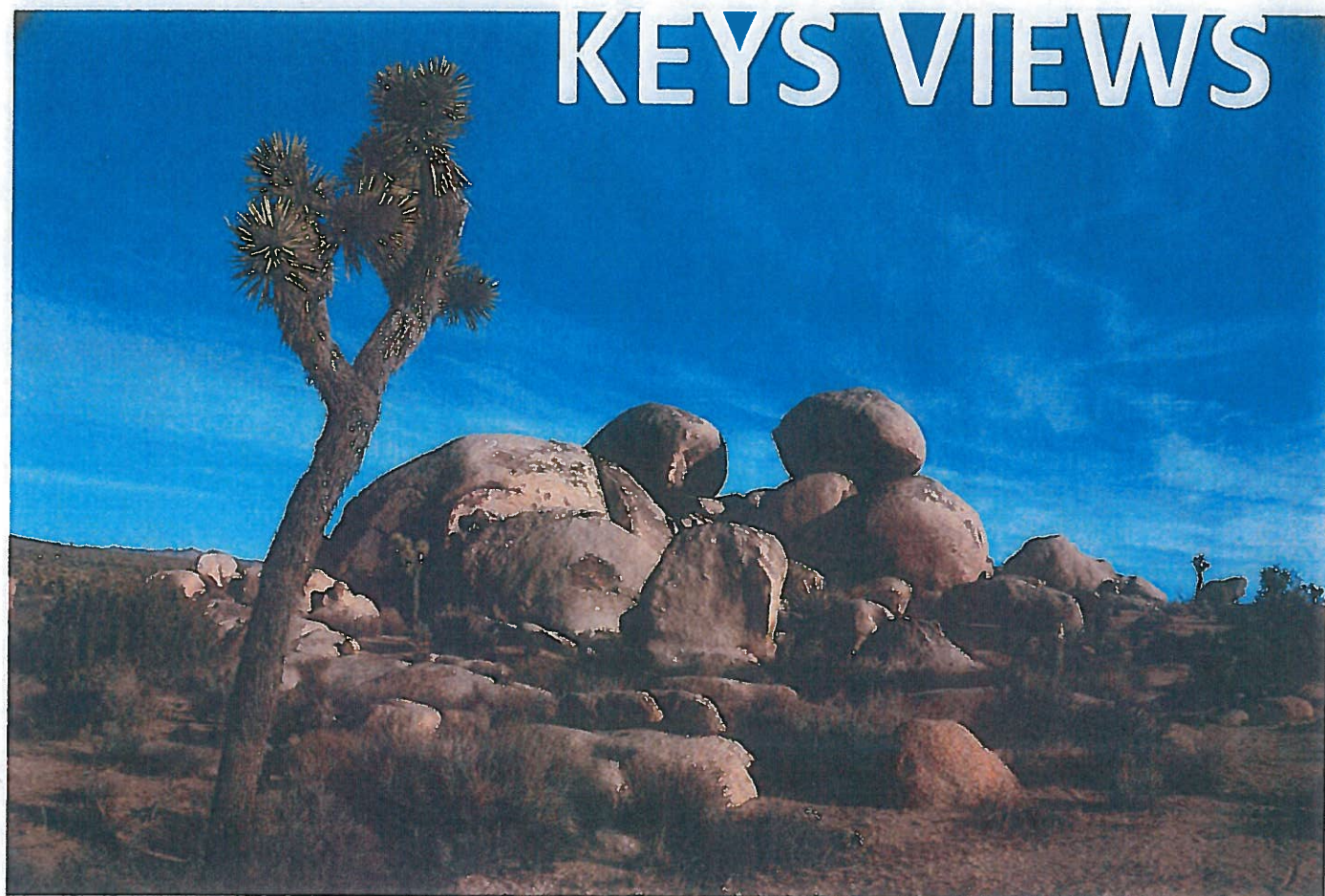
On February 17, 2016, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution tentatively designating five sites as the only places that utility-scale can go, subject to the projects otherwise satisfying the County's criteria ("Resolution"). A copy of the Resolution is attached to this letter, as is a map that depicts those five sites. This was not the first time that the County has articulated its foremost values and priorities in terms of siting large-scale renewable projects. In a Position Paper, dated February 3, 2015, which was submitted by the County with reference to the draft DRECP, the County stated that the communities of Newberry Springs, Stoddard Valley, Johnson Valley, Lucerne Valley and Apple Valley were not appropriate for DFA's.

The proposed RECE mentions the Supervisors' Resolution as a guiding principle when it comes to locating utility-scale projects. This is good, but the RECE should go farther. The RECE should build on the work done by the County in its Resolution, and in its Position Paper, by specifically stating that the five sites designated by the Resolution are, subject to environmental review, the only places in the County where utility-scale will be allowed. Overlay zones should be created for that purpose in the RECE on the five sites.

The Resolution designated each of the five sites -- which are seriously degraded, away from population centers, and relatively close to existing transmission -- pursuant to a landscape-level, "least-conflict" approach similar to the one ostensibly advocated in the Phase I, public-

The remaining 100+ pages
of this letter were removed
due to file size.

KEYS VIEWS



SUMMER 2016

THE MEMBER NEWSLETTER OF
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Three New National Monuments —

The Joshua Tree National Park Association, along with hundreds of local desert residents, elected officials, community leaders, conservationists and business owners, veterans and others, joined on May 5 with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to celebrate three new national monuments that President Obama designated in the Southern California desert. The declaration of Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and the Castle Mountains National Monuments means these special places will be forever protected and accessible to the public.

"These monuments are the biggest conservation achievement in this part of the country since 1994, when the California Desert Protection Act established

Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and Mojave National Preserve", said David Lamfrom of the National Parks Conservation Association. "The lands designated by the president today encompass globally important features and resources that have been vulnerable to industrial development."

The celebration event, held at the Whitewater Preserve in the Sand to Snow National Monument near Palm Springs, drew a large crowd to mark the historic occasion and to thank President Obama, Interior Secretary Jewell, Senator Feinstein and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for protecting California desert public lands. The JTNPA was represented by Meg Foley, Executive Director, and

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Three New Monuments.....	1
Excellence in Customer Service....	4
Joshua Tree Visitor Center.....	5
Minerva Hoyt Award.....	6
Susan Luckie Reilly.....	7
Desert Tortoise Telemetry	8
Desert Institute Report.....	9
Supporters.....	10

Joshua Tree National Park Association
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Diana Durr.....JTNP Assistant
Information Specialists: Jamie
Cole, David Larson, Sahreena Pan-
kratze, Autumn Meadows, William
Hart & Angela Cutts.

KEYS VIEWS

The *Keys Views* newsletter takes its name from Keys View, the scenic point in Joshua Tree National Park that overlooks the Coachella Valley from an elevation of 5,185 feet. It is named for Bill Keys, an early pioneer, rancher and entrepreneur who lived in the area now contained within the park.

Desert Institute Schedule - Fall 2016

September

Insects and Arthropods of the Morongo Basin, Bighorn Sheep in Joshua Tree National Park, Explore Camping: A Workshop for Women, Night Sky Photography, Desert Snakes: Mystery and Intrigue

October

Keys Ranch Nightscape Photography Workshop, Discover Pine City, Women's "Get-Away" Weekend, "How-To" Identify Animal Scat, Discover the Wonderland of Rocks, Creative Camp Cooking with Chef Tanya Petrovna, "How-To" Identify Animal Burrows, Picture the Park in Black & White, Watercolor Painting in Joshua Tree National Park, Explore the Coxcomb Inner Basin, Hike to Lost Horse Mine, "How-To" Navigate with Map and Compass, Archaeology in Joshua Tree National Park

November

Discover Cary's Castle, "How-To" Survive in the Desert, Keys Ranch Nightscape Photography Workshop, Geology: Creation of the Joshua Tree Landscape, Desert Palm Oasis Ecology, Geology of the San Andreas Fault, Pine Needle Basketry, Smartphone and Point-and-Shoot Techniques to Make Your Travel Photos "POP", Explore Queen Mountain West, Fine Art Photography in Joshua Tree National Park

December

Photographing the Hi-Desert, Geology and Cultural History of Cottonwood Spring

For more information, please call 760-367-5535 for a program catalog, or visit www.joshuatree.org. Remember, as a JTNP member you will receive a \$10 discount for each class.



Three New National Monuments

...continued from page 1

Kevin Wong, Desert Institute Program Coordinator.

It is important to know that the Sand to Snow National Monument protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Geronio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. In addition, the Mojave Trails links the Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas.

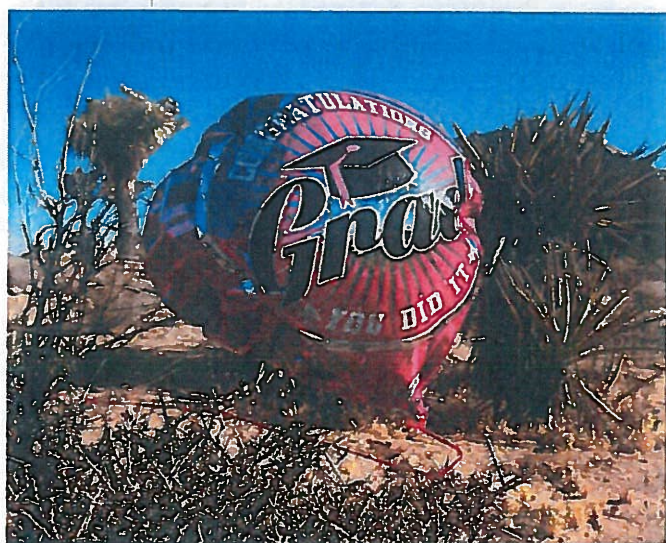
At 1.6 million acres, Mojave Trails is the largest of the three monuments, protecting 105 miles of Route 66 and linking Joshua Tree National Park with the Mojave National Preserve. Castle Mountains is a high desert grassland with thriving Joshua tree forests that completes the Mojave Preserve. Sand to Snow preserves a critical elevation corridor from the desert floor near Palm Springs to the San Bernardino Mountains.

The new monuments are not just about environmental preservation, but they are also about cultural preservation. "All the work we've done has paid off," said Jim Conkle, who advocated for years to preserve

the cultural heritage of Route 66 as a founding member of the Route 66 Preservation Foundation. "We are able to save our desert and the areas designated as monuments forever, for posterity, for our children's children. ... Of all the things I've done, it's the one thing I can be proudest of."

Laraine Turk, board member of the Joshua Tree National Park Association, recently stated, "Those of us who treasure Joshua Tree National Park are especially heartened at the designation of the new Monuments. We know that the long-term viability of the spectacular Mojave desert and nearby mountain landscapes relies on interconnectivity of natural habitats, which the new designation supports. Not only does the long-term conservation of these lands benefit their long-term viability, but the designation will also lead to an increase in visitors which supports local economies in nearby rural areas. There's nothing like a win-win!"

Thank you to all of those who fought gallantly to make these Monuments a reality for our future generations of desert lovers.



Yes, it was graduation time and this mylar balloon was found in the park. In the past 2 years, over 1,000 Mylar balloons have been collected, partially or completely deflated, mostly in the back country of Joshua Tree National Park. One estimation by park officials indicates that there may be over 71,000 littered balloons within the 3,247 square kilometer Park boundaries. Mylar balloons are often blown into the park from long distances and they are especially disturbing as they can affect the wildlife, if eaten by animals or if the animals get tangled in string or plastic. We can all do our part by picking up trash and throwing it away in the proper receptacles, found in campgrounds and picnic areas.

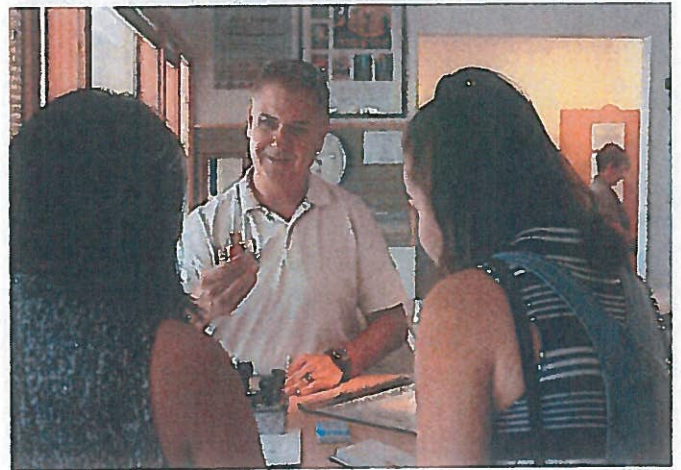
Excellence in Customer Service

The 2016 Secretary of Interior's Award for Customer Service was awarded to David Larson, an Information Specialist with the Joshua Tree National Park Association. David has worked for the Association for six years in this position and he performs resource interpretation and orientation at the visitor center desk. In addition, he performs interpretive programs and patio talks for the public. Because of his vast experience, he also trains new seasonal rangers on the operations of the visitor centers, of which the park has four. When I asked David what he liked most about this job, he replied "The best part of the job is being connected to the park, spending time in the park and seeing first-hand the profound impact the park experience has on visitors."



David & Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell

"My job allows me to interact with visitors before and after they visit the park. I strive to provide professional, friendly and courteous service to park visitors regardless of whether it is the first visitor of the day or the five-hundredth visitor of the day. I love to see visitors come into the visitor center after spending time on the park interior. Sometimes they are tired and a little sunburned and almost always with a big smile. When I ask these visitors if they enjoyed



the park, the positive response can sometimes be overwhelming. I have had couples gush over the sunset that they enjoyed together, I have had experienced birders ecstatic because they saw a Bendire's Thrasher, I have had kids rave about the lizards they saw or the rocks that they climbed, and hikers describe amazing vistas or palm oases. Visitors to Joshua Tree National Park often come away with transcendent experiences and life-long memories. Providing quality orientation at the front desk and subsequently seeing the positive experience enjoyed by visitors is extremely rewarding."

David and his family were flown to Washington, D.C. to receive the Secretary of Interior's Award for Customer Service where they also viewed the Fourth of July fireworks display.

"I am extremely proud, honored, and grateful to receive this award", said David. "Every employee and every division in the park is important and I am just one small cog in that machine. It is that team spirit and ethic that makes this park great. Thank you."

The staff of the Joshua Tree National Park Association also includes the following Visitor Center Information Specialists: Jamie Cole, JTVC manager, Sahreena Pankratz, Autumn Meadows, William Hart, Angela Cutts and Cindy Cunningham.

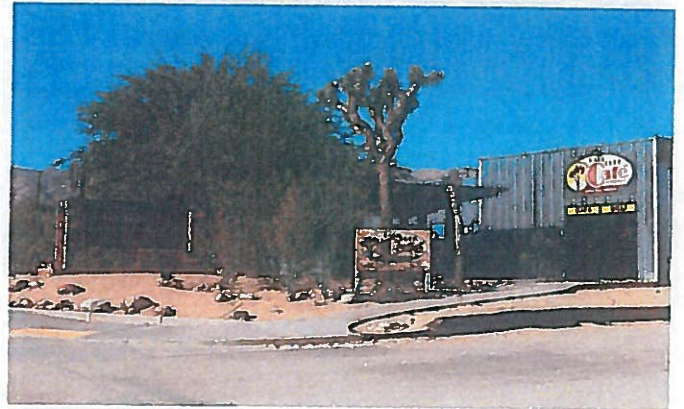
Joshua Tree Visitor Center



The visitor center in Joshua Tree was purchased by the Association to benefit Joshua Tree National Park and the communities that it serves. Recent upgrades and improvements to the building include the new Paleontology Wall. The new mural illustrating the living creatures that occupied the area in and around the park thousands of years ago is now on exhibit. The mural offers a rare glimpse of how climate change, through time, can alter the landscape and life within.

Now an arid desert, this region teemed with life during the Pleistocene Epoch- Ice Age 2.6 million to 12,000 years ago. During this wetter time frame, a braided stream system likely passed through this basin and may have led to the formation of isolated lakes. Abundant water provided sustenance for many plants and animals. Massive Columbian mammoths roamed here as did camels, llamas, horses, ground sloths and bison. Ducks flocked to the shoreline of isolated lakes. Predatory birds circled overhead, while dire wolves and other predators stalked their prey.

The fossilized remains found in the Pinto Basin confirm that these animals were here in an abundance that could not be supported by today's parched desert ecosystem. As the ice age of the Pleistocene subsided, temperatures rose and the land dried out. Plants and animals unable to adapt to the changing conditions died changing the area from a lush paradise to the desert environment we know today.



The art work for the mural was painted by noted artist Robert Hynes. Later this year the park will also be unveiling an extensive, new exhibit at Joshua Tree Visitor Center which features a natural and cultural overview of the park.

Another improvement to the exterior of the building was the removal of a massive tamarisk tree (*Tamarix ramosissima*) that was growing alongside of the road. Tamarisks have long tap roots that allow them to intercept deep water tables and exploit natural water resources. They are able to limit competition from other plants by taking up salt from deep ground water, accumulating it in their foliage, and from there depositing it in the surface soil where it builds up concentrations temporarily detrimental to some plants.

Another building improvement slated for next year is the addition of more bathrooms for the visitors. As this building hosts more visitors than any of the other visitor centers at the park, the current facilities have been strained under the increased visitation. Last year, air conditioning was installed to improve the interior especially during our summer months when the humidity increases due to the monsoons, which makes evaporative cooling relatively ineffective.

Minerva Hoyt Awards Honor Nancy Karl



(L-R) David Smith, Nancy Karl, Curt Sauer & Mark Wheeler
photo by Julianne Koza

The Joshua Tree National Parks Association and the Morongo Basin community came together to honor Nancy Karl, executive director of the Mojave Desert Land Trust from 2007 to 2013, at the 12th annual presentation of the Minerva Hoyt California Desert Conservation Award Tuesday. David Smith, superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, was one of the speakers. Smith, who was assigned to the park a year ago, said when he looked out at the audience, he saw friends.

"There are some amazing people (in the Morongo Basin) that have done some amazing things over the last 20 years ... and have fought to protect this park," he said. "I am grateful for you today; I am honored to represent the park today; I am honored that Minerva Hoyt was a gutsy woman who did not believe a woman's place was in the home and was out there establishing public lands." Smith talked about Hoyt's work and how it led to the founding of the Mojave Desert Land Trust seven years ago.

"What makes Nancy Karl worthy of this award was that she took a single idea and turned it into an idea that protects habitat and wildlife in the entire Basin," he said. "It secures the land for the enjoyment of future generations." Under Karl's leadership, the MDLT was asked to replace the nationally recognized National Park Foundation as the primary land acquisition organization in the Mojave Desert.

The MDLT, during Karl's tenure, acquired 46,000 acres of land that were returned to the park. Curt Sauer, a Joshua Tree National Park Association director, spoke of Karl's relentless work with local and regional citizens' groups and her ability to galvanize conservation groups. Her work established the MDLT as "The Land Trust," said Sauer. "Nancy has a passion and a vision for this desert that few of us can match. In my opinion, she is Minerva Hoyt," said Sauer as he gave her the plaque.

Karl said she was honored to be in the company of the previous receivers of Minerva Hoyt Award. She thanked the MDLT and said, "One hundred-fifty years ago, almost to the day, after Minerva was born, and thanks to many in the audience, we have the Mojave Preserve, Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails National Monument and our beautiful wilderness areas."

Past recipients of the Minerva Hoyt Award include: Larry & Donna Charpiet, David Myers, The Wildlands Conservancy, John Wohlmuth, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Mark Jorgenson, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Dianne Feinstein, Owens Valley Committee, Elden E. Hughes (posthumously awarded), Steve & Ruth Rieman, Dee & Betty Zeller, and Terry Weiner, Desert Protective Council.



Past Minerva Hoyt Award Recipients
(L-R) Ruth Rieman, Dee Zeller and Steve Rieman

Happy Birthday to Susan Luckie Reilly



A long time Twentynine Palms resident, desert advocate and former Joshua Tree National Park ranger, turned 100 years in June. Susan Luckie Reilly was born in 1916, the same year the National Park Service was founded. In 1965, Reilly donned the green and grey of the National Park Service and worked as a seasonal, ranger-naturalist for what was then, Joshua Tree National Monument.

Ms. Reilly is the daughter of Dr. James B. Luckie, a Pasadena physician who recommended the healthy, dry, desert climate to WWI veterans suffering from the effects of mustard gas. The Luckie family spent time at the family home in Twentynine Palms when not in Pasadena. It was during these family visits that Susan developed a life long love and passion for the desert environment. A graduate of Stanford University, Ms. Reilly and others founded the Morongo Basin Conservation Association (MBCA) which successfully fought off an initiative by the utility company to run a massive power transmission corridor straight through the heart of the Morongo Basin.

Ms. Reilly received the first Minerva Hoyt Award in 2004. She also received, Woman of Distinction Award given by Congressman Paul Cook in 2013 and has been a driving force for preservation and protection of the Southern California desert.

On Wednesday, June 22, Joshua Tree National Park and the JTNPA hosted a birthday celebration in honor of Ms. Reilly and the centennial of the National Park Service. The festivities were held at the Oasis Visitor Center and park staff, Association staff, government and community representatives were in attendance to wish her "Happy Birthday".



photo by Laraine Turk

MBCA President Sarah Kennington and founder, Susan Luckie Reilly



photo by Hilary Sloane

And, a special "thank you" to our event planner extraordinaire, Marian Tremblay, for this great event.

Desert Tortoise Radiotelemetry Project

Since 2005, Joshua Tree National Park has monitored a sample population of desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). One of the goals of this study is to assess the effects of roads on desert tortoise movement and survival. There were two new additions to the study, bringing the number of transmitted tortoises to seventeen. One tortoise in the Lost Horse area moved over two miles from her normal range for the summer and returning in the fall, repeating her behavior from 2005. Analysis of data from previous years shows that tortoises on low-vehicle traffic roads are crossing more frequently than those near high traffic roads, who may only cross a few times a year, if at all. Staff continues to track and monitor the tortoises to increase our understanding of how these charismatic desert creatures use their habitat.



"The original objective of this program was to measure the effect that roads had on the movements of tortoise in the park. This was in response to curbing being installed in critical tortoise habitat within Joshua Tree National Park. We knew that the tortoises could get down off the curb, but we were concerned about their egress from roadways", said Kristen Lalumiere, Wildlife Biological Science Technician, "We needed to know if the curbing was impeding their travel and keeping them in the roadways longer and therefore increasing their chances of being hit by vehicles".



The result of the long term study shows that tortoises on or near highly-traveled curbed areas/paved roads tend not to cross again for many years or at all. "Some of our tortoises in the Lost Horse area haven't gone on or near the roads in the 11 years we've been tracking them. They have come to within about 30 meters of the road but have not crossed. All of their activity is on one side of the road. On the other hand, tortoises in areas with a lot less vehicle traffic, such as the Black Eagle Mine Road, tend to cross more frequently as their home range encompass areas on both sides of the road", stated Kristen.

This study is even more important due to the dramatic increases in visitation to the park, projected to be 2.4 million visitors this year, that also increases the amount of vehicles on park roads.

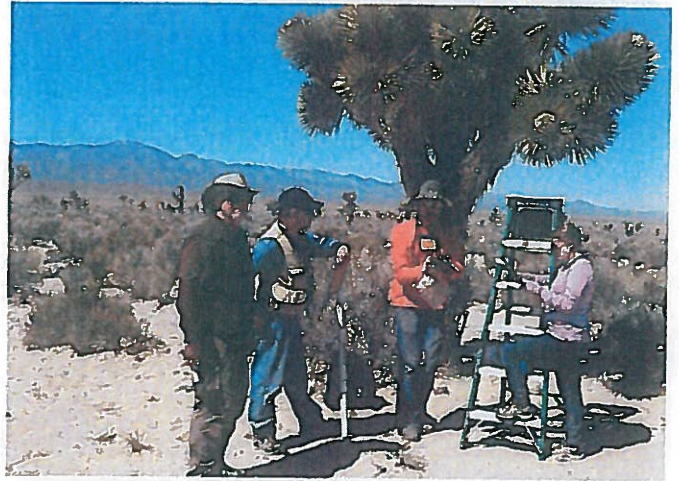
Funding for the transmitters is supported by the Joshua Tree National Park Association.



In 1998, the National Park Service at Joshua Tree National Park encouraged their longtime non-profit partner, the Joshua Tree National Park Association, to create a field program for adults that would complement the park's own ranger-led interpretive activities by providing in-depth educational opportunities similar to other well-known institute programs such as those at Yellowstone, Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

In the spring of 1999, the association launched a series of five weekend classes on Early Mining, Homesteading, Geology, Flora, Birds and Archaeology of Joshua Tree National Park. Since then, the Desert Institute has grown exponentially to offer over 70 classes per year to 700 plus students who travel from Southern and Northern California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and our Canadian "snowbirds". Over 50 instructors provide quality educational classes in Natural Sciences, Cultural History, "How-To" Classes, Guided Hikes in Joshua Tree National Park, Women's Programs, Citizen Science and Creative Art in the Park. In order to ensure the safety and an enjoyable educational experience over 60 dedicated volunteers have been recruited, trained and provided uniforms. These volunteers travel from San Diego, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas for our weekend classes.

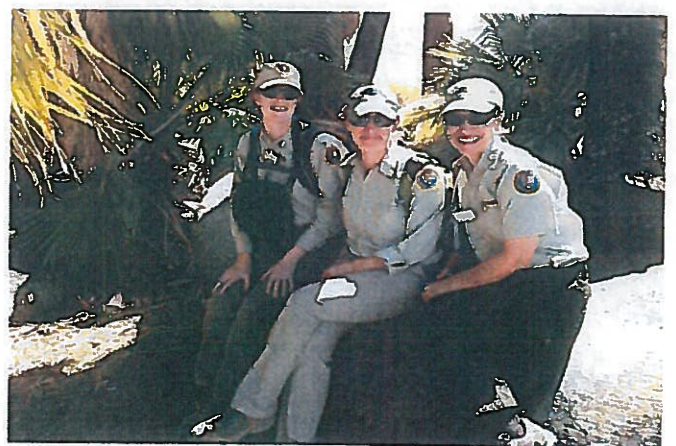
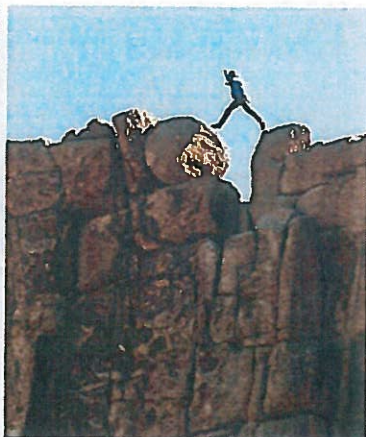
Desert Institute classes have also expanded their geographical range to provide education on geology and Joshua trees. Ted Reeves teaches the class "Geology of the Mojave National Preserve" and Chris Smith, a recipient of a prestigious National Science Foundation



grant, teaches the class "Population Biology of Joshua Trees" at his research sites in Nevada.

The Desert Institute also provides community lectures on relevant and pertinent topics at the Twentynine Palms Historical Society, the Palm Springs Library, the Black Rock Lecture series at Black Rock Nature Center in the park, the Ace Hotel in Palm Springs and, recently, a panel based symposium in partnership with Copper Mountain College in Joshua Tree, CA. Desert Institute volunteers host these events and other outreach opportunities.

If you are interested in the Desert Institute volunteer program, our next training takes place on August 26-28. Please call 760 367-5539 for more information.



THE BACK / FORWARD

DESIGN RECKONING IN THE WEST

BY HADLEY ARNOLD

The western United States, like much of the world, faces water scarcity challenges routinely addressed by scientists, engineers, water managers, farmers, and policy makers but barely recognized by designers of the built environment. In 2011, we at the Arid Lands Institute at Woodbury University partnered with the California Architectural Foundation to host the William Turnbull Drylands Design Competition: An Open Ideas Competition for Retrofitting the American West. By placing design in the ring with science and policy, we hoped to find radical, pugnacious beauty in new water thinking. Our brief, issued to designers from all disciplines, posed four profound challenges:

Break the water-energy nexus. In the engineered West, growth = water + energy. There is no growth—slow, smart, agricultural, urban, or otherwise—without water, and across 500,000 square miles, water doesn't arrive without a lot of energy (much of it coal fired). In an overtaxed feedback loop, the more energy we use to deliver snowmelt across deserts and mountains, the more we contribute to a warmer atmosphere and shrinking snowpack, which requires more energy to chase it. How do we deliver, use, and reuse water without adding more energy?

Anticipate variability. Two-thirds of the water for the West's 30 million people comes from snowpack. Current climate models suggest 30 percent to 70 percent of western snowpack will disappear by 2070. The hydrology of the West is expected to be one of increased variability (prolonged droughts, diminished snowpack, and more intense seasonal rains). How do we design buildings, neighborhoods, farms, and economies to dovetail with variability?

Reinvent infrastructure. While we strain to deliver diminishing snowpack, our cities are 85 percent impermeable. If rainwater, stormwater, and wastewater together form the largest undeveloped sector of western water, how can good design convert these perceived liabilities into local assets?

Sow social equity. In both the industrialized and the developing world, those most vulnerable to climate change's impacts are the poor, the sick, the young, and the elderly. Minimizing this vulnerability requires conservation and efficiency, diversifying supply, and dispersing storage. How can distributed systems be designed and fabricated for affordable implementation?

The competition set out to generate adaptive visions for the Anthropocene West. More than 200 teams from 13 countries submitted proposals that ranged in scale from the single-family dwelling to redrawn international boundaries. Several themes emerged:

The dynamics of form are fluid dynamics. Architecture adapted to a water-scarce environment "thinks like a watershed." Sequencing water systems in section is the primary driver of design, and the theater of water's passage through space is central to architectural and urban experience.

Single-purpose infrastructure is over. The new landscape of hydrologic variability requires dual-nature infrastructure: rapid saturation and slow release; plentiful storage and disciplined consumption. Hardscape is perforated to recharge aquifers. Wetlands become low-carbon water treatment. Asphalt is plowed for agriculture. Aqueducts roofed by solar panels become photovoltaic generators. Habitat preserves are designed to produce food and agriculture to produce habitat.

Water's variability should be made visible. Many submissions embraced changes in water supply as a basic condition of life—and therefore design opportunity—in dry lands. From the domestic to the civic scale, designers used legible systems to register, meter, index, and communicate variable water supplies.

Boundaries can be redrawn. Some of the strongest conceptual projects occurred purely in plan. The lines of the Jeffersonian grid itself were questioned and redrawn. A "wet border" allowed for shared watershed management between the United States and Mexico; water management techniques of Native and Ibero American traditions were inserted into industrialized street grids; suburban lots became networked dryland farms.

We see this array of propositions as "silver buckshot" at varying scales, elements of a new grammar of design for arid lands that is variable, flexible, recombinant, and responsive to local culture, values, habitat, and economy. Is this regionalism? Doubtful. Every continent on earth will be struggling with these challenges and could look to the American West as a leader. ●

HADLEY ARNOLD IS CODIRECTOR OF THE ARID LANDS INSTITUTE AT WOODBURY UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES.