

Thank you for your comment, H. Marie Brashear.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarS50031.

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Solar Energy Development PEIS
Comment ID: SolarS50031

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These comments are being submitted for my self and the Society for the Protection and Care of Wildlife (SPCW). It seems to me that this is an exercise which looks good but has no meaning. The bulk of the 120+ applications are for lands within the California Desert Conservation Area. The CDCA is a national conservation area. It also contains the Mojave/Colorado Deserts which are reputed to be one of the top five locals in which to locate solar farms. This means that your PEIS will not provide guidelines or anything else for these special lands. Even within National Conservation Areas there are places that solar farms would be appropriate. It is likely however that there are many more places where solar farms should not be located. It seems that the decision has already been made to deal with the CDCA lands and applications on a case by case basis.

These solar farms would be a ""forever"" commitment of the land. Therefore as with wilderness there are several issue which must be dealt with. Minerals inventories to be sure no valuable deposits are being locked up. As most of the locations currently applied for are within family recreation areas there must be access and/or mitigation for permanently lost opportunities. Within certain of the application areas are Water For Wildlife locations currently in use or scheduled to put into use by one organization or another. Access by wildlife to these water sites or relocation of these water sites to nearby places must be part of the liste of items mitigated for. Mitigation money (not enough land to use for mitigation) should be split as follows: 25 percent to the federal government, 55 percent to state governments and the balance to be put into a fund managed by the each state individually and shared between conservation organizations.

Where the technology exists, (i.e. Southern California Edison's efforts to locate solar farms in urban areas on top of commercial and parking structures.) Applicants should be directed away from federal lands as locals for their solar farms.

There are significant numbers of once used military location which are not being utilized for anything. Contamination if any should be cleaned up and these locations should be FIRST to be utilized. Particularly in sensitive areas.