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2 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
3 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
4 CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

7 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

11 LOCATION: The Historic Mission Inn  
12 Mission Inn Boulevard  
13 Riverside, CA 92501

14 DATE AND TIME: Saturday, June 23, 2007  
15 8 a.m. to 1:14 p.m.

16 REPORTED BY: JUDITH W. GILLESPIE, CSR, RPR  
17 (No. 3710)

18 JOB NO.: 66350JG

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24 And California" submitted by Howard Brown

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GILLESPIE REPORTING & DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT, INC. 3

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 MEMBERS PRESENT: REPRESENTING

3 CHAIRMAN WILLIAM PRESCH Public-at-Large

4 GEARY HUND National/Regional  
5 Environmental

6 TOM DAVIS Public-at-Large

7 SHERI DAVIS Public-at-Large

8 BILL BETTERLEY Public-at-Large

9 DON MABEN Elected Official

10 THOMAS ACUNA Transportation/Rights of  
11 Way Non-Renewable  
12 Resources

12 ROY DENNER Off-Highway Vehicle  
13 Use

13 RON SCHILLER Public-at-Large

14 RONALD VERNON JOHNSTON Public-at-Large

15 TOM SCOTT Wildlife

16 BOB RICHARDS (Absent) Public-at-Large

17 RICHARD RUDNICK (Absent) Renewable Resources

18 STAFF PRESENT:

19 DIRECTOR STEVE BORCHARD, California Desert District  
20 BRUCE SHAFFER, Associate District Manager  
21 STEVE RAZO, Deputy District Manager  
22 JENNIFER WOHLGEMUTH, Staff Assistant  
23 STERLING WHITE, Needles Field Office Manager  
24 HECTOR VILLALOBOS, Ridgecrest Field Office Manager  
25 ROXIE TROST, Barstow Field Office Manager  
TOM ZALE, El Centro Field Office Asst. Manager  
JOHN KALISH, Palm Springs/South Coast Office Field  
Manager  
ALAN STEIN, Deputy District Manager, Resources  
TOM SHERMAN, Supervising Forestry Technician, Fire

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1 Riverside, CA Saturday, June 23, 2006

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3 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

08:06:01 4

08:06:01 5 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I would like to call

08:06:03 6 the meeting to order for this session of DAC, and

08:06:07 7 welcome all of the public members. Hi, John.

08:06:17 8 Steve, you want to say something?

08:06:19 9 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: I would like to

08:06:24 10 welcome everyone to our June District Advisory Council

08:06:30 11 Meeting here in the Riverside Mission Inn. And why

08:06:39 12 don't we all rise to do the pledge of allegiance.

08:07:09 13 (Pledge of allegiance.)

08:07:09 14 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: We are persevering

08:07:19 15 and working through a few technical difficulties this

08:07:23 16 morning, so bear with us. I hope you have all had a

08:07:25 17 pleasant evening last night and a good night's rest.

08:07:30 18 I got to spend two and a half hours along Highway 215

08:07:35 19 last night on my way home. A car broke down.

08:07:40 20 MEMBER BETTERLEY: Government vehicle.

08:07:42 21 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: My old 1995 car, but

08:07:47 22 we did get home finally, so I'm a little bleary-eyed.

08:07:52 23 That's my excuse.

08:08:04 24 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: You should all have

08:08:06 25 received a copy of the agenda by e-mail, and you can

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08:08:09 **1** look it over. And do I hear a motion to approve the  
08:08:14 **2** agenda as so moved?  
08:08:18 **3** MEMBER SCHILLER: So moved.  
08:08:20 **4** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Second.  
08:08:22 **5** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: All in favor, aye?  
08:08:26 **6** All opposed. It's carried.  
08:08:27 **7** The next item of business is approval of  
08:08:29 **8** the March 10, 2007 meeting transcripts, which I don't  
08:08:36 **9** have. I don't think anybody else on the DAC got them  
08:08:39 **10** either. And Steve is on his way to the office to pick  
08:08:46 **11** up a copy and make copies of it, so we will move that  
08:08:50 **12** item to the table for now and we will come back and  
08:08:54 **13** visit that item after lunch. Okay? So moving right  
08:09:00 **14** along.  
08:09:01 **15** I love these kinds of meetings. We will go  
08:09:04 **16** to the summary. Steve's comments on the informational  
08:09:11 **17** briefings that we had yesterday.  
08:09:12 **18** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Based on the  
08:09:16 **19** comments I heard last night and at the meeting  
08:09:21 **20** yesterday, it's generally accepted that the  
08:09:25 **21** presentations were of great quality and very  
08:09:28 **22** informative. And the discussions that followed the  
08:09:32 **23** presentations, the questions and the answers and based  
08:09:36 **24** on those questions, the interest was high. I think  
08:09:42 **25** everyone learned a tremendous amount from yesterday's

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08:09:46 **1** presentation. And we certainly owe a debt of  
08:09:49 **2** gratitude to the renewable energy representatives and  
08:09:59 **3** the Cal Independent System Operators representative  
08:10:05 **4** and California Energy Commission representative that  
08:10:09 **5** took time out of their busy schedules to begin our --  
08:10:15 **6** or continue our education in the energy arena.  
08:10:20 **7** Certainly, there are many technical,  
08:10:26 **8** regulatory, administrative and complex tasks involved  
08:10:33 **9** in that industry. And I think there is pretty good  
08:10:40 **10** agreement that it was good to spend time learning more  
08:10:43 **11** about how that industry works. And you will learn a  
08:10:50 **12** little bit more today as to how BLM is moving forward  
08:10:59 **13** in managing this issue.  
08:11:02 **14** I know I came away from yesterday's  
08:11:08 **15** presentation, I guess, relieved. I know when we  
08:11:15 **16** completed our last DAC meeting, we introduced you to  
08:11:23 **17** this tidal wave. You had heard from other voices the  
08:11:28 **18** tidal wave of applications we had received and  
08:11:32 **19** acreages of astounding proportions, and were  
08:11:36 **20** potentially very concerned for many reasons.  
08:11:41 **21** But one of the things I came away with  
08:11:44 **22** yesterday was there are many hurdles to overcome. And  
08:11:50 **23** I think probably one of the biggest is the  
08:11:54 **24** transmission line issue and putting the power into the  
08:12:02 **25** grid. And clearly, that's an issue that the industry

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08:12:10 **1** is going to struggle with for many, many years to  
08:12:15 **2** come. Even though we have, you know, interest, a lot  
08:12:24 **3** of interest showing up, the ability for individual  
08:12:29 **4** operators to actually transport their energy that they  
08:12:34 **5** produced to market is dependant upon that transmission  
08:12:41 **6** grid. And there is not a lot of capacity there right  
08:12:45 **7** now, and it's going to take a long, long time for  
08:12:47 **8** upgrades to occur.  
08:12:50 **9** So kind of the bottom line is even though  
08:12:55 **10** we may have applications for 350,000 acres more, way  
08:13:03 **11** more, which I can't see anywhere near that for a long,  
08:13:12 **12** long, long time, and we are going to see anywhere near  
08:13:17 **13** that ever in reality. Because we learned yesterday  
08:13:20 **14** one applicant has three applications in because they  
08:13:24 **15** are creating alternatives for themselves to consider.  
08:13:27 **16** Their intent is one site.  
08:13:32 **17** That was a great relief to me, and I hope a  
08:13:37 **18** great relief to you. However, that doesn't mean BLM  
08:13:41 **19** is going to lay down and reduce the effort that we  
08:13:48 **20** have focused on processing these applications. We are  
08:13:53 **21** going to continue to focus a lot of effort and a lot  
08:13:58 **22** of quality resources on processing these applications  
08:14:04 **23** and working through these processes with our critical  
08:14:08 **24** partners, such as California Energy Commission.  
08:14:15 **25** Bill?

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08:14:15 **1** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Your opinion is right  
08:14:18 **2** on that. Yesterday was very good. Thank you for all  
08:14:27 **3** of your information. But I don't believe there is any  
08:14:30 **4** application yet at the California Energy Commission,  
08:14:35 **5** is there? Isn't that the starting point?  
08:14:37 **6** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: That is correct.  
08:14:40 **7** The CEC has received zero.  
08:14:44 **8** MEMBER BETTERLEY: That's what I heard  
08:14:45 **9** last night.  
08:14:46 **10** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: For the thermal  
08:14:49 **11** projects, that's one of the critical early steps. Not  
08:14:54 **12** so for the renewable energy.  
08:14:57 **13** MEMBER BETTERLEY: But there is still  
08:14:59 **14** none at the California Division yet.  
08:15:16 **15** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Correct.  
08:15:16 **16** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: That application  
08:15:20 **17** procedure that Bill was just talking about, is it now  
08:15:24 **18** the BLM's policy going to be that part of the  
08:15:27 **19** application will be either application for  
08:15:30 **20** certification or certification prior to the permit?  
08:15:33 **21** Or at least --  
08:15:36 **22** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Well, I don't know  
08:15:38 **23** it's going to be BLM's policy. But that's certainly  
08:15:42 **24** on our flow charts where we are working with CEC to  
08:15:47 **25** actually inform industry and inform everyone, all

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08:15:52 **1** these steps. That's one of the steps that's clearly  
08:15:57 **2** being mapped out in the process.  
08:16:03 **3** But it's not -- and certainly it triggers  
08:16:08 **4** certain activities on our part. But it's not going to  
08:16:23 **5** be a requirement. It becomes some sort of  
08:16:31 **6** administrative requirement on BLM's part, but it's  
08:16:35 **7** part of the overall process that industry knows is a  
08:16:38 **8** critical step.  
08:16:42 **9** MEMBER BETTERLEY: But we heard  
08:16:43 **10** yesterday, too -- we heard yesterday, too, that there  
08:16:51 **11** is a little problem between California and Arizona.  
08:16:55 **12** Now, does that take into effect the BLM, or is that  
08:16:59 **13** just the California Energy Commission?  
08:17:02 **14** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Are you referring to  
08:17:05 **15** the Devers-Palo Verde 2 bump in the road, I guess  
08:17:14 **16** where that project is stalled a bit? That's a  
08:17:19 **17** transmission line proposal?  
08:17:22 **18** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Right.  
08:17:23 **19** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Well, I think that  
08:17:26 **20** probably hinders more so the individual applicants  
08:17:32 **21** that were counting on that transmission line  
08:17:36 **22** continuing to move forward and eventually be  
08:17:39 **23** constructed, because they were counting on that as  
08:17:42 **24** their delivery, part of their delivery grid. That was  
08:17:50 **25** the gist that I got from the way it was brought up

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08:19:31 **1** Arizona that they do not want to see is Arizona power  
08:19:35 **2** that's generated west of Phoenix and of a whole series  
08:19:42 **3** of gas power plants as well as the nuclear power  
08:19:46 **4** plant, they don't want to see Arizona power  
08:19:49 **5** transmitted to California. So it's kind of a  
08:19:52 **6** territorial or provincial kind of argument.  
08:19:57 **7** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Does that then just  
08:19:59 **8** absolutely kill it, or does that have a possibility of  
08:20:02 **9** having the California Commission and them get  
08:20:05 **10** together?  
08:20:06 **11** MR. KALISH: Well, the Southern  
08:20:09 **12** California Edison is looking at various options that  
08:20:12 **13** they have available to them to appeal that decision.  
08:20:17 **14** It was a five-to-zero vote to deny the project within  
08:20:24 **15** Arizona. So Edison right now is just looking at their  
08:20:29 **16** options and trying to see if there is a way that they  
08:20:32 **17** can get through the issue.  
08:20:35 **18** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Is there a level  
08:20:37 **19** above that, like FERC or one of those?  
08:20:44 **20** MR. KALISH: Well, that's talked about,  
08:20:48 **21** under the Energy Act, of kicking it up and having FERC  
08:20:51 **22** take over the project. The questions are, as I  
08:20:54 **23** understand it, is whether or not jurisdictionally FERC  
08:20:59 **24** can overrule the Arizona Corporations Commission.  
08:21:03 **25** That's an unknown.

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08:17:53 **1** yesterday. And that --  
08:17:57 **2** MEMBER BETTERLEY: But we still don't  
08:18:00 **3** know, Steve, where that blip -- it's Arizona, not  
08:18:05 **4** California, that's causing the blip. But who -- is it  
08:18:10 **5** BLM Management or is it the Arizona Energy Commission  
08:18:15 **6** or the California Commission, somebody is involved in  
08:18:18 **7** that, that I don't know who is.  
08:18:20 **8** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: BLM is involved.  
08:18:26 **9** John is actually the BLM lead on that project.  
08:18:32 **10** MR. KALISH: The project that you are  
08:18:35 **11** referring to is the Devers-Palo Verde 2 transmission  
08:18:39 **12** that goes from the Hart/Walhalla Valley, Arizona,  
08:18:45 **13** clear to the valley substation right in Romoland here  
08:18:47 **14** in Hemet. We have completed the final EIS, and that's  
08:18:53 **15** in conjunction with the Public Utilities Commission.  
08:18:57 **16** We are about ready to wrap up that project. The hitch  
08:19:00 **17** in the road is that Arizona Corporations Commission  
08:19:04 **18** voted to deny the project within Arizona.  
08:19:10 **19** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Is that the same as  
08:19:11 **20** the California Energy Commission? Is that the level  
08:19:13 **21** in Arizona?  
08:19:14 **22** MR. KALISH: That is correct. They are  
08:19:16 **23** the equivalent to the Public Utilities Commission  
08:19:21 **24** within California. The rationale, really, if you boil  
08:19:24 **25** it all down, is really based on a perception within

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08:21:07 **1** But that project right now is, as far as we  
08:21:12 **2** are concerned is, we are ready to issue a Record of  
08:21:15 **3** Decision approving the project. And the big issue  
08:21:18 **4** that was talked about yesterday is from a transmission  
08:21:23 **5** standpoint, there is a bottleneck right on the east  
08:21:27 **6** end of Coachella Valley at the Devers Substation where  
08:21:32 **7** there is more transmission going into the Devers  
08:21:37 **8** Substation than can head out, head west from that  
08:21:41 **9** substation. And what the Devers-Palo Verde 2 project  
08:21:47 **10** does is it approves a 500 kv transmission line from  
08:21:53 **11** the Devers Substation through San Gorgonio Pass and  
08:21:57 **12** over to the Valley Substation right in the Hemet area  
08:22:00 **13** or Romoland.  
08:22:02 **14** So it allows for an increased amount of  
08:22:06 **15** transmission west of Devers and really is a solution  
08:22:10 **16** to the bottleneck that is occurring right there at  
08:22:14 **17** Devers. And that live energy project, all of the  
08:22:20 **18** engineering that was done for that project was all  
08:22:24 **19** based on having that ability to get the extra  
08:22:31 **20** generated electricity into Devers and then west of  
08:22:37 **21** Devers. But without that Devers to Valley Substation,  
08:22:41 **22** a portion of that project, then all of their -- all of  
08:22:47 **23** that part of that project is -- right now it has to be  
08:22:52 **24** reanalyzed.  
08:22:58 **25** MEMBER ACUNA: Thank you. I just wanted

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08:23:04 **1** to add a little bit to your question there, Bill. We  
08:23:15 **2** are talking about that if Arizona doesn't allow the  
08:23:18 **3** line, what are the options available to Southern  
08:23:22 **4** California Edison?  
08:23:23 **5** And the way I understand it, FERC, they can  
08:23:29 **6** identify under Section 1221 of the National Policy Act  
08:23:34 **7** a route that connects California to Arizona. That's  
08:23:40 **8** an interstate line. And the National Policy Act under  
08:23:44 **9** this section, if there is a corridor, an area that's  
08:23:48 **10** congested, the transmission, they don't have the  
08:23:51 **11** ability to bring in out-of-state power, that's what  
08:23:54 **12** they have done to this point. The Department of  
08:23:56 **13** Energy has identified that.  
08:23:58 **14** They are currently holding hearings. What  
08:24:00 **15** that means is these corridors will be identified  
08:24:04 **16** crossing federal lands. And if an applicant goes  
08:24:09 **17** through the state process and is turned down by, like,  
08:24:14 **18** the Arizona Corporation, the applicant will have the  
08:24:18 **19** opportunity to go to FERC and license that route.  
08:24:21 **20** And it sounds like that might be a  
08:24:24 **21** solution, but it isn't really too practical right now.  
08:24:27 **22** Here you have a Record of Decision ready to go with  
08:24:31 **23** the BLM, and to start the process again with FERC, you  
08:24:35 **24** are a couple years out still probably before you might  
08:24:37 **25** get relief from Arizona. So I wanted to add that

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08:24:41 **1** little bit. Thank you.  
08:24:45 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Jim. Don.  
08:24:51 **3** MEMBER MABEN: I have a request of BLM,  
08:24:54 **4** since this is a hot and ongoing issue, at least in my  
08:24:59 **5** county and I assume for other constituencies at this  
08:25:03 **6** table, if we could get a quarterly report from you,  
08:25:05 **7** like a spreadsheet with the rest of the applications,  
08:25:09 **8** the type of systems they want to put in and where they  
08:25:13 **9** are in the process so that we have an ongoing update,  
08:25:13 **10** and also where they are located.  
08:25:17 **11** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: We can do that very  
08:25:19 **12** easily and will do that.  
08:25:21 **13** MEMBER MABEN: Thank you.  
08:25:26 **14** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: One of the other  
08:25:28 **15** options that I would like to consider at this time,  
08:25:28 **16** all the DAC members should have received a copy of the  
08:25:31 **17** letter that the Council sent to Steve relative to our  
08:25:36 **18** last meeting with all of these applications. And  
08:25:41 **19** yesterday you should have all received a copy of  
08:25:44 **20** Steve's reply. And I want to thank Steve for replying  
08:25:50 **21** to the letter sent by the Council.  
08:25:52 **22** One of the items in the letter that he  
08:25:54 **23** presented, which follows up on this thing I think very  
08:25:58 **24** nicely, is the formation of an Energy Strike Team by  
08:26:02 **25** BLM here, and includes, of course, BLM Washington,

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08:26:06 **1** Department of Energy, National Review, Energy, BLM  
08:26:10 **2** California State, BLM California Desert District, CDC,  
08:26:13 **3** California Energy Commission, Fish and Wildlife and  
08:26:16 **4** National Park Service.  
08:26:17 **5** And I think that there is a slight omission  
08:26:21 **6** in that list. I think that omission is DAC, since we  
08:26:26 **7** are the one who kind of initiated that letter and  
08:26:30 **8** thought. So it was my thought that perhaps on that  
08:26:33 **9** Energy Strike Team, that the DAC should have a member,  
08:26:37 **10** at least one member, if not two individuals from DAC  
08:26:40 **11** who would attend those meetings and provide DAC, then,  
08:26:44 **12** with updates from those meetings.  
08:26:51 **13** Does anybody have any comment on that  
08:26:53 **14** suggestion?  
08:26:54 **15** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Would you like to  
08:26:55 **16** have a motion on that so it's on the record?  
08:26:58 **17** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: That would be a good  
08:27:00 **18** idea.  
08:27:00 **19** MEMBER BETTERLEY: I would so move that  
08:27:02 **20** DAC has two positions on that appointed, I guess you  
08:27:06 **21** would say, subcommittee.  
08:27:13 **22** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Bruce.  
08:27:16 **23** MR. SHAFFER: Bruce Shaffer, assistant  
08:27:18 **24** district manager for the California Desert District.  
08:27:19 **25** The only thing I want the DAC to

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08:27:21 **1** understand, it's not just a committee. We are a  
08:27:24 **2** working group. We are actually conference calling  
08:27:28 **3** once a week every Thursday at 10 o'clock. So we meet  
08:27:33 **4** regularly to try to stay ahead on the issues. So the  
08:27:37 **5** members can certainly come and go as they please. But  
08:27:40 **6** I just wanted you to know, we are meeting very, very  
08:27:44 **7** regularly. So depending on your own work schedules, I  
08:27:48 **8** just want you to understand how often it's meeting.  
08:27:51 **9** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Maybe rather than a  
08:27:53 **10** motion, then, we could suggest to the Bureau that they  
08:27:56 **11** inform us the Thursday that they are meeting and the  
08:28:00 **12** times and places. And if some of the DAC members can  
08:28:03 **13** be present, they could, without a motion.  
08:28:09 **14** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I think he said it was  
08:28:11 **15** a telephone conference-type situation on Thursday at  
08:28:16 **16** 10 o'clock.  
08:28:18 **17** MR. SHAFFER: Every Thursday at 10  
08:28:20 **18** o'clock. We keep it an hour. We have an agenda.  
08:28:22 **19** Sometimes we meet, if we need to, but for the most  
08:28:26 **20** part it's conference calls at this point.  
08:28:28 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Is there anybody on  
08:28:30 **22** DAC that would like to be a part of this activity?  
08:28:36 **23** Tom would like to do that? I think it's important  
08:28:38 **24** that we have a member for informational purposes, so  
08:28:43 **25** if there are no objections from the DAC, seeing none,

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08:28:50 **1** I will ask Tom, then, to be our official  
08:28:53 **2** representative to that group and try to provide  
08:28:57 **3** information, at least to me, and then I will go ahead  
08:29:02 **4** and send it out to the other members of DAC as we need  
08:29:05 **5** to.  
08:29:13 **6** Is there any other comments from members?  
08:29:16 **7** Yes, Roy.  
08:29:18 **8** MEMBER DENNER: I just -- I have been on  
08:29:27 **9** this Council now for eight years, seen three district  
08:29:31 **10** managers come and go and several rollovers of DAC  
08:29:35 **11** members. During that time we have gotten I want to  
08:29:38 **12** say at least five or six huge majority votes that  
08:29:44 **13** public use of public lands should be -- impacts on  
08:29:49 **14** public use of public lands should be mitigated, just  
08:29:52 **15** like we mitigate impacts on the environment. And of  
08:29:56 **16** course I'm concerned about recreation.  
08:29:57 **17** We have had that many, many times. Not all  
08:30:01 **18** DAC members agree, but a huge majority in every case  
08:30:04 **19** has agreed that we should mitigate those impacts. And  
08:30:08 **20** in all the presentations yesterday I only saw the word  
08:30:11 **21** "OHV" mentioned once. I didn't see the words  
08:30:14 **22** "recreation" or other "public uses of public lands"  
08:30:17 **23** mentioned at all.  
08:30:18 **24** In your communications plan that Steve Razo  
08:30:22 **25** prepared, I don't see the word "recreation" or

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08:30:25 **1** "mitigation" anywhere in these. So are we to assume  
08:30:30 **2** that the BLM is just going to ignore all of those  
08:30:33 **3** majority votes that we have gotten over the years?  
08:30:37 **4** And I would also at this point in time,  
08:30:40 **5** since it may be my last opportunity, I would like to  
08:30:44 **6** make a motion that this current Council approve the  
08:30:47 **7** concept or the recommendation to the BLM that we  
08:30:51 **8** mitigate other impacts, because there just isn't  
08:30:55 **9** enough land out there. The idea that these guys are  
08:30:58 **10** going to come in and jet develop all of these projects  
08:31:02 **11** without any mitigation of public use on public lands  
08:31:05 **12** is ludicrous.  
08:31:07 **13** And the only way we are going to protect  
08:31:10 **14** the opportunities we have to use public lands out  
08:31:13 **15** there today is that the BLM takes an active role in  
08:31:16 **16** enforcing this mitigation concept. Or step up to the  
08:31:20 **17** plate and say, Go to hell; we don't care about your  
08:31:22 **18** mitigation concept, one way or the other.  
08:31:24 **19** So I'm going to make a motion that we once  
08:31:28 **20** again appeal to the BLM or maybe some stronger word  
08:31:34 **21** than "appeal." "Insist" with the BLM as the  
08:31:39 **22** stakeholders and as the members who represent the use  
08:31:42 **23** of the 10 million-acre Desert District. I'm going to  
08:31:45 **24** make a motion that we once again insist that the BLM  
08:31:49 **25** play an active role in causing mitigation to occur for

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08:31:54 **1** public use impacts. Period.  
08:32:01 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Do we have a second?  
08:32:03 **3** MEMBER SCHILLER: Yes.  
08:32:05 **4** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Second by Ron.  
08:32:06 **5** Questions?  
08:32:07 **6** MEMBER ACUNA: I have some questions  
08:32:11 **7** regarding the motion. I am terrible at this.  
08:32:17 **8** Roy and I talked a little bit about it  
08:32:19 **9** yesterday. And one of the things that BLM has to do  
08:32:21 **10** is they have to have the legal authority to do that  
08:32:25 **11** type of thing. And I was wondering if someone could  
08:32:28 **12** step up for the BLM and explain under the National  
08:32:31 **13** Energy -- National Environmental Policy Act whether  
08:32:36 **14** mitigation of recreational lands tactic is something  
08:32:41 **15** that has to be mitigated. I noticed that under the  
08:32:45 **16** Truckhaven agenda, there is some discussion about  
08:32:50 **17** compensation for recreational loss of OHV. So maybe  
08:32:56 **18** someone could address that, please.  
08:32:58 **19** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: I will take a shot.  
08:33:09 **20** I may rely on my staff here to correct any  
08:33:13 **21** inaccuracies.  
08:33:17 **22** I guess I agree that in Truckhaven and in  
08:33:23 **23** other projects, we consider mitigation and are  
08:33:28 **24** actively considering mitigation in the Truckhaven  
08:33:33 **25** geothermal. But as far as a specific reference,

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08:33:38 **1** either in the energy bill or BLM guidance or policy,  
08:33:51 **2** I'm not familiar with references for mitigating uses,  
08:34:00 **3** existing uses.  
08:34:03 **4** I kind of think there is general references  
08:34:06 **5** about mitigation of impacts, but I -- maybe Alan might  
08:34:15 **6** be more familiar with our guidance. Alan, can you  
08:34:19 **7** think of any references that specifically talk about  
08:34:23 **8** mitigating either uses or specifically addressing  
08:34:28 **9** recreation in our recreation policy?  
08:34:36 **10** MR. STEIN: Alan Stein.  
08:34:37 **11** No, I really -- I mean, we do mitigate  
08:34:41 **12** impacts to all resources. It doesn't mean that we  
08:34:44 **13** completely replace uses that have been displaced, but  
08:34:49 **14** we do try and mitigate the impacts that accrue from  
08:34:57 **15** any kind of action. We try and minimize those  
08:34:59 **16** impacts, and we certainly have to recognize those  
08:35:03 **17** impacts and analyze them. But I'm not aware of any  
08:35:07 **18** specific language that would provide us any authority  
08:35:12 **19** for compensation or replacement of habitat for other  
08:35:19 **20** uses other than --  
08:35:28 **21** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Tom will shed some  
08:35:30 **22** light here.  
08:35:32 **23** MR. ZALE: Tom Zale, associate field  
08:35:34 **24** manager for El Centro Field Office.  
08:35:34 **25** I wanted to mention I'm not a lawyer, but

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08:35:37 **1** my understanding is there is case law that basically  
08:35:42 **2** establishes sort of a two-pronged test for determining  
08:35:46 **3** mitigation. And that is that the mitigation measure  
08:35:50 **4** needs to have a nexus to the impact that you are  
08:35:54 **5** talking about. There needs to be a direct nexus or  
08:35:57 **6** connection.  
08:35:57 **7** And the second test is rough  
08:36:00 **8** proportionality. The mitigation measure needs to be  
08:36:03 **9** roughly proportional to the impact so you are not way  
08:36:07 **10** out of sync one side or the other. So I would assert,  
08:36:11 **11** for example, with the Truckhaven EIS, that we did  
08:36:14 **12** address impacts to recreation and recreation uses on  
08:36:17 **13** the public lands. We didn't identify compensation as  
08:36:22 **14** an appropriate mitigation. But that's the draft. We  
08:36:28 **15** are still looking at comments on the draft EIS and are  
08:36:33 **16** taking these comments into consideration. I don't  
08:36:36 **17** know if that helps or not.  
08:36:37 **18** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Well, I certainly  
08:36:39 **19** think it's proper and wise for DAC members and the  
08:36:44 **20** body as a whole to react to the situation you brought  
08:36:48 **21** up, Roy, and advise BLM, whether a policy or a  
08:36:56 **22** regulations directed to do one thing or another. I  
08:37:01 **23** think it's appropriate for the DAC to address this  
08:37:04 **24** issue and take the action and give the advice and  
08:37:09 **25** recommendations to the BLM that they feel are

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08:37:12 **1** appropriate in this case.  
08:37:16 **2** MEMBER DENNER: As far as I'm concerned,  
08:37:17 **3** we have gotten this lip service forever. Yes, we  
08:37:21 **4** address those impacts. To give you a good example, in  
08:37:25 **5** the NEMO plan, there were three OHV recreation areas  
08:37:31 **6** closed due to lack of use because people didn't go out  
08:37:36 **7** there very often yet, in spite of the fact that in  
08:37:38 **8** other areas we are getting closed down all over the  
08:37:41 **9** place. Nobody even gave a thought to the fact that  
08:37:44 **10** maybe some day those areas that aren't used a lot  
08:37:47 **11** today might be very valuable to have in our inventory.  
08:37:50 **12** And at that time, Linda Hansen said, yes,  
08:37:54 **13** we address the concept of mitigating impacts in other  
08:37:58 **14** areas by keeping that open and we just decided to  
08:38:01 **15** close them anyhow. I haven't seen a single example.  
08:38:05 **16** In Truckhaven they are addressing  
08:38:08 **17** mitigation to recreation; they are addressing it. I  
08:38:12 **18** haven't seen a single suggestion of how they are going  
08:38:14 **19** to fix it. I haven't seen a single example anywhere  
08:38:20 **20** in the California Desert District of an area that has  
08:38:22 **21** been opened for OHV added to for OHV or any form of  
08:38:26 **22** recreation, horseback trails and that sort of thing,  
08:38:28 **23** as a result of an area that has been closed somewhere  
08:38:32 **24** else.  
08:38:32 **25** I have never seen an example of mitigation

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08:38:36 **1** to public use like we mitigate impacts on the  
08:38:39 **2** environment, which I incidentally agree with. When  
08:38:42 **3** there is a serious impact on an endangered species, we  
08:38:47 **4** should mitigate it. But we are becoming an endangered  
08:38:52 **5** species. And all we get is lip service. Give me an  
08:38:54 **6** example of an area where you have expanded an OHV area  
08:38:56 **7** due to a closure elsewhere. One example.  
08:39:00 **8** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Tom, did you have a  
08:39:05 **9** comment?  
08:39:06 **10** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: Clarification from  
08:39:07 **11** Roy. I think by your last comment you might have  
08:39:09 **12** answered this, but with that clarification, you are  
08:39:13 **13** concerned about the potential loss of opportunities  
08:39:16 **14** for recreation, more than the actual closure of opened  
08:39:23 **15** areas. See what I am saying?  
08:39:26 **16** MEMBER DENNER: Those are the same  
08:39:27 **17** thing. And I can give you examples of opportunities  
08:39:30 **18** that have been lost without any mitigation.  
08:39:33 **19** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: I understand that.  
08:39:35 **20** I'm just trying to get a handle on, when an EIS is  
08:39:41 **21** performed and there are impact analyses done, and Tom  
08:39:44 **22** did a pretty good job of describing the two-step  
08:39:48 **23** process, what I would like to know is, are we  
08:39:53 **24** addressing an existing closure due to a project or are  
08:39:58 **25** we addressing the potential inventory that's not being

**23**

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08:40:03 **1** used today or hasn't been designated for use? For  
08:40:09 **2** example, a large solar field closing off a huge amount  
08:40:13 **3** of acreage for use in the future. Do you see what I  
08:40:16 **4** am saying?  
08:40:16 **5** MEMBER DENNER: Yes. Both cases are  
08:40:18 **6** true. There is an example of an EIS addressing a  
08:40:22 **7** closure of existing areas, and examples like I just  
08:40:25 **8** talked about of areas that are not currently used but  
08:40:28 **9** are in inventory that have also been closed.  
08:40:33 **10** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Don, you have a  
08:40:35 **11** current --  
08:40:38 **12** MEMBER MABEN: Yes, I do. I'm very  
08:40:40 **13** concerned when I hear the term "mitigation" because  
08:40:41 **14** usually that means the purchase of private property  
08:40:42 **15** and taking it off local tax rolls for local use. If  
08:40:46 **16** we are going to mitigate for recreation on public  
08:40:49 **17** lands, it should be publicly held property and shift  
08:40:52 **18** the recreational uses to another piece of public  
08:40:56 **19** property.  
08:40:57 **20** MEMBER DENNER: I agree. I wasn't  
08:40:59 **21** inferring it should be the purchase of private  
08:41:02 **22** property. Sometimes we do purchase private property  
08:41:05 **23** and mitigate impact on species, so I guess it's not  
08:41:09 **24** out of the question. But I'm not inferring that it  
08:41:12 **25** should all be private property. The attempt to

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08:41:16 **1** mitigate on public lands should be made first.  
08:41:20 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Tom, you had a  
08:41:21 **3** comment.  
08:41:22 **4** MEMBER SCOTT: We had comments about the  
08:41:24 **5** use of private land for some of these power projects.  
08:41:31 **6** We had some suggestion that private lands might also  
08:41:34 **7** be available. So maybe one way to get at this would  
08:41:37 **8** be to ask the people preparing these documents to do  
08:41:40 **9** some kind of cost assessment of the loss of  
08:41:43 **10** recreation, how much it would cost that to mitigate on  
08:41:46 **11** private lands, and consider private lands as an  
08:41:49 **12** alternative for the siting of some of these projects.  
08:41:52 **13** That would be one way of getting this. It's not  
08:41:55 **14** actually a policy statement of the BLM in general but  
08:41:58 **15** it would be one way to perhaps get to this question.  
08:42:02 **16** MEMBER DENNER: That's what we are  
08:42:02 **17** looking for. We never see any analysis of what it  
08:42:05 **18** would it cost to mitigate this impact.  
08:42:08 **19** MEMBER SCOTT: That would be an economic  
08:42:13 **20** analysis, not a policy?  
08:42:14 **21** MEMBER DENNER: Yes.  
08:42:14 **22** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Geary.  
08:42:17 **23** MEMBER HUND: Well, two things: First,  
08:42:20 **24** since there will be a joint environmental review with  
08:42:24 **25** the state and the federal government, under the

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08:42:27 **1** California Environmental Quality Act, I know there is  
08:42:30 **2** language related to impacts on recreational uses.  
08:42:35 **3** What I don't recall is the extent to which  
08:42:38 **4** they have to be mitigated, but that's something that  
08:42:40 **5** we should look into and that might be another avenue.  
08:42:45 **6** And then I was going to suggest perhaps our  
08:42:47 **7** motion should be something to the effect that the BLM  
08:42:51 **8** analyze and address to the extent of their legal and  
08:42:54 **9** regulatory ability the impacts on recreational uses  
08:43:00 **10** and that they -- including avoidance, minimization and  
08:43:07 **11** mitigation of those impacts.  
08:43:09 **12** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Is that a friendly  
08:43:10 **13** amendment to the amendment?  
08:43:13 **14** MEMBER HUND: I think so.  
08:43:14 **15** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. Any other  
08:43:16 **16** comment? We have a motion on the floor with an  
08:43:19 **17** amendment.  
08:43:20 **18** MEMBER ACUNA: Right. I wanted to add,  
08:43:22 **19** I think what Geary has done here is very effective  
08:43:26 **20** because what was happening in the past we can't  
08:43:29 **21** change. But where we go in the future, that's the  
08:43:32 **22** important thing as a group here.  
08:43:34 **23** And the point that you are bringing up,  
08:43:36 **24** Geary, let's see what kind of teeth we can give the  
08:43:40 **25** BLM. Then have them come back to us. And then if we

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08:43:45 **1** can use what's existing, our existing teeth, maybe we  
08:43:50 **2** can start making a difference in the review of these  
08:43:53 **3** future projects and having the applicant mitigate.  
08:43:56 **4** Because honestly, if we try to do that now,  
08:43:59 **5** and I'm the applicant and you are telling me I have to  
08:44:02 **6** mitigate 2-to-1 ratio, I would ask the BLM, show me  
08:44:07 **7** where in the rules I have to do that. And so this is  
08:44:10 **8** an effective way to do that. So thank you for making  
08:44:14 **9** that motion, Geary.  
08:44:16 **10** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Any other comments?  
08:44:18 **11** Call for the question. All in favor of the motion,  
08:44:21 **12** say aye. Aye. Opposed? Abstain? So passed. Thank  
08:44:28 **13** you, Roy.  
08:44:30 **14** MEMBER DENNER: Thank you.  
08:44:34 **15** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay, anything --  
08:44:44 **16** MEMBER SCOTT: Is that the end of our  
08:44:46 **17** discussion on yesterday?  
08:44:47 **18** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: No. We can go on a  
08:44:49 **19** little longer.  
08:44:49 **20** MEMBER SCOTT: I wanted to introduce  
08:44:51 **21** another motion: That we draft a letter to Secretary  
08:44:54 **22** Kempthorne basically commending the staff of the  
08:44:58 **23** Desert District and saying that they have really risen  
08:45:00 **24** to the occasion in kind of an unprecedented series of  
08:45:05 **25** permits. I think that yesterday presented some

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08:45:08 **1** alternatives with the FERC and some details that can  
08:45:12 **2** be put in the letter like that, but I think it's  
08:45:14 **3** worthwhile commending them because I don't think any  
08:45:17 **4** BLM office has ever faced anything like this before.  
08:45:23 **5** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: I'll second that  
08:45:25 **6** motion.  
08:45:28 **7** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: We have a motion on  
08:45:29 **8** the floor to draft and send a letter to the Secretary  
08:45:39 **9** commending the BLM District for it efforts with the  
08:45:44 **10** energy renewal. Questions? Tom?  
08:45:48 **11** MEMBER ACUNA: Just a little bit of  
08:45:50 **12** discussion in the effort to help BLM get the resources  
08:45:54 **13** they need to continue this great effort.  
08:45:56 **14** Yesterday what I heard was a wonderful  
08:45:59 **15** assessment to understand the situation where we are at  
08:46:02 **16** right now. And they are doing that in a great way and  
08:46:07 **17** in the last six months from what I have seen when we  
08:46:11 **18** were at Barstow when we started talking about energy,  
08:46:12 **19** they really brought this to the forefront for DAC.  
08:46:15 **20** So my question is this: Is that what is  
08:46:18 **21** our next step? I think I would address this to Bruce.  
08:46:22 **22** When you are through doing the assessment that you are  
08:46:25 **23** currently doing, what is your vision, what is your  
08:46:29 **24** goal here for energy in the desert and what might the  
08:46:35 **25** DAC say to support you with the Secretary to continue

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08:46:39 **1** those efforts?  
08:46:41 **2** MR. SHAFFER: Bruce Shaffer, Assistant  
08:46:50 **3** District Manager, California Desert District.  
08:46:53 **4** When we got the new energy policy for solar  
08:46:59 **5** from Washington earlier this year, and after the DAC  
08:47:04 **6** had given us, you know, their concerns at our last  
08:47:08 **7** meeting and it was also in the energy policy that had  
08:47:12 **8** come out in '06, we knew what we had to do was meet  
08:47:17 **9** two key terms: Be efficient and be effective in how  
08:47:23 **10** we were going to address renewable energy in the  
08:47:26 **11** California Desert District.  
08:47:27 **12** I think you saw yesterday that Southern  
08:47:31 **13** California is really a very special place within this  
08:47:37 **14** country when it comes to wind and solar energy, and  
08:47:40 **15** specifically solar. So we knew that we had to both,  
08:47:46 **16** for the purposes of addressing your issues that you  
08:47:49 **17** bring up each time, as well as the national  
08:47:52 **18** perspective that we will probably have renewable  
08:47:55 **19** energy to be a big key part of our workload in the  
08:47:59 **20** foreseeable future, next 5, 10, 15 years. And so we  
08:48:04 **21** felt the only way to do that was through partnerships.  
08:48:07 **22** So that's why we started looking around: How can we  
08:48:11 **23** understand this process, because energy is a very  
08:48:14 **24** complex process. No one federal agency has both the  
08:48:20 **25** experience and the staffing to deal with this.

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08:48:25 **1** So we have to partner, all of us, from CEC,  
08:48:32 **2** Cal ISO, US Fish and Wildlife Service, all our  
08:48:36 **3** partners recognize that we've got to work together.  
08:48:39 **4** So that's what we wanted to do was to put some kind of  
08:48:42 **5** process together so that we could all at least walk  
08:48:45 **6** through this together.  
08:48:47 **7** We did not want to be -- because I think  
08:48:51 **8** sometimes people look at federal agencies as the ones  
08:48:54 **9** that are in charge. So our goal was to develop a  
08:48:57 **10** process that was efficient and effective, that would  
08:49:01 **11** be helpful to the public, yourselves and the public as  
08:49:04 **12** they are looking at documents that we prepare and try  
08:49:09 **13** to do those as jointly as we can within the  
08:49:13 **14** regulations that we have. So that was our goal that  
08:49:16 **15** we talked both as staff and with our partners.  
08:49:20 **16** Now where the DAC can go is -- because we  
08:49:24 **17** have partnerships all the way from Washington on down  
08:49:28 **18** with the Department of Energy and the renewable lab,  
08:49:31 **19** we don't have a lot of the technical expertise when it  
08:49:34 **20** comes to the technology, so we have to contract that  
08:49:38 **21** out.  
08:49:38 **22** So that's the key thing. This is going to  
08:49:41 **23** be a huge workload. And I think that's one of the key  
08:49:44 **24** things you can send with that message. We know it's a  
08:49:48 **25** workload. There are things we can do, we are doing,

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08:49:51 **1** either contract out or to partner to work with that  
08:49:55 **2** workload.  
08:49:56 **3** The other key issue -- and I think it was  
08:49:59 **4** Bill that brought it up -- some of these projects are  
08:50:02 **5** going to probably propose to go across state  
08:50:06 **6** boundaries. And as we are seeing in that one, there  
08:50:09 **7** is another disconnect. Because it's hard to flow  
08:50:14 **8** electricity from one state to the other, it's going to  
08:50:16 **9** require some bigger folks than sitting in this room to  
08:50:20 **10** make that happen.  
08:50:20 **11** Now, we are going to start talking to our  
08:50:24 **12** Arizona and Nevada partners, because we have at least  
08:50:28 **13** two applicants that we know of that are toying with  
08:50:30 **14** the idea of their power going east, not west. So we  
08:50:35 **15** are at least doing what we can on the ground to  
08:50:38 **16** understand, because Cal ISO, the gentleman, Dennis  
08:50:41 **17** Peters that spoke yesterday, talked about that hey,  
08:50:45 **18** once that power line come to the state boundary, it  
08:50:48 **19** stops. They have no authority to go across that state  
08:50:51 **20** line. So when we have projects that are going to do  
08:50:54 **21** that, that's going to be an issue.  
08:50:56 **22** That is probably one other thing you can  
08:50:58 **23** address in your letter is how are the partners, all  
08:51:01 **24** these agencies going to try. And that probably is  
08:51:04 **25** going to take someone a little bit bigger.

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08:51:06 **1** I had used the term one time in a joking  
08:51:10 **2** fashion with the group that there is no one czar out  
08:51:13 **3** there having their hand over, this is where things  
08:51:15 **4** ought to go. I think it was -- I don't remember which  
08:51:19 **5** member yesterday said, "Oh, this process is driven by  
08:51:23 **6** the developers." And it is. The process, where they  
08:51:27 **7** choose, it's driven by the developers. They look at  
08:51:31 **8** everybody's plans and actions, and they start making  
08:51:36 **9** the decisions to say this is where we think we ought  
08:51:37 **10** to go. And we, the regulatory agencies, we start to  
08:51:41 **11** review it.  
08:51:42 **12** So that's why I say, we wanted to give you  
08:51:45 **13** as much of an appreciation of just how complex it is.  
08:51:48 **14** So those are probably the three things. We are going  
08:51:51 **15** to need staffing. There could be an interstate piece  
08:51:56 **16** to this that we don't have solved. And then just  
08:51:59 **17** saying, hey, we are headed down the right road,  
08:52:02 **18** because again, we want to be efficient and effective  
08:52:04 **19** in processing these and not sit here for five, ten  
08:52:07 **20** years to get power that the American public and this  
08:52:12 **21** administration say we need power and we need to start  
08:52:15 **22** looking at alternative ways to deliver that, whether  
08:52:18 **23** that be renewable or whatever.  
08:52:22 **24** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: I would like to amend,  
08:52:24 **25** I guess, Bruce's thoughts with mine. He did just

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08:52:27 **1** mention staffing. I had written that down. I feel  
08:52:31 **2** like we are establishing a process.  
08:52:34 **3** Part of the process that we are  
08:52:37 **4** establishing is how we, as an organization, are going  
08:52:42 **5** to carry out the work. So we are looking at our  
08:52:45 **6** existing capability and developing ideas of how to  
08:52:49 **7** increase that capability. So in addition to this  
08:52:53 **8** process of cooperating with others and their  
08:53:00 **9** processes, we are looking at staffing ideas. So if  
08:53:06 **10** something were to be said in the letter, that might be  
08:53:08 **11** helpful.  
08:53:09 **12** I guess the other looming issue I see that  
08:53:14 **13** I want the energy strike team to work on is I think we  
08:53:19 **14** need to work on a framework for cumulative effects  
08:53:27 **15** analysis. And in a perfect world, BLM would take on a  
08:53:39 **16** multi-year land use planning decision-making process  
08:53:46 **17** that involved all the stakeholders. And we would make  
08:53:52 **18** land use allocation decisions as to where on the  
08:53:57 **19** landscape that this type of use was compatible with  
08:54:01 **20** all the other values we are trying to manage out there  
08:54:04 **21** and all the other uses we are trying to manage.  
08:54:07 **22** I think, unfortunately, that's really not  
08:54:12 **23** an option we have on the table. The time line  
08:54:16 **24** required to do something like that doesn't fit into  
08:54:21 **25** the time line that we have been given under the energy

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08:54:26 **1** bill and that the industry has brought to us and that  
08:54:31 **2** the state has essentially brought to us by requirement  
08:54:37 **3** of the renewable energy portions of the portfolios.  
08:54:42 **4** So kind of the next best thing is to meet  
08:54:48 **5** to define a framework as to how we are going to carry  
08:54:53 **6** out an effective cumulative effects analysis. We  
08:54:58 **7** cannot simply go through and analyze a bunch of  
08:55:01 **8** individual projects and not consider their cumulative  
08:55:07 **9** influence on the resources and uses that we currently  
08:55:13 **10** manage. So I feel that's a next critical step, how we  
08:55:21 **11** are going to do cumulative effects analysis and how we  
08:55:25 **12** are going to staff this work.  
08:55:33 **13** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Tom.  
08:55:43 **14** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: Steve, in your  
08:55:45 **15** letter, the second-to-the-last paragraph, it speaks  
08:55:52 **16** about I believe the last meeting is -- in our last  
08:56:06 **17** meeting in Barstow, I believe Geary brought up the  
08:56:12 **18** idea of going to Washington to get additional funding  
08:56:16 **19** or funding for the infrastructure of dealing with this  
08:56:21 **20** process. And then I opined that maybe we ought to  
08:56:26 **21** look at the revenue potential of these projects.  
08:56:29 **22** And in your letter at the bottom of the  
08:56:33 **23** page there says that you will be reimbursed the cost  
08:56:38 **24** of processing the applications. But once the rent  
08:56:42 **25** comes in, it goes to the general fund. And I would

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08:56:45 **1** hope that strike team also addresses this particular  
08:56:49 **2** issue.  
08:56:51 **3** It seems ludicrous to me that we would ask  
08:56:54 **4** the federal -- Washington, the central office to add  
08:56:59 **5** funding and staff and give them money and not give the  
08:57:03 **6** money back in return for that particular purpose. So  
08:57:07 **7** I would encourage the strike team to also look at that  
08:57:11 **8** particular aspect to come back with a recommendation  
08:57:14 **9** that we could follow upon.  
08:57:17 **10** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Tom.  
08:57:18 **11** MEMBER ACUNA: I am more focusing on  
08:57:23 **12** what Bruce and Steve were saying.  
08:57:25 **13** Thank you, I thought that was a good  
08:57:27 **14** outline, being effective and understanding. And the  
08:57:30 **15** sentence that I would recommend that we add to the  
08:57:33 **16** motion that was made regarding a letter to Washington,  
08:57:39 **17** we talked about that you have done an outstanding job,  
08:57:42 **18** you are going in the right direction. But  
08:57:44 **19** specifically I would like to add that we state a  
08:57:48 **20** sentence there that the director recognize that the  
08:57:54 **21** critical energy issues in California should be  
08:57:59 **22** supported by providing additional resources and  
08:58:06 **23** priorities to the BLM staff.  
08:58:10 **24** Now, I don't know if he is going to read  
08:58:12 **25** the letter and he is going to send you money, Steve.

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08:58:14 **1** But what we want to do is make sure that of all his  
08:58:18 **2** goals nationally, this is one that gets his attention  
08:58:22 **3** as being a place where the BLM could make a big  
08:58:28 **4** difference in national policy. And he should be  
08:58:30 **5** providing you those resources and making you a top  
08:58:33 **6** priority in carrying this review out, something to  
08:58:38 **7** that effect as we go through with this motion.  
08:58:51 **8** MEMBER HUND: First, just to clarify,  
08:58:54 **9** Tom Davis, Tom, are you suggesting something like cost  
08:58:58 **10** recovery for the work associated with the review of  
08:59:03 **11** these applications?  
08:59:05 **12** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: More than that. I  
08:59:08 **13** think Steve's letter says that they will get  
08:59:10 **14** reimbursed for the processing of the applications.  
08:59:13 **15** But let's say this particular district of the BLM  
08:59:18 **16** generates X amount of dollars in rental income off  
08:59:23 **17** solar energy or whatever project it may be. And then  
08:59:26 **18** it goes to US Treasury. That's what the letter says.  
08:59:30 **19** And my point is that there ought to be some  
08:59:33 **20** kind of recognition that this local geographic  
08:59:39 **21** district should get the money back in some fashion,  
08:59:42 **22** whether it's through additional budgeting or whatever  
08:59:46 **23** the case may be, and that should be recognized. My  
08:59:49 **24** point is why ask for Washington -- for a handout to  
08:59:55 **25** subsidize the effort here, when there are actual

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09:00:00 1 revenues being generated here and sent to Washington.  
09:00:07 2 MEMBER HUND: Well, I wanted to speak to  
09:00:10 3 what Steve said. And I agree that in an ideal world  
09:00:15 4 that the approach he suggested the BLM might take if  
09:00:19 5 we didn't have any Energy Act and all these pending  
09:00:25 6 applications, that would be the best way to proceed.  
09:00:28 7 So my goal is to help get us as close to  
09:00:31 8 that as possible so that in the end, all the different  
09:00:35 9 user groups and resources are considered and balanced  
09:00:40 10 against the need -- I think we all agree -- for  
09:00:43 11 renewable energy.  
09:00:46 12 So some of us had mentioned the potential  
09:00:49 13 for -- suggested the potential for doing a programatic  
09:00:53 14 EIS, but I guess first, is that still a possibility?  
09:00:57 15 And second, if it's not, if you have multiple  
09:01:02 16 applications, which you do, would you anticipate doing  
09:01:11 17 a separate environment document for each one, or will  
09:01:16 18 this be a combined document? And if so, is there the  
09:01:20 19 potential to take a more global view like a  
09:01:24 20 programatic EIS and include things like best  
09:01:27 21 management practices?  
09:01:33 22 MEMBER BETTERLEY: This is not going to  
09:01:34 23 be a letter. It will be a book if you keep on going.  
09:01:38 24 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Yeah, we may be  
09:01:41 25 going down side bars here, I think, rather than the

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09:01:44 1 letter.  
09:01:47 2 But I will address Geary's question about  
09:01:51 3 the probability or possibility of a programatic EIS.  
09:01:59 4 I have seen enough things in my travels to know that  
09:02:04 5 something like that is never out of the question,  
09:02:08 6 never off the table as a possibility because as issues  
09:02:15 7 develop and the levels of controversy increase and  
09:02:23 8 different players get involved, the agency and agency  
09:02:33 9 leaderships assess the need for preparing adequate  
09:02:39 10 analysis to support wise decisions.  
09:02:48 11 I guess that's a long way of saying, yeah,  
09:02:51 12 maybe there is still the possibility of a programatic  
09:02:56 13 EIS. I guess the kind -- the No. 1 barrier I see to  
09:03:06 14 it is the time it would take and whether leadership  
09:03:14 15 would support delaying decisions on individual  
09:03:18 16 projects, the delays that would occur because of that,  
09:03:24 17 the time to carry out a programatic EIS.  
09:03:28 18 And then the No. 2 issue that we locally  
09:03:35 19 and statewide have wrestled with is how to pay for  
09:03:40 20 that. The regulations under cost reimbursement for  
09:03:47 21 these types of projects would fall under the full cost  
09:03:51 22 reimbursement regulations for individual projects.  
09:03:54 23 However, if we were to carry out a programatic EIS, we  
09:03:58 24 would not be able to do cost recovery for that effort.  
09:04:05 25 So I guess the two issues to wrestle with

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09:04:09 1 here in considering that option are the delays it  
09:04:15 2 would result in and approval of individual projects  
09:04:19 3 and, going along with CEC's required time lines, we  
09:04:26 4 would lose our partner in this and how we pay for it,  
09:04:31 5 because we are probably talking a 2-to-3-million-  
09:04:36 6 dollar job here to do a programatic EIS.  
09:04:43 7 MEMBER HUND: How about the other -- in  
09:04:48 8 the event that doesn't happen, Steve, the other aspect  
09:04:53 9 of my question about, would these be individual EIS's  
09:04:57 10 and also is there the potential -- I see heads  
09:05:03 11 nodding out there -- and is there a potential to  
09:05:05 12 develop best management practices in the first EIS  
09:05:09 13 that could be applied to other EISes after that which  
09:05:13 14 would effectively get to a programatic approach?  
09:05:17 15 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: We certainly have  
09:05:18 16 the option to develop best management practices,  
09:05:22 17 whether within an individual EIS or through another  
09:05:27 18 process. Certainly.  
09:05:29 19 MEMBER ACUNA: Tom Acuna.  
09:05:32 20 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Quickly.  
09:05:33 21 MEMBER ACUNA: I just don't think  
09:05:36 22 following through with a programatic EIS is something  
09:05:39 23 that we as a DAC should recommend for the reasons  
09:05:43 24 Steve mentioned. I would point out that the federal  
09:05:45 25 government already is working on the Western Utility

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09:05:49 1 Corridor Programatic EIS, and I think, Geary, that  
09:05:54 2 covers the impact to federal lands. And CEC is also  
09:05:58 3 doing a similar effort for electric transmission  
09:06:01 4 corridor designations, a programatic EIS.  
09:06:05 5 So I think the state and federal government  
09:06:08 6 are working in that direction in a more strategic  
09:06:13 7 view, and we should let that happen and not pursue a  
09:06:17 8 separate BLM programatic EIS. Thank you.  
09:06:21 9 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I would like to return  
09:06:23 10 now to the business at hand, which is a motion on the  
09:06:26 11 floor to write a letter of commendation.  
09:06:37 12 The motion is to write a letter now.  
09:06:40 13 Several things have been tossed around. One was  
09:06:43 14 initially to the Secretary, which I'm not sure which  
09:06:45 15 secretary you want to write to, or should it be to the  
09:06:48 16 Director of BLM in Washington or both? I would like  
09:06:54 17 that clarification first.  
09:06:55 18 MEMBER SCOTT: My thought was we go to  
09:06:57 19 Kempthorne because it's a national issue, and that  
09:07:01 20 allows us to basically give credit to all the steps of  
09:07:05 21 BLM, straight down through. That's a nicer way to do  
09:07:08 22 it. Then we don't leave out -- if it goes to the  
09:07:11 23 director, he doesn't -- the director of BLM doesn't  
09:07:15 24 get any credit.  
09:07:18 25 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: So go to the

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09:07:19 **1** Secretary. And so the motion is on the floor to write  
09:07:23 **2** the letter of support and commendation for BLM and BLM  
09:07:29 **3** Desert District specifically. You have taken down  
09:07:32 **4** notes. I have taken down notes. Why don't you and I  
09:07:35 **5** draft the letter. And we can then pass it out through  
09:07:38 **6** the DAC as I did on the last one, and then we will go  
09:07:42 **7** from there.  
09:07:43 **8** Is that agreeable to the Council?  
09:07:46 **9** Okay. Well, call for the question? All  
09:07:53 **10** right. All in favor of the motion to draft a letter  
09:07:55 **11** to the Secretary, and passing it around to the DAC  
09:08:00 **12** members for input, and then mailing it, essentially?  
09:08:08 **13** We had a second. Tom did. So all in favor say aye.  
09:08:14 **14** All opposed? Abstentions. So passed. So Tom and I  
09:08:19 **15** will work on it and get it out to the rest of the  
09:08:21 **16** members.  
09:08:23 **17** Okay. We will now open the meeting to  
09:08:30 **18** public comment for items not on the agenda. Does  
09:08:34 **19** anyone in the public have anything at this time that  
09:08:36 **20** they wish to speak to?  
09:08:42 **21** MR. STEWART: John Stewart, California  
09:08:47 **22** Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs.  
09:08:51 **23** First off, I want to take this opportunity  
09:08:53 **24** to extend my thanks to the BLM for putting together  
09:08:56 **25** that presentation yesterday. It was very informative

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09:08:59 **1** and I came away with a lot better appreciation of the  
09:09:02 **2** issues involving the management of public lands. It  
09:09:07 **3** was very informative and very helpful.  
09:09:09 **4** I was also looking through the handouts.  
09:09:12 **5** And one item that I failed to see mentioned in any of  
09:09:16 **6** the field managers' reports is reference to putting  
09:09:22 **7** together and moving forward with this recreation plan  
09:09:27 **8** for the desert. I know it has been mentioned in the  
09:09:30 **9** past. I would appreciate having an update at some  
09:09:34 **10** point on what is happening there.  
09:09:36 **11** And also when you are looking at the aspect  
09:09:39 **12** of providing recreational opportunity, we have the  
09:09:43 **13** self-stating issue in Southern Imperial County in the  
09:09:44 **14** El Centro field office of opening up Devil's Canyon,  
09:09:50 **15** which is the basis of a former road long in existence  
09:09:53 **16** in there that has been closed. And yet it's a viable  
09:09:57 **17** opportunity that would take pressures off of other  
09:10:00 **18** areas. So I would like to hear a little bit more  
09:10:03 **19** about that. And thank you for your continued efforts.  
09:10:06 **20** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, John.  
09:10:13 **21** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: I will address the  
09:10:17 **22** CDD-wide rec effort. And I will ask Tom Zale to give  
09:10:23 **23** us his thoughts on Devil's Canyon.  
09:10:26 **24** The progress by the work group -- we have a  
09:10:34 **25** district work group of specialists that is exploring

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09:10:39 **1** what our next step should be and what we can  
09:10:44 **2** realistically carry out, based on our current staffing  
09:10:48 **3** and capabilities in the way of developing a  
09:10:53 **4** district-wide recreation strategy. I believe that was  
09:10:58 **5** John's request.  
09:10:58 **6** That group has met I think three times and  
09:11:04 **7** now has a draft document that they circulated about  
09:11:10 **8** two weeks ago that suggests how they would go about  
09:11:19 **9** within the existing staffing and with other work  
09:11:22 **10** loads, develop a recreation strategy. So I think as  
09:11:27 **11** soon as that framework is approved by the group and  
09:11:30 **12** vetted by the managers, the field managers that would  
09:11:35 **13** be dedicating some of their staffing time to this  
09:11:38 **14** effort, we will be happy to share it with you. And  
09:11:43 **15** I'm pretty sure at the next DAC meeting we will be  
09:11:46 **16** able to do that.  
09:11:47 **17** Tom, John asked what our thoughts were on  
09:11:55 **18** an issue that had been brought up at the previous DAC  
09:11:59 **19** meeting and the interest in opening up Devil's Canyon.  
09:12:08 **20** Can you address that?  
09:12:09 **21** MR. ZALE: Tom Zale, associate field  
09:12:12 **22** manager, El Centro Office.  
09:12:12 **23** An individual applied for a special  
09:12:18 **24** recreation permit to use Devil's Canyon. There is a  
09:12:22 **25** segment of Devil's Canyon that's actually a closed

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09:12:26 **1** route. They applied for a special recreation permit  
09:12:30 **2** to use that segment of the route to hold a  
09:12:33 **3** noncompetitive event for -- I think the permit  
09:12:37 **4** requested seven different occasions throughout a  
09:12:40 **5** period of a year.  
09:12:41 **6** That segment of the canyon is in critical  
09:12:46 **7** Bighorn Sheep habitat. We initiated informal  
09:12:52 **8** consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service. I think  
09:12:55 **9** we are in the process of working through the  
09:12:57 **10** permitting process, doing our NEPA compliance and  
09:13:03 **11** compliance with the Endangered Species Act. I'm  
09:13:08 **12** sorry, I can't speak specifically exactly where we are  
09:13:12 **13** at. I have been focusing on a few other things, but I  
09:13:16 **14** can check on the status of that and get back to you,  
09:13:19 **15** John, or anybody else that's interested.  
09:13:22 **16** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Thank you, John.  
09:13:29 **17** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Other comments? Yes.  
09:13:33 **18** MR. HALL: Yeah, my name is Dick Hall.  
09:13:35 **19** I would also like to thank the BLM for the  
09:13:39 **20** presentations yesterday. We are in a really difficult  
09:13:44 **21** situation -- BLM is in a really difficult situation  
09:13:48 **22** from the generation standpoint, transmission  
09:13:50 **23** standpoint, recreation standpoint. All those things  
09:13:53 **24** need to be taken into account. This country is going  
09:13:56 **25** to be very shortly short of energy.

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09:14:00 **1** Obviously, the renewable resources are  
09:14:04 **2** quite important. They can reduce our dependence on  
09:14:08 **3** other oil. So it's going to be a real balancing act.  
09:14:12 **4** I do want to applaud the DAC, though, for making sure  
09:14:16 **5** that we get the recreation component into the  
09:14:22 **6** discussion. Thank you.  
09:14:26 **7** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Dick.  
09:14:28 **8** Randy.  
09:14:35 **9** MR. BANIS: Randy Banis, editor of  
09:14:39 **10** Deathvalley.Com.  
09:14:39 **11** I just wanted to point out to the DAC that  
09:14:41 **12** the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation  
09:14:46 **13** Division which administers the recreational trail  
09:14:49 **14** program, grants, the RTP grants, announced its  
09:14:54 **15** recommended project for funding to the Federal Highway  
09:14:57 **16** Administration. The projects total 1.8 million  
09:15:01 **17** dollars. And happy to say that Friends of El Mirage  
09:15:05 **18** and Friends of Jawbone have combined to take away 1.1  
09:15:10 **19** million of that 1.8. That's six of the nine grants  
09:15:14 **20** being recommended for funding. So pleased to let you  
09:15:18 **21** know there will be more money on the ground in the El  
09:15:22 **22** Mirage, Jawbone area.  
09:15:24 **23** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Randy.  
09:15:26 **24** That's good news.  
09:15:31 **25** We will move to Councilmember reports,

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09:15:34 **1** after which we will take a short break, so the more  
09:15:35 **2** you talk, the more you squirm. I want to start to my  
09:15:40 **3** right with Thomas.  
09:15:42 **4** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: I have nothing to  
09:15:43 **5** report.  
09:15:44 **6** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Dave.  
09:15:47 **7** MEMBER CHARLTON: Things have been a  
09:15:50 **8** little slow because of the drought. I have been  
09:15:53 **9** active in a couple of other things that are going on,  
09:15:55 **10** the Antelope Valley Integrated Water Management Plan  
09:16:00 **11** and the Dumont Dunes TRT. And we will talk about that  
09:16:06 **12** later, but we have serious water problems in Antelope  
09:16:12 **13** Valley.  
09:16:12 **14** The plan is to 2035, and due to growth,  
09:16:16 **15** they have identified that we need to double the amount  
09:16:19 **16** of water use they have by that time, so they can  
09:16:22 **17** either come up with increasing sources of water or  
09:16:27 **18** people have to come up with conservation methods of  
09:16:30 **19** using half the amount of water. And I think these  
09:16:35 **20** types of problems are all brought about by growth, and  
09:16:41 **21** growth is brought about by economic issues.  
09:16:45 **22** And the present administration's policy on  
09:16:50 **23** immigration is anarchy. And when you are starting off  
09:16:54 **24** with a policy like that or lack of following the  
09:16:57 **25** rules, then you have growth issues which we are

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09:17:03 **1** dealing with here and coming in in spits and spurts.  
09:17:07 **2** And everyone else is cringing when one particular  
09:17:11 **3** aspect of the situation is talking about, you know,  
09:17:17 **4** rapid growth.  
09:17:18 **5** I know sometimes the individual groups are  
09:17:22 **6** pretty happy about rapid growth, but it does have  
09:17:29 **7** consequences. The Audubon Society just released a  
09:17:32 **8** long-term bird count. Base year is 1967, and they  
09:17:37 **9** published a list of the bird species that population  
09:17:42 **10** levels have gone down over 50 percent since 1967,  
09:17:46 **11** which I remember that's approximately the year when  
09:17:49 **12** the optimum population of the world was considered,  
09:17:52 **13** about the time I became an adult.  
09:17:54 **14** So things have been going down since then.  
09:17:58 **15** And these growth things that we are dealing with now  
09:18:02 **16** are basically, you know -- we all see the desert  
09:18:07 **17** degradation and fragmentation that has been caused by  
09:18:12 **18** those things. But we don't really have a national  
09:18:15 **19** conscience or policy from the top down to deal with  
09:18:18 **20** the growth. I know we were talking about it in '67;  
09:18:22 **21** time has gone by and the situation has gotten worse,  
09:18:25 **22** and we have been dealing with it less.  
09:18:26 **23** So again I try to bring up the big picture  
09:18:29 **24** again. And if we are not going to do anything, then  
09:18:32 **25** we will be struggling with these problems and the

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09:18:35 **1** desert will continue to degrade.  
09:18:38 **2** I was asked to bring up a couple issues by  
09:18:41 **3** my constituents. And one of them is the disturbance  
09:18:53 **4** of riparian areas in the desert. And BLM needs to  
09:18:57 **5** follow its best management practices in trying to get  
09:19:01 **6** those back into maximum area.  
09:19:03 **7** We have problems with road degradation in  
09:19:05 **8** the Colorado Desert. As a botanist, I realize that in  
09:19:09 **9** the Colorado Desert, one of the best places to see  
09:19:14 **10** wild flowers are the washes. And we need to have at  
09:19:17 **11** least half those washes with nothing traveling up them  
09:19:20 **12** because they do disturb it and really affect the bio-  
09:19:25 **13** diversity of the Colorado Desert. The Mojave Desert  
09:19:25 **14** is not the same because it doesn't have the same  
09:19:30 **15** concentrations of wild flowers in it.  
09:19:30 **16** So I know we are trying to deal with how  
09:19:33 **17** best to sign washes to allow that issue. And I guess  
09:19:41 **18** my organization is not happy with where the NECO and  
09:19:48 **19** these other plans have gone. And I was asked to  
09:19:51 **20** express that also.  
09:19:55 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Bill.  
09:19:57 **22** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't  
09:19:58 **23** have a report, but to give a little answer to the  
09:20:02 **24** Antelope Valley, they don't have just a potable water  
09:20:07 **25** problem. They have another problem with the Los

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09:20:09 **1** Angeles Sanitation District, but I have no other  
09:20:13 **2** report.  
09:20:14 **3** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Sheri.  
09:20:17 **4** MEMBER SHERI DAVIS: Sheri Davis,  
09:20:24 **5** public-at-large, focused on filming.  
09:20:27 **6** I know that Tom had commented on the rental  
09:20:31 **7** fees from the right-of-ways are not deposited into the  
09:20:34 **8** local BLM office but into Washington.  
09:20:37 **9** Our industry looked at what we were  
09:20:39 **10** contributing into the BLM. And a number of years ago  
09:20:43 **11** we very successfully lobbied that 90 percent of our  
09:20:46 **12** location fees would return to the field office where  
09:20:49 **13** they were generated because we felt they had the  
09:20:52 **14** maintenance and oversight of our industry with filming  
09:20:55 **15** on the BLM land, and that that field office certainly  
09:20:58 **16** deserved the lion's share of what we paid.  
09:21:01 **17** I don't know how that could be done with  
09:21:04 **18** these other alternative fuels, but I would love to see  
09:21:08 **19** someone step up to that challenge and see if some of  
09:21:11 **20** those could be returned to the field office that's  
09:21:14 **21** challenged with the maintenance of that.  
09:21:17 **22** Last year our industry returned about 80  
09:21:21 **23** million dollars into the two-county region. A portion  
09:21:24 **24** of that was on federal lands. We started about seven  
09:21:29 **25** years ago a process with the Barstow field office when

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09:21:33 **1** Tim Reid was there of opening up new lands for  
09:21:36 **2** filming. And every time I approached anyone within  
09:21:39 **3** the county government to see if they could assist the  
09:21:43 **4** BLM in opening up those lands, it was kind of, we can  
09:21:47 **5** discuss it during the next budget cycle, which seemed  
09:21:50 **6** to always be the next budget cycle, until Supervisor  
09:21:53 **7** Brad Mitzelfelt came into District 1.  
09:21:56 **8** I reapproached him, as I had done every  
09:21:59 **9** year, and he stepped up and said, "No problem. I will  
09:22:02 **10** fund an environmental company to do all of the EA's  
09:22:07 **11** for filming." Please understand that all of this is  
09:22:11 **12** on already open land for other uses; this is not  
09:22:14 **13** virgin land or undisturbed land. And so we believe  
09:22:18 **14** that we will open up 20 areas or more between the  
09:22:23 **15** Barstow and the Needles office.  
09:22:25 **16** And so I, of course, as the film commission  
09:22:28 **17** for that area, am delighted because that gives me an  
09:22:32 **18** opportunity to add more funds into both of those field  
09:22:35 **19** offices.  
09:22:36 **20** I also want to congratulate John Kalish on  
09:22:40 **21** his position as field manager. John has never, when I  
09:22:44 **22** have called him for an assistance on a film permit --  
09:22:47 **23** and when you look at all the programs and everything  
09:22:49 **24** that the field officers manage and they are five and  
09:22:53 **25** 10 or 20 years out and they all have immediate

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09:22:57 **1** deadlines on different steps that they have to go  
09:22:58 **2** through -- John has never said I can't help. He has  
09:23:03 **3** always made it happen. And I want to thank you and  
09:23:05 **4** congratulate you. You are a good choice as field  
09:23:10 **5** manager.  
09:23:11 **6** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Sheri.  
09:23:15 **7** Ron.  
09:23:15 **8** MEMBER SCHILLER: I really don't have  
09:23:16 **9** anything to report except for one issue that had been  
09:23:21 **10** brought to me by several of the local people in  
09:23:25 **11** Ridgecrest. And this is frustration with the  
09:23:28 **12** inability to get the agenda for the DAC and pertinent  
09:23:31 **13** information beforehand. And I promised that I would  
09:23:34 **14** pass this on today for consideration. Thank you.  
09:23:40 **15** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Tom.  
09:23:42 **16** MEMBER SCOTT: I have something to  
09:23:45 **17** report. I will try to keep it short.  
09:23:47 **18** We have had less rainfall in this last year  
09:23:51 **19** than has ever been recorded in the history for most of  
09:23:55 **20** the areas for BLM management and the California Desert  
09:24:01 **21** District. I think this means a couple of things. One  
09:24:03 **22** is that we are going to see changes that may be fairly  
09:24:07 **23** long lasting, especially if we go into another year of  
09:24:12 **24** drought. And I think we are going to face a fairly  
09:24:15 **25** strong fire season.

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09:24:16 **1** This is not being frivolous, but I think we  
09:24:22 **2** should try to hold our meeting in as high a latitude  
09:24:27 **3** and elevation for the fall meeting as we can because  
09:24:30 **4** it's not going to be nice to go touring almost  
09:24:34 **5** anyplace else.  
09:24:35 **6** I think that maybe in the October  
09:24:39 **7** meeting -- do we have a meeting scheduled for October  
09:24:41 **8** or September?  
09:24:43 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Late September,  
09:24:45 **10** probably.  
09:24:46 **11** MEMBER SCOTT: The Santa Ana season  
09:24:49 **12** starts September 15. I think it would be good to have  
09:24:51 **13** a focus on fire at the next meeting. It might be very  
09:24:55 **14** timely.  
09:24:58 **15** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. I guess it's  
09:25:01 **16** me.  
09:25:01 **17** I have been very busy working for the DAC.  
09:25:05 **18** The Dumont Dunes TRT, which I am chair of, has been  
09:25:10 **19** meeting almost on a monthly basis. And we actually I  
09:25:16 **20** think are making progress on the assistance and advice  
09:25:20 **21** to BLM.  
09:25:21 **22** A number of things have occurred since our  
09:25:24 **23** last DAC meeting in that we were able to change the  
09:25:28 **24** surface on the road into Dumont Dunes, which met with  
09:25:33 **25** a great deal of applause for at least one week. And

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09:25:38 **1** then decided that maybe it wasn't such a great idea  
09:25:41 **2** anyhow. So now we are looking at doing some more work  
09:25:45 **3** on that road.  
09:25:46 **4** The main problem is cutting down on the  
09:25:49 **5** dust and the bumpiness of the road for the big rigs  
09:25:54 **6** that are going in. We have another issue with trash  
09:25:58 **7** and some issues with local communities who are asking  
09:26:03 **8** for information relative to air quality and dump  
09:26:09 **9** stations and so forth, mainly caused by the users at  
09:26:15 **10** Dumont, which we are experiencing some good  
09:26:25 **11** discussions and information provided to them and some  
09:26:26 **12** educational activity. And I think we are well on the  
09:26:30 **13** road to getting a better understanding with the local  
09:26:32 **14** communities about what is going on at Dumont Dunes.  
09:26:36 **15** So we have been very active, and we are  
09:26:38 **16** working very hard on a number of issues related to the  
09:26:42 **17** Dumont Dunes TRT.  
09:26:45 **18** And in addition to that, I have been very  
09:26:48 **19** busy with BLM work on the fringe-toed lizards, and I'm  
09:26:52 **20** happy to say we are in our second season and things  
09:26:56 **21** are going well. We are doing some pretty cool ecology  
09:27:00 **22** on fringe-toed lizards, especially in Ibex, Dumont and  
09:27:04 **23** Coyote Hills area. Those are the study sites for one  
09:27:08 **24** of my graduate students. We are finding a lot of  
09:27:10 **25** interesting things about -- things out about those

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09:27:13 **1** particular lizards.  
09:27:14 **2** And I'm continuing to work down in Razor,  
09:27:18 **3** another open area of BLM, and we are again finding  
09:27:21 **4** lizards there, sometimes in rather unexpected places.  
09:27:25 **5** We are over in the preserve. We will have to wait for  
09:27:31 **6** next season, but there is no activity over there. In  
09:27:34 **7** fact, very few people go into that particular area  
09:27:38 **8** where those lizards are. Very few, if any, go over  
09:27:40 **9** there. I think in the last three or four years, I'm  
09:27:42 **10** the only one that's been in some of those areas. So  
09:27:46 **11** we have been very busy on those two fronts. And we  
09:27:50 **12** will continue to do so as long as we can.  
09:27:53 **13** Geary.  
09:27:55 **14** MEMBER HUND: Geary Hund, DAC member  
09:27:59 **15** representing conservation groups.  
09:28:01 **16** Probably the first and biggest news for me  
09:28:04 **17** to report is that I have changed employers. I am now  
09:28:09 **18** working for a State Conservancy, the Coachella Valley  
09:28:15 **19** Mountains Conservancy, as their associate director.  
09:28:18 **20** So my professional emphasis is going to shift a bit.  
09:28:21 **21** I will still be working with the BLM, but primarily  
09:28:24 **22** with the South Coast-Palm Springs field office.  
09:28:27 **23** However, as a volunteer for the  
09:28:30 **24** conservation community, I will continue to be involved  
09:28:33 **25** in a number of issues throughout the California Desert

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09:28:38 **1** District. And I'm probably stating the obvious, but  
09:28:41 **2** the views I express here are not necessarily always  
09:28:46 **3** the views of the Coachella Valley Mountains  
09:28:49 **4** Conservancy because I am representing a broader range  
09:28:52 **5** of interest serving on this committee.  
09:28:55 **6** Some of the things, for example, that I'm  
09:28:58 **7** interested in continuing to work on, I have requested  
09:29:02 **8** to join the Technical Review Team for the -- I believe  
09:29:07 **9** it's the Meccacopia, but for the wilderness planning  
09:29:11 **10** area out in that area, and also for the Surprise  
09:29:14 **11** Canyon EIS for the ACEC.  
09:29:20 **12** First, I want to say, before I continue  
09:29:22 **13** with my report, is I do want to once again compliment  
09:29:26 **14** the BLM for what I consider a very diligent and  
09:29:30 **15** effective and considered response to all of these  
09:29:33 **16** energy applications. I think all of us on the board  
09:29:37 **17** are very impressed with the district's response to  
09:29:40 **18** this. I think you have really taken a professional  
09:29:44 **19** and appropriate response, considering not only our  
09:29:48 **20** needs, the desires of the utility companies and energy  
09:29:53 **21** companies, but also the resources, both natural,  
09:29:58 **22** cultural and recreational resources of the California  
**23** Desert Conservation Area.  
09:30:03 **24** And it's kind of heartening to me that the  
09:30:08 **25** recreational community that's represented on this

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09:30:11 **1** board and the conservation community share this common  
09:30:16 **2** ground. And I always knew it was there, this common  
09:30:19 **3** love for the resource and this concern for the future  
09:30:22 **4** of the California Desert Conservation Area and the  
09:30:27 **5** magnificent place that it is. So it's great to be  
09:30:31 **6** part of a combined effort to keep the great place that  
09:30:34 **7** we all know and love. It's part of the National  
09:30:38 **8** Landscape Conservation System, which is BLM's system  
09:30:41 **9** of its most important conservation areas. And to me,  
09:30:44 **10** that needs to be an overarching consideration, no  
09:30:48 **11** matter what happens out there. We don't want to lose  
09:30:51 **12** this wonderful resource and have it supplanted  
09:30:57 **13** entirely by any other use.  
09:31:01 **14** In terms of my new job, I'm working on a  
09:31:04 **15** project that I started when I was with the Wilderness  
09:31:07 **16** Society, and the Wilderness Society has helped me to  
09:31:11 **17** fund and also coordinating meetings to develop a new  
09:31:15 **18** trail map and brochure for the Santa Rosa and San  
09:31:22 **19** Jacinto National Monument, part of which is in the  
09:31:24 **20** California Desert Conservation Area. So if any of you  
09:31:28 **21** are considering a similar project, I'm rapidly  
09:31:33 **22** becoming a veteran of developing that type of product.  
09:31:36 **23** Also at the Coachella Valley Mountains  
09:31:39 **24** Conservancy, our mission is to perpetuate the  
09:31:46 **25** resources, both natural, cultural and recreational

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09:31:51 **1** resources within the mountainous area surrounding the  
09:31:55 **2** Coachella Valley. And toward that endeavor, a lot of  
09:31:58 **3** what we do is either land acquisition or making grants  
09:32:02 **4** for land acquisition of additional conservation lands.  
09:32:05 **5** As we all know, when these conservations  
09:32:09 **6** were designated, there were a lot of inholdings and  
09:32:12 **7** checkerboard lands. And we focus, of course, on those  
09:32:16 **8** situations where there are willing sellers and it will  
09:32:19 **9** help to again perpetuate those recreational, natural  
09:32:22 **10** and cultural resources.  
09:32:24 **11** Just a couple of examples. Two of us in a  
09:32:26 **12** row are going to mention the fringe-toed lizard. In  
09:32:29 **13** this case it's the Coachella Valley fringe-toed  
09:32:33 **14** lizard, which we are working right now to help acquire  
09:32:36 **15** additional habitat and sand transport areas, because  
09:32:42 **16** that's important to maintain their habitat and also  
09:32:47 **17** working on maintaining a habitat linkage between the  
09:32:52 **18** San Jacinto Mountains and San Bernardino and San  
09:32:54 **19** Gorgonios. Thank you.  
09:32:56 **20** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Don.  
09:32:57 **21** MEMBER MABEN: I just have a brief  
09:33:00 **22** report. I hope the news that Randy brought will  
09:33:03 **23** return to normalcy for funding for the OHV community  
09:33:07 **24** and BLM.  
09:33:09 **25** Kern County stepped up to the plate this

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09:33:12 **1** year to fund the operation of the Jawbone Visitor's  
09:33:15 **2** Center and also to keep our off-road enforcement team  
09:33:19 **3** active for the Kern County Sheriff's department  
09:33:22 **4** because of a shortfall of those funds. So I'm hoping  
09:33:23 **5** that good news continues.  
09:33:25 **6** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Tom.  
09:33:28 **7** MEMBER ACUNA: Tom Acuna. I think  
09:33:31 **8** everything I could say about energy was said  
09:33:34 **9** yesterday, so I will pass. Thank you.  
09:33:36 **10** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Ron.  
09:33:43 **11** MEMBER JOHNSTON: I have some input and  
09:33:46 **12** public comment from people in both the San Diego  
09:33:49 **13** County and the Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley area  
09:33:53 **14** concerning four things that have been brought to the  
09:33:56 **15** focus of my attention, I guess.  
09:33:59 **16** No. 1, a 50-foot windmill farm is proposed  
09:34:02 **17** near the San Jacinto National Monument, which is much  
09:34:07 **18** to the disdain for the communities along the highway,  
09:34:10 **19** such as Painted Hills and some of the other adjoining  
09:34:15 **20** facilities. And this is to be a large wind farm.  
09:34:18 **21** Of course, though better than fossil fuels  
09:34:22 **22** being used in a plant in that area as to the  
09:34:25 **23** environment, these plants, at least in the San  
09:34:28 **24** Gorgonio Pass, only produce about 150 megawatts of  
09:34:32 **25** power today versus the 400 plus megawatts that were

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09:34:37 **1** promised when the permits were granted for them to be  
09:34:40 **2** built.  
09:34:40 **3** So there is disappointment by the residents  
09:34:43 **4** in terms of fulfillment of the promises made for  
09:34:46 **5** allowing these intrusions into their skyline to go in.  
09:34:50 **6** And there are 3,000 windmills that have been approved  
09:34:56 **7** in that area. And the issue, as far as they are  
09:35:01 **8** concerned, looms as to whom the leases are being  
09:35:05 **9** granted to and what the real productivity of any  
09:35:09 **10** additional windmills is going to be. And the question  
09:35:11 **11** is are we giving away public lands and residences to  
09:35:15 **12** poor operators who are abusing the public assets in  
09:35:19 **13** their area? That's one concern voiced to me.  
09:35:22 **14** No. 2, in San Diego County, naturalists,  
09:35:26 **15** hikers and residents of McCain Valley have been very  
09:35:30 **16** vehement in voicing their objections to bringing in  
09:35:34 **17** wind turbines to the McCain Valley along Interstate  
09:35:39 **18** 8's path. And the developer is seeking over 7,000  
09:35:42 **19** acres, which is a pretty substantial area, which the  
09:35:45 **20** residents and citizens who frequent the area, hikers,  
09:35:49 **21** walkers, naturalists, feel will seriously damage the  
09:35:54 **22** environment of that area with dust, noise and  
09:35:59 **23** destruction of wildlife natural habitat.  
09:36:04 **24** And third, of course, making the news on a  
09:36:06 **25** regular basis is public objection at every hearing

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09:36:09 **1** that's being offered to the SDG&E power link coming  
09:36:13 **2** through Anza-Borrego.  
09:36:15 **3** And fourth, something new brought up to me  
09:36:17 **4** about a week ago which I wasn't aware of is the impact  
09:36:23 **5** on public lands, including BLM properties, that may  
09:36:26 **6** adjoin the 26 toxic dumps, one of which is a super  
09:36:33 **7** site, on tribal lands in Thermal. And how the toxic  
09:36:41 **8** fumes as well as contaminants from burning in those  
09:36:44 **9** toxic dumps are impacting public lands, wilderness  
09:36:48 **10** lands that surround those tribal lands where this is  
09:36:52 **11** going on.  
09:36:53 **12** So that's kind of the report that I have,  
09:36:56 **13** much of which is questioning some things that are  
09:36:59 **14** happening out there.  
09:37:03 **15** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. Thank you.  
09:37:05 **16** Howard.  
09:37:06 **17** MEMBER BROWN: All right. Howard Brown  
09:37:09 **18** representing nonrenewable resources.  
09:37:14 **19** Actually, I've got several things to report  
09:37:18 **20** on. I put it into writing and I will put a pile of  
09:37:22 **21** them out for people that want to submit it into the  
09:37:26 **22** record. But basically, I wanted to talk about the  
09:37:29 **23** importance of mining.  
09:37:31 **24** And so look around you and see what you see  
09:37:37 **25** here in this Mission Inn and recognize that if it were

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09:37:41 **1** not for mining, this building wouldn't exist. Even  
09:37:46 **2** the wood that forms the beams and the balconies  
09:37:50 **3** wouldn't be here if it weren't for the tools that came  
09:37:53 **4** from mines in order to make the beams.  
09:37:57 **5** So within the United States, I get  
09:38:02 **6** different journals that talk about value of mineral  
09:38:07 **7** mines and what becomes of them. But in 2006,  
09:38:10 **8** basically, 670 billion dollars worth of minerals were  
09:38:16 **9** produced in the United States. But from that, 5  
09:38:22 **10** trillion dollars worth of consumer products were made.  
09:38:25 **11** And our gross domestic product is 13 trillion, so  
09:38:30 **12** there is roughly 40 percent of all the consumer goods  
09:38:34 **13** that are manufactured in this country are directly  
09:38:38 **14** related to mining. So it's something that can't be  
09:38:43 **15** forgotten about.  
09:38:45 **16** In California, it's the third largest  
09:38:49 **17** producer in the country of nonfuel minerals, with a  
09:38:53 **18** value of 4.6 billion dollars. About two-thirds of  
09:38:59 **19** that comes from the California Desert, a lot of it  
09:39:03 **20** from private land. But what's quite interesting is  
09:39:09 **21** that industrial minerals make up about 99 percent of  
09:39:11 **22** that value in California. And gold is only about 19.6  
09:39:16 **23** million dollars. California started off as the golden  
09:39:21 **24** state. It's shriveled down to almost nothing,  
09:39:26 **25** although I guess with the higher price of gold there

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09:39:29 **1** is some interest in reopening some of the mines.  
09:39:35 **2** The United States is heavily reliant on  
09:39:40 **3** other countries for important minerals. And this is  
09:39:44 **4** in part due to land use decisions which have  
09:39:48 **5** restricted access to known mineral deposits both in  
09:39:52 **6** this country and in California.  
09:39:54 **7** So on one page I have US net import  
09:40:00 **8** reliance for selected nonfuel minerals. Of the 65  
09:40:04 **9** minerals listed, 45 of them we are dependent on other  
09:40:08 **10** countries. And China is leading the way. So if we  
09:40:13 **11** don't change our land use policies, I think we all  
09:40:20 **12** start to need to learn to speak in Chinese.  
09:40:23 **13** I also included a little bit of a  
09:40:26 **14** historical account of the use of lime. Basically,  
09:40:34 **15** making lime from limestone is something discovered  
09:40:38 **16** more than 14,000 years ago and was used in tool making  
09:40:41 **17** and also food preparation. So mining is as old as  
09:40:45 **18** civilization itself.  
09:40:50 **19** Not quite last, yet, but there is an outfit  
09:40:53 **20** in Canada, the Fraser Institute, basically a think  
09:40:58 **21** tank that does surveys of different industries to see  
09:41:02 **22** what is going on in them. They survey the mining  
09:41:07 **23** industry every year to see what areas are attractive  
09:41:11 **24** to investment by mining companies or what aspects of  
09:41:15 **25** those areas would be detracting to investment by

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09:41:21 **1** mining companies. And California, once again, leads  
09:41:26 **2** the way in being one of the worst places for mining  
09:41:30 **3** companies to be interested in, largely because of  
09:41:35 **4** environmental regulations.  
09:41:40 **5** I think it's really important that we  
09:41:42 **6** recognize the role of mining and the existing and  
09:41:48 **7** future needs of minerals that our society has and in  
09:41:53 **8** land use planning, not reduce those opportunities any  
09:42:00 **9** further than they have been.  
09:42:02 **10** And that's about it. Thank you.  
09:42:03 **11** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Howard.  
09:42:05 **12** Roy.  
09:42:06 **13** MEMBER DENNER: Roy Denner, recreation.  
09:42:12 **14** I have two items I think should be of  
09:42:14 **15** interest to the DAC. One is that the State of  
09:42:18 **16** California is in the process of completely redoing its  
09:42:22 **17** OHV program. As those of you who have been involved  
09:42:28 **18** for a while realize, the program often referred to as  
09:42:32 **19** the Green Sticker Program has become almost entirely  
09:42:36 **20** bogged down in its own structure. And many of the BLM  
09:42:40 **21** field managers -- the reason it's of interest to the  
09:42:43 **22** DAC and the BLM is because a lot of grants go to OHV  
09:42:46 **23** areas from the State of California that are really  
09:42:49 **24** needed to support those recreation areas.  
09:42:52 **25** An example of what has happened to probably

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09:42:55 **1** the most important OHV recreation area in the state is  
09:43:01 **2** in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area where the  
09:43:04 **3** BLM used to get 1.2 million dollars a year to help  
09:43:08 **4** support the activity out there, and because of  
09:43:11 **5** internal conflicts or whatever, they now get zero  
09:43:16 **6** dollars for probably the largest usage area in the  
09:43:19 **7** state.  
09:43:19 **8** Some state legislators have taken a look at  
09:43:23 **9** that and decided that the program isn't working  
09:43:26 **10** anymore and they have drafted a new bill. Assemblyman  
09:43:31 **11** Steinberg drafted a bill that has passed the Assembly  
09:43:36 **12** now and is headed for the Senate. The OHV community  
09:43:40 **13** isn't very excited about the bill. But from the BLM's  
09:43:43 **14** standpoint, if it does succeed in getting past, one of  
09:43:48 **15** the factors should be that it will be a lot easier to  
09:43:51 **16** apply for grants. I mean, some of BLM field offices,  
09:43:55 **17** just because of the process, the complication, the  
09:43:59 **18** complexity of the process, don't even apply for grants  
09:44:02 **19** from the state Green Sticker program anymore because  
09:44:05 **20** it takes more effort and more expense to apply for a  
09:44:08 **21** grant than what the grant value is in many cases.  
09:44:12 **22** Hopefully, that's all going to change with whatever  
09:44:14 **23** new bill comes down. We will keep you posted.  
09:44:18 **24** The second thing is that, coming back, I am  
09:44:21 **25** the DAC representative on the Imperial Sand Dunes

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09:44:28 1 Recreation Area TRT, also referred to as Glamis. That  
09:44:31 2 has probably been the poster child for land use  
09:44:34 3 controversy over the last six or eight years.  
09:44:37 4 Millions of dollars have gone into  
09:44:40 5 developing a new Recreational Area Management Plan  
09:44:44 6 backed up by a very thorough EIS. Many of us put a  
09:44:48 7 lot of time and effort into it, struggles back and  
09:44:52 8 forth between various interests in the Imperial Sand  
09:44:55 9 Dunes. And I think the BLM developed a really  
09:44:58 10 effective plan that would have worked, except the BLM  
09:45:01 11 was sued by several organizations in that that plan  
09:45:09 12 wasn't environmentally correct, you know. And a judge  
09:45:15 13 in the 9th District agreed, after going through the  
09:45:18 14 plan, and wrote a 45-page disposition on what all is  
09:45:24 15 wrong with this plan that we had all worked so hard to  
16 put together.  
09:45:25 17 So now that plan has been thrown out the  
09:45:28 18 door. And the BLM is embarking on another what is  
09:45:31 19 going to be massive effort to come up with a  
09:45:33 20 management plan that might suit the 9th District  
09:45:38 21 Court. So that controversy is just totally out of  
09:45:41 22 control. I mean, it has been a battle that has been  
09:45:46 23 fought for years, millions and millions of dollars put  
09:45:48 24 into it. If we had taken the money that's been put  
09:45:53 25 into developing management plans for that area and

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09:45:54 1 responding to court requirements, we probably could  
09:45:59 2 have put that money into conservation or species  
09:46:04 3 protection in the California D Bill, Desert District  
09:46:07 4 and actually saved some real tortoises, maybe.  
09:46:11 5 So that's an ongoing thing I don't see any  
09:46:14 6 end to. And the taxpayers are funding that bill, but  
09:46:17 7 hopefully, you know, the new go-around will be  
09:46:22 8 acceptable to everybody. That's where that issue is.  
09:46:26 9 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Bill.  
09:46:28 10 MEMBER BETTERLEY: Could I make one  
09:46:31 11 comment?  
09:46:32 12 During the reports we heard that this was  
09:46:35 13 the driest year that we have ever had. 1929 -- and I  
09:46:40 14 don't want to let my age out -- but Big Bear Lake was  
09:46:47 15 dry and stumps were coming out of the bottom that you  
09:46:50 16 could see. Today it's close to full. Lake Arrowhead  
09:46:54 17 had islands all through it. There isn't any there  
09:46:59 18 today, except the one that's there even when the lake  
09:47:01 19 is full.  
09:47:02 20 1930 followed that '29, the dry year. '32,  
09:47:07 21 the whole area flooded and everything was filled. So  
09:47:10 22 I wouldn't get too excited about them saying that the  
09:47:14 23 record -- this is the driest year because you will see  
09:47:17 24 wet ones coming down the road.  
09:47:22 25 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you for the

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09:47:23 1 historical comment. Okay.  
09:47:27 2 MEMBER SCHILLER: I just wanted to ask  
09:47:29 3 Roy, could you give me the bill number? Do you have  
09:47:31 4 the bill numbers for the bills.  
09:47:34 5 MEMBER DENNER: I think it's AB-746.  
09:47:41 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: SB-742.  
09:47:42 7 MEMBER DENNER: Like I said, it's SB-  
09:47:48 8 742.  
09:47:52 9 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I will adjourn the  
09:47:53 10 meeting for a break until ten minutes after. So  
09:47:57 11 about -- we will reconvene at ten minutes after 10:00,  
09:48:00 12 and at that time we will take the field managers'  
09:48:03 13 reports. So would the Council please peruse those, so  
09:48:08 14 if you have questions we can direct those to the field  
09:48:12 15 managers.  
10:11:29 16 (Brief recess was taken.)  
10:11:43 17 CHAIRMAN PRESCH: While you were out on  
10:11:45 18 break, you will notice that an envelope appeared on  
10:11:48 19 top of your paperwork. If you would fill that out,  
10:11:51 20 sign it, and turn it back in to Jennifer, then I think  
10:12:00 21 we can hope to get reimbursed. And I understand that  
10:12:03 22 the rock slide that blocked the mule train from Denver  
10:12:08 23 with the March paychecks has been cleared, and the  
10:12:14 24 herd is once again beginning to wander on down from  
10:12:18 25 Denver. So hopefully we can move that along a little

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10:12:24 1 quicker next time. Maybe get a horse instead of a  
10:12:28 2 mule. But anyway, get them back to Jennifer before  
10:12:31 3 you leave.  
10:12:32 4 We will start off with field managers'  
10:12:36 5 summaries, reports and Council's questions to the  
10:12:40 6 written report. I hope you all have had a chance to  
10:12:43 7 look at the reports, and we will go ahead and go  
10:12:47 8 through them in no particular order. So we can start  
10:12:51 9 with Palm Springs. The Palm Springs report. Tom --  
10:13:01 10 John. I'm sorry.  
10:13:03 11 MR. KALISH: John Kalish, field manager,  
10:13:14 12 Palm Springs.  
10:13:16 13 One of you asked about the Meccacopia  
10:13:21 14 Special Recreation Management Area Technical Review  
10:13:27 15 Team. And if you remember back about a year, maybe it  
10:13:30 16 was a year ago April, Mona Daniels and I came down and  
10:13:34 17 provided the DAC with a Power Point about the  
10:13:39 18 Meccacopia RMP, and part of that effort was developing  
10:13:45 19 a Technical Review Team. We did identify three  
10:13:52 20 members. First of all, you endorsed the TRT for this  
10:13:59 21 effort and then identified three members, being Tom  
10:14:01 22 Davis, Howard Brown and Paul Smith.  
10:14:05 23 More than a couple of months has gone by in  
10:14:10 24 which we have been doing some preliminary work on the  
10:14:14 25 overall planning effort, but very recently we issued a

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10:14:18 **1** news release asking for interested parties to become  
10:14:23 **2** involved in that overall TRT. That interest  
10:14:28 **3** announcement should be out for about 30 days, and the  
10:14:31 **4** whole purpose of that is to fill in the other  
10:14:35 **5** positions within the TRT so that we can kick that  
10:14:41 **6** whole effort off.  
10:14:42 **7** And then once the Technical Review Team is  
10:14:45 **8** fully assembled and approved, then by late summer,  
10:14:51 **9** early fall, we hope to and especially with the help of  
10:14:55 **10** the TRT, really launch our overall Meccacopia  
10:15:01 **11** Recreation Area Management Plan and Scoping Process  
10:15:04 **12** and really get into the overall issues of managing  
10:15:08 **13** that area as just a tremendous recreation resource  
10:15:13 **14** that it is.  
10:15:14 **15** So that's the update. I think originally  
10:15:19 **16** we had intended that this process would have moved  
10:15:24 **17** quicker, but due to numerous other projects and  
10:15:29 **18** workload and the fact that we have only one  
10:15:31 **19** recreational planner, Mona Daniels on our staff, just  
10:15:36 **20** a lot of other things pulled Mona and the rest of us  
10:15:39 **21** in a lot of other directions. But we haven't  
10:15:43 **22** forgotten about the TRT and the Meccacopia Plan. So  
10:15:47 **23** we are very happy to finally get this up and running  
10:15:50 **24** and we are committed by the end of the summer, early  
10:15:53 **25** fall, assembling the full TRT and launching the

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10:15:57 **1** process.  
10:16:01 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Any questions of John  
10:16:03 **3** by the DAC?  
10:16:06 **4** MR. KALISH: Any other issues? I did  
10:16:08 **5** notice in our handout there is a missing page. I  
10:16:12 **6** think it's page 5. In the original handout that we  
10:16:18 **7** had pulled together and e-mailed over, page 5 does  
10:16:22 **8** appear. I actually have it. So if any of you -- in  
10:16:28 **9** fact, I could probably just pass my copy around if you  
10:16:33 **10** would like to -- it really deals with the monument  
10:16:42 **11** issues and our canal lining project.  
10:16:45 **12** One update: In one of our previous DAC  
10:16:48 **13** meetings, our field trip was taken out to our Dos  
10:16:53 **14** Palmas area. We had talked about a collaborative  
10:16:56 **15** relationship that we have with the Coachella Valley  
10:16:59 **16** Water District and the San Diego Water Authority.  
10:17:02 **17** And as part of the overall canal lining  
10:17:05 **18** project, that one of the mitigations is to restore 352  
10:17:14 **19** acres of desert riparian habitat. The actual project  
10:17:19 **20** never identified the location of that mitigation, but  
10:17:22 **21** as we discussed on the tour, with all of the entities  
10:17:27 **22** involved in this effort, we have chosen Dos Palmas,  
10:17:31 **23** our preserve, managed by BLM and a couple of other  
10:17:36 **24** entities, that we would focus that restoration in on  
10:17:41 **25** Dos Palmas.

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10:17:44 **1** We have over time worked with the Coachella  
10:17:49 **2** Valley Water District and the San Diego Water  
10:17:51 **3** Authority in completing an overall agreement whereby  
10:17:55 **4** especially the San Diego Water Authority would provide  
10:17:58 **5** the funding for us to do that restoration work. Of  
10:18:03 **6** course, lawyers had to get involved in determining how  
10:18:06 **7** legally binding this agreement could be.  
10:18:12 **8** Our task essentially is that it's pretty  
10:18:16 **9** much of a handshake agreement where we take bonds on  
10:18:19 **10** an annual basis and under the direction of a  
10:18:22 **11** biological working group, do the restoration and  
10:18:25 **12** analyze the efforts at the end of the year and then  
10:18:29 **13** proceed to the next year.  
10:18:31 **14** We finally worked out all of the legal  
10:18:33 **15** aspect of the agreement, and we do have a final  
10:18:36 **16** version that has passed both their attorney and our  
10:18:41 **17** solicitor. So very shortly we will be signing that  
10:18:44 **18** agreement which will kick off that restoration project  
10:18:48 **19** which will go over ten years in time.  
10:18:52 **20** In addition to that, there are some other  
10:18:55 **21** aspects of adding a 17-acre marsh within the Dos  
10:19:03 **22** Palmas area, constructing the marsh and other various  
10:19:08 **23** habitat improvement projects. So just as an update,  
10:19:12 **24** that project is moving right along. So we are happy  
10:19:16 **25** to tell you that. Any questions?

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10:19:23 **1** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, John.  
10:19:25 **2** MEMBER HUND: I have a quick comment.  
10:19:34 **3** John, I just want to mention that I wanted to commend  
10:19:38 **4** your office specifically for completing the signing of  
10:19:42 **5** all the primary routes within the NECO planning area.  
10:19:46 **6** I think that's a very important aspect of  
10:19:49 **7** implementation of the travel management route  
10:19:51 **8** designation, so thank you.  
10:19:53 **9** MR. KALISH: I appreciate that.  
10:19:57 **10** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. Moving on. El  
10:20:00 **11** Centro. Everybody had a chance to look at the El  
10:20:06 **12** Centro field office manager's report?  
10:20:09 **13** MR. ZALE: Hi, Tom Zale, associate field  
10:20:15 **14** manager for El Centro field office. I guess I just  
10:20:18 **15** wanted to highlight one thing for you, and that's with  
10:20:22 **16** the recent selections of Michael Box as our chief  
10:20:26 **17** manager, Daniel Steward as our resources and planning  
10:20:30 **18** staff chief, and Jamie Neilans as our Imperial Sand  
10:20:35 **19** Dunes Recreation Area supervisor, we have a -- knock  
10:20:39 **20** on wood -- a full complement of our leadership team in  
10:20:44 **21** permanent positions. So we are looking forward to  
10:20:48 **22** working together to take on some of the challenges  
10:20:50 **23** that you all know that our office is facing. So with  
10:20:53 **24** that, are there questions?  
10:21:02 **25** MEMBER HUND: I wanted to ask about the

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10:21:07 **1** In-Ko-Pah fire, and I was curious if that resulted in  
10:21:13 **2** the use of bulldozers in the wilderness or not?  
10:21:16 **3** MR. ZALE: I don't believe bulldozers  
10:21:21 **4** were used in the wilderness area, but I can look into  
10:21:25 **5** that.  
10:21:26 **6** MEMBER HUND: Just to provide some  
10:21:28 **7** clarification for my fellow board members, we don't --  
10:21:32 **8** the conservation community recognizes that any  
10:21:35 **9** necessary measures can be used for fire suppression in  
10:21:39 **10** wilderness, including bulldozers. But sometimes  
10:21:44 **11** people don't realize that, so I'm actually curious  
10:21:47 **12** when it happens so that we can point that out as an  
10:21:51 **13** example, not that we are encouraging that it happen  
10:21:55 **14** when it's not necessary, but we have a lot of faith in  
10:21:59 **15** the commanders that they are making informed, good  
10:22:01 **16** decisions about that.  
10:22:02 **17** Just as far as the restoration plan goes,  
10:22:07 **18** has anything started to be formulated yet and could  
10:22:10 **19** you briefly describe that, if it has?  
10:22:13 **20** MR. ZALE: I know that we had staff out  
10:22:15 **21** on the fire, including Vicki Wood, the field manager,  
10:22:21 **22** a day or two after the fire was out. I don't believe  
10:22:26 **23** that they identified any restoration measures as being  
10:22:31 **24** necessary. But again, I could look into that to make  
10:22:35 **25** sure what I am talking about is accurate.

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10:22:38 **1** MEMBER HUND: Thanks.  
10:22:42 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Tom.  
10:22:43 **3** MEMBER ACUNA: Tom Acuna. Real quick  
10:22:45 **4** question. I saw a note in there about cow trespass,  
10:22:49 **5** and did you resolve that with the rancher? How do you  
10:22:53 **6** handle a cow trespass?  
10:22:56 **7** MR. ZALE: We work with the rancher to  
10:22:58 **8** have the cattle removed from public lands, and we  
10:23:01 **9** generally also collect damages for the unauthorized  
10:23:06 **10** use, based on a formula, the amount of days, number of  
10:23:15 **11** cattle.  
10:23:17 **12** MEMBER ACUNA: Is there some form of  
10:23:18 **13** site restoration as a result of that, or is it just a  
10:23:22 **14** fine?  
10:23:24 **15** MR. ZALE: Fine might not be the  
10:23:28 **16** technically accurate word, but it's closer to a fine.  
10:23:33 **17** I don't think we have identified any particular  
10:23:36 **18** restoration. This was a short period of time. Some  
10:23:40 **19** forage was consumed and hopefully it will grow back.  
10:23:47 **20** MEMBER JOHNSTON: I did note that you  
10:23:52 **21** got wild proportion burro problems on the case out  
10:23:58 **22** there too. Do you make use of an Adopt-a-burro or  
10:24:03 **23** Mustang roundup or anything for the public to adopt  
10:24:08 **24** these creatures or critters and get them out of that  
10:24:11 **25** area?

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10:24:12 **1** MR. ZALE: Yeah, sure. We have  
10:24:13 **2** currently some burros that are outside of a herd  
10:24:17 **3** management area where -- in an area where they are not  
10:24:21 **4** supposed to be. They will be gathered, taken to  
10:24:25 **5** Ridgecrest where they are processed. Essentially they  
10:24:33 **6** are branded, I guess, and entered into a tracking  
10:24:36 **7** system. And then they are made available for adoption  
10:24:39 **8** to the public.  
10:24:47 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Go ahead, Tom.  
10:24:49 **10** MEMBER SCOTT: This is one I think we  
10:24:52 **11** should answer at the next meeting, but I wanted to  
10:24:55 **12** prompt you and maybe the wildlife biologists in the  
10:24:58 **13** Riverside office might want to work with you.  
10:25:02 **14** There is a discussion of guzzlers. I just  
10:25:05 **15** wondered what the district policy was and what the  
10:25:09 **16** office policies were on the efficacy of guzzlers, if  
10:25:15 **17** they are feasible, and what are our goals for guzzlers  
10:25:18 **18** for wildlife?  
10:25:19 **19** I notice particularly there are a couple of  
10:25:22 **20** them going into the wilderness area, and this is a  
10:25:24 **21** sticking point for me because I think we need to see  
10:25:28 **22** more of what the goals are for these and are they  
10:25:32 **23** efficient and are they effective and do we really need  
10:25:35 **24** to be putting these in? I put them in as a kid 30, 40  
10:25:39 **25** years ago, and I don't think that we have ever really

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10:25:44 **1** looked at these from that perspective.  
10:25:46 **2** MR. ZALE: Speaking fairly specifically  
10:25:49 **3** for the proposals in the El Centro field office, we  
10:25:52 **4** are actually working on two. One involves a couple of  
10:25:56 **5** guzzlers that are outside wilderness. And the second  
10:25:59 **6** involves several that are inside. The proposal was  
10:26:04 **7** made by the California Fish and Game. As part of our  
10:26:07 **8** process, we are looking at the purpose and need and  
10:26:11 **9** doing a whole NEPA analysis for both of those  
10:26:16 **10** projects, focusing first on the guzzlers outside the  
10:26:21 **11** wilderness. And yeah, I know that there is a lot of  
10:26:25 **12** opinion on both sides of that question in terms of  
10:26:29 **13** whether that's a desirable improvement or not.  
10:26:35 **14** UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you get  
10:26:36 **15** closer to the mike?  
10:26:38 **16** MR. ZALE: You bet.  
10:26:39 **17** MEMBER SCOTT: The point is to be maybe  
10:26:47 **18** more proactive. And BLM has the greatest stake of  
10:26:50 **19** these because the California Fish and Game is using a  
10:26:54 **20** lot of these BLM lands to put guzzlers in.  
10:27:00 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Ron.  
10:27:03 **22** MEMBER JOHNSTON: I have been called  
10:27:06 **23** worse. Question: You probably heard the four areas  
10:27:10 **24** of concern that people I have talked to have brought  
10:27:13 **25** up, one of which is McCain Valley, which has also made

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10:27:18 **1** a lot of press in not only San Diego main papers but  
10:27:23 **2** community papers with concerns about what is going on  
10:27:26 **3** there and whether or not there is going to be a mass  
10:27:28 **4** of windmills put in there. What is the status,  
10:27:32 **5** because you didn't bring that up in your report,  
10:27:34 **6** really, nor the controversy that's really raging in  
10:27:38 **7** the county over it.  
10:27:40 **8** MR. ZALE: I'm sorry if we weren't  
10:27:43 **9** specific enough in the report.  
10:27:45 **10** A couple of things going on. One, we are  
10:27:48 **11** currently revising the Resource Management Plan for  
10:27:51 **12** Eastern San Diego County. As part of that decision-  
10:27:55 **13** making process, we are essentially answering the  
10:27:58 **14** question, what, if any lands should we make available  
10:28:04 **15** for renewable energy projects. And in our preferred  
10:28:08 **16** alternative at the Draft RMP, Draft EIS stage, we  
10:28:13 **17** identified some land within the McCain Valley area as  
10:28:17 **18** being available for potential wind energy projects.  
10:28:22 **19** The document was out for 90 days of public  
10:28:26 **20** review. We have gotten a number of comments, you  
10:28:30 **21** know, many focused on either whether that decision  
10:28:36 **22** would be a desirable decision or not. And we are  
10:28:39 **23** currently analyzing those comments, preparing  
10:28:42 **24** responses to them.  
10:28:43 **25** We will issue a proposed RMP final EIS

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10:28:48 **1** sometime later this summer. And then that will go out  
10:28:52 **2** for another 30 days of public comment. So at this  
10:28:56 **3** point, we haven't actually made a decision yet.  
10:29:00 **4** MEMBER JOHNSTON: I understand that the  
10:29:02 **5** company that's proposing putting these in is still  
10:29:05 **6** doing evaluations on the wind veracity and velocity in  
10:29:11 **7** that area and whether there is adequacy to make it  
10:29:14 **8** generative enough to make it worthwhile to put them  
10:29:18 **9** in.  
10:29:18 **10** MR. ZALE: Right. So currently, there  
10:29:20 **11** was a right-of-way issue several years ago to PPM for  
10:29:27 **12** the installation of anemometers. I believe there are  
10:29:33 **13** four currently in place, and they are continuing to  
10:29:35 **14** evaluate the wind resource that's there.  
10:29:39 **15** In addition, it's my understanding that  
10:29:42 **16** they are waiting to submit a proposed plan of  
10:29:48 **17** development for, you know, any development that they  
10:29:53 **18** would propose to do, pending the resolution of our  
10:29:57 **19** land use planning effort. If at some point they  
10:30:01 **20** submit a plan of development, they will undergo a  
10:30:05 **21** whole other NEPA review for that.  
10:30:10 **22** At this point we heard there is interest by  
10:30:13 **23** the company in installing between 75 and 150 turbines,  
10:30:18 **24** but until we actually get a specific plan of  
10:30:21 **25** development, it's hard to react to that. That's why

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10:30:24 **1** there is that second step of environmental review to  
10:30:27 **2** be done if and when they submit a plan of development.  
10:30:31 **3** MEMBER JOHNSTON: So the EI review has  
10:30:34 **4** not been completed yet?  
10:30:37 **5** MR. ZALE: Right. And our RMP is still  
10:30:41 **6** in draft stage, as well, so we are still very much in  
10:30:44 **7** the decision-making process with full public  
10:30:47 **8** participation.  
10:30:49 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I have a question --  
10:30:52 **10** two, actually. Do you have any rough idea of what the  
10:30:56 **11** Milkvetch -- the Imperial Sand Dune field station came  
10:31:01 **12** up with in terms of the number of plants, ballpark  
10:31:05 **13** kind of thing?  
10:31:06 **14** MR. ZALE: I think there was a  
10:31:08 **15** significantly fewer number of plants this year than  
10:31:11 **16** there was in 2005, which followed a banner year of  
10:31:15 **17** rainfall. I don't know precisely what the number is.  
10:31:19 **18** We just got the report that's mentioned in our report  
10:31:24 **19** from the contractor yesterday or the day before. I  
10:31:28 **20** don't know that anybody actually had a chance to open  
10:31:30 **21** the document and look at it yet, but we will be doing  
10:31:33 **22** that.  
10:31:34 **23** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: As a biologist, I  
10:31:36 **24** would expect the population to decrease significantly  
10:31:40 **25** since there's been no rain and that's what they need.

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10:31:41 **1** Are you also going to do a fringe-toed  
10:31:45 **2** lizard survey in the Imperial Sand Dunes as you did  
10:31:48 **3** two years ago?  
10:31:50 **4** MR. ZALE: I know that we are working on  
10:31:51 **5** trying to get employees that are temporary employees  
10:31:55 **6** of Fish and Wildlife Service to come over and conduct  
10:31:58 **7** the survey with us. I'm not sure exactly where we are  
10:32:02 **8** in that process. I believe we expect those, like,  
10:32:06 **9** three or four employees to join us for part of the  
10:32:10 **10** summer here within the next couple of weeks.  
10:32:13 **11** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. Thank you. All  
10:32:20 **12** right. Moving on. How about Barstow. Roxie?  
10:32:27 **13** MS. TROST: Good morning, Council.  
10:32:36 **14** Roxie Trost, field manager from the Barstow field  
10:32:40 **15** office.  
10:32:40 **16** And I don't mean to provide you with the  
10:32:42 **17** condensed version of the report, but a few years ago  
10:32:46 **18** you might remember that Council requested that we  
10:32:50 **19** provide these just on one page. So if you prefer to  
10:32:53 **20** have them a little bit longer, I will provide you  
10:32:57 **21** everything that we get. So if you have any questions,  
10:33:00 **22** though, I will be happy to answer them.  
10:33:02 **23** I wanted to thank Randy Banis for letting  
10:33:06 **24** you know about our RTP grants. The Friends group has  
10:33:11 **25** been a key part of El Mirage, and without them, we

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10:33:16 **1** wouldn't be able to go forward with that project.  
10:33:19 **2** One of the key things to remember with the  
10:33:22 **3** RTP grant is that we can't use any of that money for  
10:33:26 **4** operations and maintenance. So even though we have  
10:33:30 **5** the grants in place, it's specifically for development  
10:33:34 **6** out at El Mirage.  
10:33:38 **7** Also, I wanted to let you know that Bill  
10:33:42 **8** did an excellent job of updating everybody on the  
10:33:44 **9** Dumont Dunes TRT business. We have been meeting  
10:33:48 **10** frequently. We have some plans that we are still  
10:33:52 **11** working on for fee collection next year. You heard  
10:33:56 **12** yesterday about the RRACs, and we really can't go  
10:34:00 **13** forward on fee increases until those RRACs are in  
10:34:06 **14** place. And still waiting to hear on that.  
10:34:10 **15** The second thing I have on the list is the  
10:34:14 **16** El Mirage Cooperative Management Plan. A lot of  
10:34:18 **17** things that have been in works for several years are  
10:34:21 **18** now coming to completion. One thing is the boundary  
10:34:26 **19** fence around El Mirage. That was completed earlier  
10:34:30 **20** this year with the help of the Civilian Conservation  
10:34:35 **21** Corps, and that also was funded from an RTP grant from  
10:34:38 **22** the Friends of El Mirage.  
10:34:41 **23** We initially received contracts back to  
10:34:43 **24** complete that project about in the \$600,000 range.  
10:34:47 **25** And the RTP grant was for \$80,000. So you can see we

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10:34:51 **1** had a huge difference between being able to complete  
10:34:54 **2** the project on the ground and losing the funding. So  
10:34:57 **3** instead, we looked at doing it with our current staff  
10:35:01 **4** and with the Civilian Conservation Corps. So that's  
10:35:04 **5** how we were able to complete that project this past  
10:35:08 **6** year.  
10:35:08 **7** Any other questions that you might have?  
10:35:18 **8** Okay. Thank you.  
10:35:22 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Needles.  
10:35:32 **10** MR. WHITE: Stirling White, Needles  
10:35:36 **11** field office.  
10:35:38 **12** What you have before you is a summary of  
10:35:42 **13** items that I have asked staff to put together. We  
10:35:46 **14** have been quite busy this spring since our last  
10:35:50 **15** meeting.  
10:35:50 **16** On a personal note, I would like to say  
10:35:57 **17** that I have been out and about and have pretty much  
10:36:02 **18** covered, if not traveled the entire resource area. I  
10:36:06 **19** have camped quite a few times and I have flown the  
10:36:09 **20** resource area twice. And it's something that I had as  
10:36:14 **21** a goal to get out and try to educate myself on our  
10:36:20 **22** resources before this meeting. And I think I met one  
10:36:27 **23** of my personal goals, trying to understand what they  
10:36:30 **24** have, what we offer the public, and what my office has  
10:36:35 **25** to offer and represent.

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10:36:37 **1** So going into the report: On the first  
10:36:41 **2** page we actually did have a mitigation project with  
10:36:46 **3** benefits to recreation. So there is one. This past  
10:36:57 **4** several years, staff has been working on this project  
10:37:00 **5** and it has come about from an effort of several  
10:37:04 **6** entities, Lahonton Water District, attorney general  
10:37:11 **7** office and Molycorp. Molycorp was found in error, and  
10:37:18 **8** because of that, some fines were paid. And we are  
10:37:23 **9** thinking that we have taken advantage of those funds  
10:37:26 **10** and put them into some of the best uses possible by  
10:37:31 **11** putting a campground in the area of the Kingston  
10:37:35 **12** range.  
10:37:36 **13** My vision for the future of this -- you can  
10:37:40 **14** read about the project -- is that I would like to  
10:37:44 **15** pursue peace and solitude and preserve and conserve  
10:37:52 **16** this campground area, meaning I'm going to be pursuing  
10:37:57 **17** noise restrictions or limitations of noise in this  
10:38:01 **18** campground because of the solitude and natural aspects  
10:38:08 **19** that one will find when they go to this campground.  
10:38:14 **20** It is truly a magnificent area when you go  
10:38:19 **21** there and wake up in the morning and watch the  
10:38:21 **22** sunrises or in the evenings watch the sunsets. In my  
10:38:27 **23** mind, what could spoil that opportunity is noise. So  
10:38:32 **24** I'm going to be working with members of the Desert  
10:38:38 **25** Managers Team in pursuing maybe a limit on when noise

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10:38:48 **1** should cease, maybe in the evening hours to the early  
10:38:51 **2** morning hours, so that one can have a truly enjoyable  
10:38:57 **3** camping experience in this area.  
10:39:10 **4** At the last meeting, we offered the DAC an  
10:39:15 **5** opportunity to come join with us on a TRT for Ivanpah  
10:39:16 **6** Lake. I would like to again extend the offer to DAC  
10:39:18 **7** members to be part of the TRT.  
10:39:25 **8** MEMBER SHERI DAVIS: I would like to --  
10:39:27 **9** my time is restricted, but I would certainly like to  
10:39:31 **10** be of assistance on that.  
10:39:35 **11** MR. WHITE: I appreciate that. Since  
10:39:38 **12** the last DAC, we do have a number of interested  
10:39:42 **13** parties listed on the page who would like to serve as  
10:39:45 **14** advisors and representatives of the recreational sport  
10:39:50 **15** for Ivanpah. And I welcome Sheri and appreciate your  
10:39:57 **16** offer to join us.  
10:39:59 **17** There is one mistake I would like to point  
10:40:02 **18** out as you read through the notes. It's under "Next  
10:40:05 **19** Steps" on page 3. The third check mark down should  
10:40:15 **20** say FY07. We have some goals of bringing about some  
10:40:24 **21** items there this year and not this year past.  
10:40:32 **22** The Rec staff -- moving on to the next  
10:40:36 **23** item, we made significant progress on Bonanza Springs,  
10:40:42 **24** the recreation opportunities there with primitive camp  
10:40:45 **25** sites. We have also made significant progress on

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10:40:49 **1** Amboy Crater. Staff is now working on installing  
10:40:55 **2** handrails for handicapped visitors that will take them  
10:41:00 **3** from the parking lot up to a high point where there is  
10:41:05 **4** shelter, and they can observe the Amboy Crater area.  
10:41:12 **5** It's a newly installed concrete rampway. The last  
10:41:18 **6** steps of that are putting in the handrails.  
10:41:25 **7** One of the items that I have been  
10:41:33 **8** interested in since coming to Needles is our  
10:41:38 **9** opportunities to market ourselves and some of the  
10:41:41 **10** items we have to offer our public. I believe that the  
10:41:46 **11** National Park Service does a very good job in  
10:41:48 **12** marketing themselves. So this item here, the  
10:41:57 **13** guidebook, is one way in which staff has taken this  
10:42:03 **14** vision and we are going to market some of the natural  
10:42:06 **15** aspects and some of the things that the Needles field  
10:42:09 **16** office has to offer.  
10:42:12 **17** We are putting together a book that will  
10:42:18 **18** have travel routes and designations, as well as  
10:42:23 **19** pictures and what you will find when you go to those  
10:42:27 **20** areas, some things to look for. And I'm confident in  
10:42:36 **21** saying that, because of the number of visitations we  
10:42:39 **22** have in our field office, that this document will  
10:42:41 **23** serve as a piece of tourist information that will  
10:42:45 **24** benefit all of our public users.  
10:42:49 **25** In the month of January, we had 4,000

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10:42:53 **1** visitors come through our front door. Now, that's  
10:42:56 **2** probably at the high peak of the tourism season for  
10:43:01 **3** Needles. And we are approaching probably the low  
10:43:04 **4** point because of temperatures. So what I am seeing is  
10:43:09 **5** a trend that is like a wave. I want to capitalize on  
10:43:18 **6** that and take advantage of what the Needles field  
10:43:23 **7** office has to offer in conjunction with Mojave  
10:43:28 **8** Preserve.  
10:43:29 **9** The next topic is a topic that was asked of  
10:43:36 **10** the El Centro field office, and it is the SD Guzzler.  
10:43:42 **11** It's a Guzzler proposed within a wilderness. We've  
10:43:46 **12** got many staff hours involved with the preparation of  
10:43:52 **13** the environmental assessment. We have gone out for  
10:43:53 **14** public review twice. This last time we received over  
10:43:58 **15** 800 comments, both for and against, and some with no  
10:44:04 **16** opinion.  
10:44:07 **17** I have asked staff to develop a decision as  
10:44:14 **18** well as comments and -- to address the comments that  
10:44:21 **19** have been raised in this last scoping period and have  
10:44:25 **20** this ready in August. And that's the schedule that we  
10:44:29 **21** are working under right now. It is my schedule, but I  
10:44:34 **22** plan to have a decision by then.  
10:44:41 **23** This year we completed an extensive  
10:44:45 **24** riparian inventory of springs and riparian areas both  
10:44:51 **25** inside wilderness and outside. We had two SEA

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10:44:57 **1** students that were backpacking in and taking  
10:45:02 **2** photographs and filling out forms. We have those in  
10:45:05 **3** files and permanent staff doing the same and all those  
10:45:10 **4** records are on hand.  
10:45:17 **5** On page 6, one effort underway right now,  
10:45:22 **6** we have joined in partnership with the National Park  
10:45:25 **7** Service because of their expertise in dealing with  
10:45:28 **8** abandoned mines. They have a person that has  
10:45:34 **9** experience putting in bat gates that's close to us.  
10:45:40 **10** He is from Joshua Tree and has actually come up and  
10:45:45 **11** met with staff. They have gone to the field. And he  
10:45:49 **12** has designs to help mitigate impacts to bat  
10:45:53 **13** populations.  
10:45:54 **14** A couple of the surveys conducted earlier,  
10:45:57 **15** actually several months ago, resulted in the finding  
10:46:01 **16** of a large migratory bat population in one of our  
10:46:08 **17** adits. They counted over 2200 bats one evening coming  
10:46:13 **18** out of the adit. And the reason or the ability to  
10:46:17 **19** count that was through video, videography. The person  
10:46:21 **20** at the mouth of the hole couldn't keep up fast enough  
10:46:25 **21** with the clicker.  
10:46:30 **22** We have also been conducting bird surveys.  
10:46:33 **23** And the last page may be a little fuzzy, but that's  
10:46:38 **24** actually how it is in the desert. Babies are fuzzy  
10:46:42 **25** and they are hard to see, so they are in the center of

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10:46:46 **1** the pictures there. We have got a really cool  
10:46:51 **2** outreach effort ongoing with staff right now. We have  
10:46:57 **3** reached out both with staff from the biologic  
10:47:02 **4** resources division, from our law enforcement division,  
10:47:07 **5** and will be reaching out with our fire prevention  
10:47:11 **6** division to young people in the community.  
10:47:15 **7** Speaking of fire, there is one item that is  
10:47:18 **8** not on this report that I am happy to report. CDD,  
10:47:25 **9** Natural Parks Service, had a fire readiness review at  
10:47:32 **10** Hole in the Wall fire department last month. And  
10:47:34 **11** during a five-day period all of the engines from  
10:47:38 **12** National Park Service and CDD came and ran through  
10:47:42 **13** drills and showed their levels of expertise and were  
10:47:47 **14** critiqued by some of the senior fire specialists  
10:47:51 **15** within California on ways in which they can improve  
10:47:56 **16** for this fire season.  
10:47:58 **17** I camped with the firefighters. I cooked  
10:48:00 **18** for the firefighters, and it was truly a fun one-week  
10:48:05 **19** period of seeing our young people in action. Hole in  
10:48:09 **20** the Wall serves as a model for Service First, where  
10:48:14 **21** two agencies have come together. Their staff and our  
10:48:17 **22** staff work together. They wear the same uniforms and  
10:48:22 **23** they field engines both on BLM and Park Service. And  
10:48:28 **24** when you go out there, they talk as if they were one.  
10:48:32 **25** And it's where the funding is not necessarily

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10:48:35 **1** reflected by the personnel of where the funding comes  
10:48:39 **2** from.  
10:48:40 **3** As far as responses, Hole in the Wall fire  
10:48:45 **4** department serves the community by responding to  
10:48:50 **5** traffic accidents along the 40 and 15 corridors. This  
10:48:54 **6** last year, we had over 300 car accident responses.  
10:49:01 **7** The young people there are trained and equipped with  
10:49:06 **8** hazardous response, firefighting, as well as life-  
10:49:12 **9** saving techniques and training. So they do serve an  
10:49:17 **10** important role for those areas in between communities.  
10:49:22 **11** That is my report. Questions?  
10:49:26 **12** MEMBER JOHNSTON: A great report, by the  
10:49:34 **13** way. Very informative. Thank you.  
10:49:37 **14** Ron Johnston. And the question on the  
10:49:41 **15** applications for wind power plants, where are the  
10:49:48 **16** locations for the proposed applicants located?  
10:49:57 **17** MR. WHITE: We have -- if you are  
10:50:00 **18** familiar with the 15 and the 40 corridors, if you are  
10:50:04 **19** traveling the 15 towards Primm, we have several  
10:50:09 **20** applications for the Clark Mountain area because of  
10:50:12 **21** the high points. There is consistent wind. It's  
10:50:15 **22** supported by Enrail data for its consistencies. We do  
10:50:22 **23** have met towers in place.  
10:50:25 **24** But it also lends itself to problems for  
10:50:30 **25** energy development in the sense that that area has pre

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10:50:37 **1** and post 1955 mining claims. So it's interesting.  
10:50:43 **2** Some of the meetings that I have attended and been  
10:50:47 **3** part of have actually been conducted between wind  
10:50:56 **4** energy proponents and miners, because they are now  
10:50:59 **5** having to talk about the development of an energy  
10:51:04 **6** system on top of a mining claim.  
10:51:07 **7** And as you know, Molycorp is not mining in  
10:51:12 **8** the present. But they could in the future. So there  
10:51:18 **9** is -- I think there may be some deals trying to be  
10:51:21 **10** struck. I do not have any knowledge of deals having  
10:51:25 **11** been struck at this time.  
10:51:29 **12** The other location is further south in the  
10:51:31 **13** Viceroy Mine area. There are some mountains there  
10:51:36 **14** with wind that's consistent.  
10:51:45 **15** Yes, sir.  
10:51:45 **16** MEMBER DENNER: Roy Denner, recreation.  
10:51:49 **17** Regarding renewable energy projects, do you have any  
10:51:54 **18** geothermal applications?  
10:51:57 **19** MR. WHITE: We do not.  
10:51:59 **20** MEMBER DENNER: I would think in the  
10:52:01 **21** area that would be a good possibility. But over  
10:52:05 **22** 100,000 acres for wind energy and over 200,000 for  
10:52:09 **23** solar that you have proposals for. Is that 200,000  
10:52:13 **24** acres for the solar part of the overall \$350,000  
10:52:17 **25** dollar desert impact that people talked about?

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10:52:22 **1** MR. WHITE: It is.  
10:52:23 **2** MEMBER DENNER: So of the 350,000 acres,  
10:52:26 **3** 200,000 acres of the impact is in the Needles  
10:52:30 **4** District?  
10:52:31 **5** MR. WHITE: I'm not proud to say yes,  
10:52:33 **6** but it is.  
10:52:39 **7** MEMBER DENNER: I wouldn't have expected  
10:52:40 **8** that.  
10:52:41 **9** MR. WHITE: We have had an onslaught of  
10:52:44 **10** applications at our office. And it's quite  
10:52:49 **11** challenging when you have an office that manages 21  
10:52:54 **12** percent of the Bureau's wilderness acreage.  
10:52:58 **13** MEMBER DENNER: When they showed us the  
10:53:00 **14** chart yesterday of where they considered primary for  
10:53:07 **15** solar development, where the dark brown, most of the  
10:53:11 **16** dark brown color was, that seemed to me to be south  
10:53:17 **17** and west of the Needles district. Maybe not.  
10:53:23 **18** MR. WHITE: The Enrail data, the hot  
10:53:26 **19** spots on the map that were presented is actually near  
10:53:30 **20** Ridgecrest. I'm not sure if this was demonstrated  
10:53:35 **21** yesterday, but what the solar applicants are really  
10:53:39 **22** looking for is elevation, and it's part of the solar  
10:53:45 **23** index. They are looking for elevation and number of  
10:53:48 **24** solar days.  
10:53:50 **25** MEMBER DENNER: And flat spots.

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10:53:52 **1** MR. WHITE: And flat spots.  
10:53:53 **2** MEMBER DENNER: So they are finding a  
10:53:55 **3** lot of high flat spots in the Needles district.  
10:53:58 **4** MR. WHITE: They are.  
10:53:58 **5** MEMBER DENNER: That's interesting.  
10:53:59 **6** It's surprising.  
10:54:04 **7** MEMBER BETTERLEY: I have a question, if  
10:54:04 **8** I could. Is the Viceroy operation still going or  
10:54:08 **9** winding down now?  
10:54:09 **10** MR. WHITE: The Viceroy operation is in  
10:54:12 **11** final steps of winding down. I would actually like to  
10:54:19 **12** do a report on that probably at the next DAC meeting.  
10:54:24 **13** They have done a fabulous job on reclamation, and it's  
10:54:30 **14** something that I think a lot of folks should be given  
10:54:33 **15** credit for.  
10:54:35 **16** MEMBER BETTERLEY: If they're winding  
10:54:37 **17** down, are they eliminating the spoil piles, or are  
10:54:43 **18** they going to leave those intact?  
10:54:46 **19** MR. WHITE: It's my understanding they  
10:54:48 **20** are going to leave those intact.  
10:54:50 **21** MEMBER BETTERLEY: That was my  
10:54:51 **22** understanding, yes. Thank you.  
10:54:54 **23** MEMBER ACUNA: Stirling, you mentioned  
10:54:59 **24** noise in the campground. What kind of noise did you  
10:55:02 **25** want to control?

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10:55:04 **1** MR. WHITE: Primarily boom boxes.  
10:55:07 **2** MEMBER ACUNA: Good job.  
10:55:11 **3** UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good luck.  
10:55:12 **4** MR. WHITE: Yes, sir.  
10:55:14 **5** MEMBER HUND: Several things. First of  
10:55:16 **6** all, just to segue on that, I was formerly a state  
10:55:21 **7** park ranger and peace officer. And when I became a  
10:55:25 **8** ranger, I accepted being a peace officer as part of  
10:55:28 **9** the job. It wasn't my career role to be a police  
10:55:33 **10** officer, but I have to say having law enforcement  
10:55:35 **11** ability, especially in campgrounds when you have rowdy  
10:55:39 **12** people, oftentimes was a very valuable thing for all  
10:55:42 **13** the rest of the people in the campground trying to  
10:55:45 **14** have a nice camping experience. And in state parks we  
10:55:48 **15** have quiet hours from 10 p.m. to I think it was 6 a.m.  
10:55:54 **16** And I really encourage you and other BLM  
10:55:58 **17** managers to consider developing and implementing  
10:56:02 **18** regulations of that sort in camping areas because the  
10:56:06 **19** vast majority of the people, although they are having  
10:56:09 **20** fun and want some revelry, there is a point in time  
10:56:13 **21** when there are a lot of people there with kids that  
10:56:16 **22** came for the quiet and solitude, so I really commend  
10:56:21 **23** you on your efforts to look into that to preserve the  
10:56:25 **24** experience that people have in the camp.  
10:56:29 **25** Then regarding restoration and monitoring,

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10:56:32 **1** I just wanted to commend your office for all the work  
10:56:35 **2** that you are doing in the area -- that you reported in  
10:56:38 **3** the area of restoration and monitoring. The second  
10:56:41 **4** half of my career with State Parks, I was a district  
10:56:45 **5** ecologist. And I know that often times there are a  
10:56:48 **6** lot of competing priorities within both the field  
10:56:52 **7** office area and also within resource management, like  
10:56:56 **8** controlling exotic species.  
10:56:59 **9** But I think overlooking doing baseline  
10:57:03 **10** inventories and then subsequent monitoring of species,  
10:57:08 **11** if we overlook that, we do that at our peril. Because  
10:57:12 **12** otherwise, we have no way of knowing whether or not  
10:57:14 **13** our management practices are working and whether or  
10:57:17 **14** not outside influences are starting to affect the  
10:57:21 **15** resources that we are trying to perpetuate, so that's  
10:57:26 **16** great work.  
10:57:26 **17** When I worked as a biologist, I had the  
10:57:31 **18** pleasure of working with Pat and Bob, the bat  
10:57:35 **19** biologists. And we went into a number of old mining  
10:57:40 **20** adits that had bat colonies. And I know that  
10:57:45 **21** sometimes people will, for whatever reason, go in and  
10:57:49 **22** slaughter bats for fun. And so -- and it's also a  
10:57:53 **23** public safety issue in some cases where you have adits  
10:57:58 **24** that people can fall into. So again, I commend your  
10:58:03 **25** efforts, both on behalf of the resource and public

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10:58:06 **1** safety to put up the bat gates.  
10:58:10 **2** As far as the water monitoring goes, that's  
10:58:13 **3** a terrific program. I think we are doing a base line  
10:58:15 **4** inventory cataloguing the springs and their condition  
10:58:19 **5** above the property itself and the surrounding riparian  
10:58:23 **6** areas is critically important, particularly now days  
10:58:28 **7** because we are having areas such as the Las Vegas area  
10:58:31 **8** proposing to do major groundwater pumping that could,  
10:58:35 **9** in fact, affect the spring systems in California.  
10:58:40 **10** So I think that's going to be another  
10:58:42 **11** important reason in addition to those you mentioned  
10:58:44 **12** for having a good baseline monitoring of our springs  
10:58:49 **13** and seeps. And I would encourage the other field  
10:58:52 **14** offices to take your protocols and adopt that  
10:58:55 **15** monitoring program districtwide.  
10:59:00 **16** Regarding the SD big game guzzlers. When I  
10:59:06 **17** was with the Wilderness Society, my group and a number  
10:59:10 **18** of other conservation groups representing millions of  
10:59:14 **19** members of conservation groups opposed putting that  
10:59:19 **20** guzzler in. And the California Desert Protection Act  
10:59:22 **21** was very clear that existing big game guzzlers could  
10:59:28 **22** be maintained as long as there was a minimum  
10:59:31 **23** requirement analysis done first.  
10:59:34 **24** But putting in new big game guzzlers in the  
10:59:39 **25** wilderness areas is very controversial. And the

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10:59:42 **1** language is not clear in the Protection Act on that  
10:59:47 **2** issue. And if they are allowed at all, depending on  
10:59:52 **3** how you interpret the language, they would only be  
10:59:58 **4** allowed where it was clearly demonstrated there was a  
11:00:00 **5** need to do that in order to sustain the sheep  
11:00:03 **6** populations. And what the Department of Fish and Game  
11:00:06 **7** has produced so far in terms of science does not  
11:00:10 **8** demonstrate that, nor have they followed their own  
11:00:13 **9** recommendations of their own scientists to look at  
11:00:16 **10** things like preserving intermountain movement through  
11:00:21 **11** intermountain valleys and doing things like  
11:00:25 **12** constructing overcrossings where highways are a  
11:00:30 **13** barrier.  
11:00:30 **14** And I would really -- I wanted to mention  
11:00:34 **15** that -- well, to comment on you saying that 800  
11:00:41 **16** comments were received. I'm glad those were received,  
11:00:43 **17** but we did have a BLM staffer in a recent wilderness  
11:00:49 **18** leaders meeting make comments that suggested that all  
11:00:53 **19** comments might be viewed somewhat equally. And I  
11:00:57 **20** wanted to point out that when you have a very detailed  
11:01:01 **21** letter that addresses and analyzes the science and the  
11:01:05 **22** law that comes from like eight or ten different groups  
11:01:10 **23** representing a million different people, I would ask  
11:01:13 **24** that you really consider that as more than say a faxed  
11:01:18 **25** one-pager that says I would like to see the guzzler go

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11:01:22 **1** in.  
11:01:24 **2** I'm not saying you wouldn't, but I just  
11:01:26 **3** wanted to point that out. It was a little bit  
11:01:30 **4** disturbing because we said, oh, we should have all  
11:01:34 **5** written a separate letter because of the comment, but  
11:01:34 **6** it was certainly more than -- many more than one  
11:01:38 **7** person or one organization.  
11:01:43 **8** Anyway, I just wanted to close overall by  
11:01:48 **9** saying this is a great report. And it looks like you  
11:01:51 **10** are doing great work.  
11:01:52 **11** One other comment and that's on the off-  
11:01:55 **12** highway vehicle guidebook. I think that's a great  
11:01:58 **13** idea. I think I am anticipating you will have a good  
11:02:03 **14** education component in there, but I think it's a great  
11:02:06 **15** idea. It's a real benefit to visitors, and I hope  
11:02:10 **16** it's something again that is a concept that is brought  
11:02:15 **17** into the other field offices. Thank you.  
11:02:17 **18** MR. WHITE: You are welcome.  
11:02:19 **19** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I would also like to  
11:02:21 **20** second that with the field guide, trail guide. I  
11:02:24 **21** think that's a great idea and I'm looking forward to  
11:02:27 **22** getting a copy of it and taking off.  
11:02:30 **23** Quickly, could you tell me if Horse Thief  
11:02:36 **24** Springs is in Inyo County or San Bernardino?  
11:02:39 **25** MR. WHITE: San Bernardino.

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11:02:40 **1** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Right on the edge?  
11:02:42 **2** MR. WHITE: Yes.  
11:02:43 **3** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: That may help in terms  
11:02:46 **4** of the noise restriction you are thinking about  
11:02:48 **5** imposing. I know in Dumont we have thought about  
11:02:52 **6** imposing a speed limit within the major camp region,  
11:02:57 **7** which would require supplemental rule. And we know  
11:03:01 **8** the procedure of doing that already is very time  
11:03:03 **9** consuming.  
11:03:05 **10** Our other options we explored or looked at  
11:03:09 **11** at least is to declare it -- what do we call the --  
11:03:15 **12** Roxie, what do we call -- the township in which we can  
11:03:19 **13** have a speed limit within the township and define what  
11:03:22 **14** the township is. So that may be a way to get around  
11:03:26 **15** that particular supplemental rule process.  
11:03:31 **16** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Actually, I can  
11:03:33 **17** comment on supplemental rules. There has been lots of  
11:03:37 **18** interest in rules. And we thought well, maybe rather  
11:03:40 **19** than have a bunch of individual field office efforts  
11:03:43 **20** and a bunch of separate Federal Register notices and  
11:03:48 **21** processes, that we might establish a districtwide work  
11:03:52 **22** group and group all the different open area and  
11:03:59 **23** interest in supplemental rules and do one rule making  
11:04:03 **24** effort with one Federal Register notice.  
11:04:09 **25** However, working with all the individual

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11:04:12 **1** TRTs that would apply would be part of the process and  
11:04:16 **2** save a little time and effort. So Vicki Wood from EI  
11:04:22 **3** Centro volunteered when I asked her to lead a  
11:04:23 **4** supplemental rules team, and we have established a  
11:04:27 **5** team with representatives from each field office and  
11:04:31 **6** are looking districtwide at all the rules that are  
11:04:34 **7** worth talking about and sharing with our stakeholders  
11:04:38 **8** and seeing if we think they are good ideas, as well as  
11:04:42 **9** looking at some individual rules that might go  
11:04:45 **10** districtwide, such as metal and firewood.  
11:04:49 **11** And we are going to do one rule-making  
11:04:51 **12** effort for the entire district. Some of those rules  
11:04:55 **13** may end up being districtwide, but that would also  
11:05:00 **14** include rules for individual recreation areas. So we  
11:05:03 **15** hope to save a little time, money and effort and gain  
11:05:06 **16** some efficiency by doing that.  
11:05:09 **17** MEMBER DENNER: What is your time line  
11:05:11 **18** for that, Steve?  
11:05:15 **19** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: They had their  
11:05:18 **20** initial meeting and have another one coming up. So  
11:05:21 **21** they are working on it now. They are putting together  
11:05:24 **22** packages, and they will be scheduling visits with the  
11:05:27 **23** effected TRTs prior to moving forward to any Federal  
11:05:33 **24** Registers. But I would say within -- I don't know --  
11:05:36 **25** 12 months to an 18 month time period the whole process

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11:05:42 **1** would be completed.  
11:05:43 **2** MEMBER DENNER: Sounds like an agenda  
11:05:45 **3** item for our next meeting.  
11:05:47 **4** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Sure. Tom, will you  
11:05:50 **5** let Vicki know that, that we would like an update from  
11:05:54 **6** the supplemental rules committee for the next meeting?  
11:05:58 **7** Maybe that's a standing item for the next year or so.  
11:06:02 **8** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: That was. Any more  
11:06:09 **9** questions?  
11:06:11 **10** MR. WHITE: I would like to close by  
11:06:14 **11** offering the next meeting be held in Needles if you  
11:06:18 **12** are so willing. We have a new office I would like to  
11:06:22 **13** show off and an area for a nice meeting room where we  
11:06:28 **14** can have Power Point presentations.  
11:06:32 **15** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Whereabouts is your  
11:06:34 **16** new office?  
11:06:35 **17** MR. WHITE: It's on South Highway 95  
11:06:38 **18** towards Blythe, maybe half a mile from the freeway  
11:06:40 **19** exit. Thank you.  
11:06:49 **20** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Now we will move up  
11:06:50 **21** north and have Hector talk about Ridgecrest. Last  
11:06:55 **22** time we were there, it snowed.  
11:07:01 **23** MR. VILLALOBOS: Thank you for giving me  
11:07:03 **24** this opportunity to share with you what is going on in  
11:07:06 **25** Ridgecrest. You have my report, and if you have any

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11:07:10 **1** questions after I give you a little briefing on some  
11:07:16 **2** of the things that are in the report that I want to  
11:07:21 **3** highlight for you, I will take questions.  
11:07:23 **4** One thing I wanted to do, you have seen our  
11:07:31 **5** land and realty program updates. One thing that I  
11:07:34 **6** mentioned there that is probably of interest to  
11:07:37 **7** everyone, other energy related proposals. I know that  
11:07:40 **8** the district is compiling all the information from all  
11:07:44 **9** the field offices and putting that together.  
11:07:47 **10** I believe they are going to be putting  
11:07:49 **11** together a big GIS map and will show locations of  
11:07:54 **12** these particular projects that have been proposed.  
11:07:57 **13** But I wanted to highlight for you what we have in  
11:08:01 **14** Ridgecrest in the way of both solar and wind energy,  
11:08:06 **15** which are not included in my report. If I did include  
11:08:10 **16** them in my report, you would have 10 pages.  
11:08:14 **17** So I want to -- first of all solar, for  
11:08:18 **18** example. We have about 10 applications for solar.  
11:08:23 **19** They cover an area of about, I would say, 30,000  
11:08:29 **20** acres. They are concentrated in certain areas along  
11:08:33 **21** Highway 395 and along Highway 14, and there is a few  
11:08:38 **22** that are in the center of Ridgecrest, basically.  
11:08:46 **23** Again, around 30,000 acres.  
11:08:48 **24** However, some of these acreages are counted  
11:08:52 **25** maybe up to four times, because in one particular

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11:08:56 **1** area, they overlay each other. So there is some  
11:09:01 **2** competition for the same piece of ground by about four  
11:09:07 **3** or five -- I will say four competitors. This area in  
11:09:11 **4** particular is an interesting area. I think it's been  
11:09:14 **5** identified as having very high solarium -- I found out  
11:09:20 **6** that term yesterday. It is just south of Walker Pass,  
11:09:30 **7** south of 168 -- is that the highway? -- and 14.  
11:09:36 **8** MEMBER SCHILLER: 178.  
11:09:39 **9** MR. VILLALOBOS: I always get screwed up  
11:09:42 **10** on that highway number. And it's on both sides of  
11:09:45 **11** Highway 14, in that kind of a very flat area except  
11:09:50 **12** for the outcrops of Robber's Roost, but in that  
11:09:56 **13** general area there are quite a few applications in  
11:09:59 **14** that area. Again, very high solarium. Everybody  
11:10:03 **15** seems to be interested in that area for solar.  
11:10:06 **16** We have another area along Highway 395.  
11:10:10 **17** It's south of Red Mountain, north of Kramer's Corners.  
11:10:15 **18** Around the area where 20 Mule Team Road comes in, in  
11:10:20 **19** that area. We have some applications in there.  
11:10:27 **20** The BLM land in that area is kind of  
11:10:29 **21** checkerboarded, so you will see kind of a  
11:10:31 **22** checkerboard. When we do have GIS maps put together,  
11:10:37 **23** you will see that kind of pattern.  
11:10:39 **24** The other area that I think is drawing  
11:10:41 **25** interest is in the Inyo Kern -- between Inyo Kern and

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11:10:49 **1** China Lake, and it's in the corridor where the navy  
11:10:55 **2** flies. In Ridgecrest the corridor has a boundary  
11:11:01 **3** basically by 395 and Jack Ranch Road, in that general  
11:11:07 **4** area. There is some applications for solar there.  
11:11:10 **5** Again, it's a lot of acreage, but I really  
11:11:14 **6** think in the long run after we look at the potential  
11:11:17 **7** and all the things that have to be looked at to be  
11:11:21 **8** able to take the extension chord and plug it into the  
11:11:25 **9** grid, I'm sure some of these will not be in the  
11:11:29 **10** immediate future. So that's the situation that we  
11:11:32 **11** have for solar in our neck of the woods.  
11:11:38 **12** For wind, we also have quite a few  
11:11:40 **13** applications for wind. They are generally in the  
11:11:43 **14** Tehachapi area, and they are starting to go north from  
11:11:49 **15** Tehachapi area, west of Highway 14, along the hills,  
11:11:57 **16** in that area. Going towards Jawbone Canyon. In fact,  
11:12:05 **17** LADWP does have permits to develop a wind farm on  
11:12:09 **18** private land and has permits from the BLM. It's noted  
11:12:13 **19** in our report.  
11:12:14 **20** I understand that LADWP is in the process  
11:12:19 **21** of already building a construction office in that  
11:12:23 **22** neighborhood. So we expect construction will be  
11:12:27 **23** coming soon.  
11:12:30 **24** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Didn't they buy  
11:12:33 **25** private land to do that?

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11:12:34 **1** MR. VILLALOBOS: I don't know if they  
11:12:38 **2** bought it, but they acquired the right to put wind  
11:12:41 **3** farms on it. I would venture to guess they didn't buy  
11:12:44 **4** it.  
11:12:50 **5** MEMBER MABEN: There are wind easements  
11:12:52 **6** on the private property.  
11:12:54 **7** MR. VILLALOBOS: So that's what is  
11:12:56 **8** happening as far as the energy future for Ridgecrest.  
11:13:00 **9** Again, in the wind area, I failed to  
11:13:02 **10** mention there is quite a bit of acreage again being  
11:13:06 **11** identified there to be developed. We are talking  
11:13:08 **12** about tens of thousands of acres there. We are  
11:13:11 **13** probably talking right now, it's all preliminary, but  
11:13:15 **14** proposals for maybe up to 20 or more anemometers in  
11:13:19 **15** and around the area.  
11:13:21 **16** The other interesting thing about that area  
11:13:24 **17** is there is some BLM acreage that is probably going to  
11:13:28 **18** be redeveloped because they used to have wind turbines  
11:13:31 **19** there. They went bankrupt many years ago, and these  
11:13:35 **20** areas are being proposed to be brought back into  
11:13:39 **21** production for wind energy.  
11:13:41 **22** There is other acreages out in the  
11:13:44 **23** Ridgecrest area where there is infilling that might be  
11:13:49 **24** occurring. And also, some of the old wind turbines  
11:13:54 **25** that are not as efficient as some of the new wind

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11:13:58 **1** turbines are being proposed to be replaced with more  
11:14:01 **2** efficient, maybe bigger and better type wind turbines.  
11:14:05 **3** It may lead to less surface disturbance or less  
11:14:11 **4** turbines, I will say. Maybe the same amount or more  
11:14:16 **5** generation of megawatts. The megawatts, just to give  
11:14:20 **6** you an idea of megawatts for solar, what we know or  
11:14:24 **7** what we think has been proposed for megawatts for  
11:14:28 **8** solar, in the neighborhood of around 7,000 megawatts.  
11:14:33 **9** So you start making some calculations based  
11:14:38 **10** on 100 or 100 megawatts per square section, you can  
11:14:44 **11** imagine quite a few of these square sections of solar  
11:14:47 **12** farms in the Ridgecrest area along the highways. I  
11:14:51 **13** think they are looking at the highways because they  
11:14:54 **14** may be more advantageous to be able to plug into the  
11:15:00 **15** grid where there are existing corridors already.  
11:15:05 **16** There are a few of them that we got that  
11:15:07 **17** are coming in that they are looking outside the box  
11:15:11 **18** here, and I will say, for example, going up north of  
11:15:15 **19** Inyo Kern into Rose Valley is an area that the wind  
11:15:21 **20** and solar is taking a look at. And there are a few in  
11:15:26 **21** Panamint Valley that they are taking a look at. These  
11:15:30 **22** are not formal. We still have people that are coming  
11:15:33 **23** in the office looking, scouting our area for maybe  
11:15:40 **24** potential areas to look elsewhere. So we may not be  
11:15:45 **25** over the peak of this interest in solar and wind.

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11:15:56 **1** Okay. And I wanted to give you a couple of  
11:16:01 **2** updates or highlight for you what has been happening  
11:16:03 **3** on our abandoned mine lands Hazmat mediation we have  
11:16:10 **4** been trying to do. I don't remember if I told you the  
11:16:13 **5** last time that we had the arsenic contamination in the  
11:16:21 **6** Red Mountain Randsburg area.  
11:16:23 **7** Since then we have done some work to  
11:16:26 **8** install two cupolas, which are bat cages where animals  
11:16:31 **9** can come and go into their habitat in the two deep  
11:16:35 **10** mine shafts out there. And we cleared away the  
11:16:39 **11** arsenic contaminated tailings from those areas and had  
11:16:43 **12** them moved to a more centralized location. And that's  
11:16:49 **13** the major work that we have done in the Randsburg  
11:16:52 **14** area. In the -- I'm sorry -- in the Red Mountain  
11:16:58 **15** area.  
11:16:58 **16** In the Randsburg area we just completed a  
11:17:02 **17** new trail that we put in. It rerouted our 110, which  
11:17:08 **18** was a trail that we left open for the public to use  
11:17:13 **19** that was on top of a mine mill waste, a big huge pile  
11:17:22 **20** of mill that had very high level of arsenic.  
11:17:28 **21** Anyway, we rerouted the route 110 off of  
11:17:31 **22** that pile and it comes in now a little bit to the west  
11:17:36 **23** of that pile. And it weaves in through the hills. It  
11:17:41 **24** adds a little more distance, but I think it's more  
11:17:44 **25** scenic and I think the riders will enjoy that better.

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11:17:48 **1** This route will come out on top of the mill  
11:17:52 **2** waste there. And we plan to do some more work to  
11:17:56 **3** improve the public health and safety aspects of that  
11:18:01 **4** route. We may repave or pave part of it. That's down  
11:18:08 **5** the road a ways. We are still coming up with some  
11:18:11 **6** cost estimates of what it will take to do that.  
11:18:14 **7** There is some more interim work that we  
11:18:15 **8** want to do. We want to do some fencing so we can make  
11:18:18 **9** sure we can keep some of the people -- reduce the  
11:18:21 **10** temptation for the folks to go up and play in this  
11:18:27 **11** mine waste there, because it's kind of a real fine  
11:18:33 **12** sand -- consistency of real fine sand, and if they do  
11:18:40 **13** ride around in it especially on windy days, that dust  
11:18:45 **14** carries over into the community. And it's tempting  
11:18:47 **15** for the riders because they see kind of like a sand  
11:18:51 **16** dune type of opportunity there and they like to go in  
11:18:54 **17** there and use it. So we are going to have to do some  
11:18:57 **18** more fencing there to try and reduce that to a  
11:19:00 **19** minimum.  
11:19:01 **20** We received a lot of scrutiny from the  
11:19:06 **21** Washington office level on down to the state office  
11:19:10 **22** level. There has been a few more sites than have been  
11:19:14 **23** looked at and tested. I wanted to report that the  
11:19:19 **24** Ruth Mine area in Homewood Canyon east and north of  
11:19:24 **25** Trona has been tested, and again, they found some

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11:19:27 **1** elevated levels of arsenic there of the mine tailings.  
11:19:35 **2** Unfortunately, those mine tailings have been used for  
11:19:39 **3** landscaping in the past before we knew of the problem.  
11:19:42 **4** So we are going to be working to develop an  
11:19:45 **5** action plan to address that situation in that area.  
11:19:49 **6** And again, there is a small community that lives just  
11:19:54 **7** downstream from this mine waste. So we are concerned  
11:19:58 **8** that there may be some contamination that has gone  
11:20:02 **9** off-site, and we want to address the public health and  
11:20:06 **10** safety aspects there.  
11:20:08 **11** Another area that we have started a test  
11:20:13 **12** in, and that's in the Darwin Mine area. Again, that's  
11:20:17 **13** in Inyo County way north of our area in the Argus  
11:20:23 **14** Range area. We have done some testing there. The  
11:20:29 **15** levels that have been found there are in your report.  
11:20:33 **16** Basically high levels of lead and zinc and some  
11:20:41 **17** arsenic. And again, those have been reported. And we  
11:20:45 **18** are going to be in the process of developing action  
11:20:47 **19** plans for looking at the public health and safety  
11:20:52 **20** aspects there.  
11:20:53 **21** I wanted to -- Ron Schiller asked me about  
11:21:02 **22** what the latest was in Furnace Creek, and you have a  
11:21:06 **23** little update there for Furnace Creek. We did make  
11:21:12 **24** a -- we completed our findings of no significant  
11:21:19 **25** impact for Furnace. We looked at a proposed amendment

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11:21:23 **1** to open the route on the BLM side at this point. And  
11:21:30 **2** we posted that, as required by the California Desert  
11:21:39 **3** Conservation Plan, to amend to open the route.  
11:21:44 **4** Basically we know that we've gotten -- over  
11:21:46 **5** 200 protests have been filed with the Washington  
11:21:51 **6** office. We have been talking to the Washington office  
11:21:54 **7** about these protests. And I know that there is going  
11:21:58 **8** to be a review team that will be formed. The  
11:22:02 **9** Washington office policy is to look at each and every  
11:22:06 **10** one of the protests and address them. So I know that  
11:22:10 **11** we are going to be getting started on the process of  
11:22:13 **12** doing that.  
11:22:17 **13** Dave Sjaastad from my office is going to be  
11:22:20 **14** included in the team to review these protests. And  
11:22:24 **15** again, the BLM and the Forest Service will make our  
11:22:29 **16** decisions after we resolve these protests. And Ron, I  
11:22:34 **17** know you had a question on that. And if you want to  
11:22:37 **18** touch on that right now. Or actually, I know you have  
11:22:40 **19** a comment on that, and you might want to. If you  
11:22:43 **20** want, if it's okay.  
11:22:46 **21** MEMBER SCHILLER: Ron Schiller,  
11:22:54 **22** recreation.  
11:22:56 **23** I find the 200 protests rather disturbing,  
11:23:01 **24** and it may be a little frustrating. I have seen some  
11:23:05 **25** of the literature from the groups that want to close

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11:23:10 **1** the area down. And it's frustrating because they are  
11:23:15 **2** not really what I would say truthful. And I have a  
11:23:21 **3** long history personally with that area. And I am  
11:23:25 **4** disturbed at some of the -- given some of the history,  
11:23:31 **5** the BLM is aware of some of the history that is  
11:23:37 **6** involved. And so I'm curious. It's kind of  
11:23:40 **7** frustrating here because I have the same problem with  
11:23:44 **8** a lot of the lawsuits. It's that the BLM in many of  
11:23:50 **9** these cases will go into negotiations or discussions  
11:23:55 **10** with whoever the protesters are and make agreements.  
11:23:59 **11** And the public who has been involved with this for so  
11:24:02 **12** long really never gets to have a say. And so I'm just  
11:24:07 **13** curious in this particular case, do you expect any  
11:24:10 **14** litigation to come out of these 200 protests?  
11:24:15 **15** MR. VILLALOBOS: Well, I will go from --  
11:24:18 **16** judging from the number of comments that we have  
11:24:23 **17** received during the process, I think, and the number  
11:24:26 **18** of people that have been involved during the process,  
11:24:29 **19** the public meetings that we had. And I know we had --  
11:24:33 **20** we tracked it in the numbers, in the hundreds of  
11:24:36 **21** people that attended these meetings.  
11:24:38 **22** The first round that we did through scoping  
11:24:43 **23** and in the formulation of the EA, the first time  
11:24:48 **24** around I think we got something like -- something like  
11:24:51 **25** 2,000 comments from the public. When we put it out as

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11:24:57 **1** a final, we got 8,000 comments from the public. And  
11:25:00 **2** it's been kind of mixed on both sides of the  
11:25:04 **3** situation.  
11:25:04 **4** I explained to the Washington office folks,  
11:25:07 **5** they called us up on these comments. They were rather  
11:25:10 **6** alarmed, too, to be receiving so many protests. I  
11:25:14 **7** explained to them that had we made a decision, some  
11:25:18 **8** other decision, that they may have received as many or  
11:25:22 **9** more protests from the other concerns on this issue.  
11:25:29 **10** So, yes, to make a long story short, do I expect to be  
11:25:33 **11** litigated or do we expect to be litigated on this?  
11:25:37 **12** Yes. After the protests.  
11:25:39 **13** MEMBER SCHILLER: So if anybody had  
11:25:43 **14** issue with that, they would have to intervene into the  
11:25:48 **15** lawsuit to have a say?  
11:25:51 **16** MR. VILLALOBOS: No. I think to  
11:25:57 **17** protest -- in order to -- and that's an important  
11:26:00 **18** point to make, is that we received 200 or more  
11:26:06 **19** protests. I believe the way Washington looks at these  
11:26:10 **20** is that the people that protest have had to have  
11:26:15 **21** involved themselves along the way. But to sue -- I  
11:26:20 **22** mean, to appeal the decision, I don't think it's  
11:26:23 **23** appealable. Because once we go through this protest  
11:26:27 **24** period, that's the final decision.  
11:26:31 **25** MEMBER SCHILLER: Unless somebody sues.

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11:26:34 **1** MR. VILLALOBOS: Yes. Then it goes to a  
11:26:35 **2** different level of contest and that is through the  
11:26:39 **3** courts, yeah. And I don't know who can file a lawsuit  
11:26:44 **4** or not.  
11:26:45 **5** MEMBER SCHILLER: Well, you have a lot  
11:26:47 **6** of members of the public who have participated in this  
11:26:50 **7** process who don't have the resources to litigate or to  
11:26:53 **8** intervene. So I guess -- I brought this up one time  
11:26:59 **9** when I was first appointed to the Council. And that  
11:27:02 **10** was a case where I had seen a Federal Register notice  
11:27:09 **11** that the EPA had published in the Federal Register.  
11:27:13 **12** And in that notice they had gone into litigation. And  
11:27:17 **13** as a result, they entered into an agreement with the  
11:27:22 **14** party that had sued, but they were asking for public  
11:27:26 **15** comment after that.  
11:27:28 **16** And I have never seen any cases where the  
11:27:34 **17** BLM or the Forest Service or any of the agencies have  
11:27:38 **18** entered into an agreement resulting from a lawsuit and  
11:27:43 **19** then allowed public participation after the fact. So  
11:27:48 **20** my question is, Is there any possibility of the public  
11:27:53 **21** being involved after the fact, because you really take  
11:27:59 **22** the decision away from the public process.  
11:28:04 **23** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: You present a  
11:28:13 **24** curious case, you know, because the settlement  
11:28:17 **25** agreement is an agreement between, you know, a

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11:28:23 **1** complainant and a defendant in a legal case. And  
11:28:27 **2** that's all outside public participation requirements  
11:28:34 **3** and policies and FLPMA and NEPA with decision making.  
11:28:42 **4** So I can't think of an instance where we would enter  
11:28:49 **5** into a settlement agreement or reach one and then ask  
11:28:52 **6** for public comment. What's the point?  
11:28:56 **7** MEMBER SCHILLER: In this particular  
11:28:57 **8** case -- and I will provide you with the Federal  
11:29:00 **9** Register notice again. I don't have it today. But it  
11:29:03 **10** wasn't necessarily that the agreement was finalized.  
11:29:06 **11** They were asking for comments on the agreement.  
11:29:08 **12** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: The proposed  
11:29:11 **13** agreement?  
11:29:12 **14** MEMBER SCHILLER: Apparently so. And I  
11:29:14 **15** have asked that question twice now, and I have never  
11:29:17 **16** really got a response. But I will provide that  
11:29:20 **17** Federal Register notice to you.  
11:29:24 **18** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Okay.  
11:29:34 **19** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Questions?  
11:29:40 **20** MR. VILLALOBOS: I will wrap up things  
11:29:41 **21** and then we will ask some questions.  
11:29:45 **22** Another thing I wanted to touch on, and  
11:29:47 **23** that is some work that we have been doing and hasn't  
11:29:51 **24** been highlighted for you in our report. But I wanted  
11:29:55 **25** to briefly summarize some progress we have made with

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11:30:03 **1** the Rider Registration Program for the Rands, and I  
11:30:07 **2** want to highlight that for you.  
11:30:10 **3** Basically with a lot of help, Randy Banis,  
11:30:15 **4** who is sitting in the back there, as an interested  
11:30:20 **5** stakeholder, has offered to help us kind of start  
11:30:25 **6** putting together this Rider Education Program. And  
11:30:29 **7** basically he has helped us kind of lay the foundation  
11:30:33 **8** for this program.  
11:30:35 **9** And I wanted to touch on that and request  
11:30:39 **10** that we get together formally with the TRT for the  
11:30:45 **11** Rider Education Program. And that would include, I  
11:30:48 **12** believe, Ron Schiller and Dr. Tom Scott. And I know  
11:30:52 **13** we have been working with Kern County on this, which  
11:30:56 **14** is supervisors John McQuiston. But I would also like  
11:31:01 **15** to extend the invitation to Supervisor Don Maven to  
11:31:09 **16** have a formal TRT meeting before the next DAC so we  
11:31:15 **17** can kind of lay out what we are -- how we are  
11:31:19 **18** progressing on this and kind of what this foundation  
11:31:22 **19** is on the Rider Education Program.  
11:31:25 **20** But I wanted to touch on a few things that  
11:31:28 **21** Randy has researched and brought to my attention  
11:31:33 **22** basically to help me with this. And he did find the  
11:31:40 **23** information included in the West Mojave Plan that  
11:31:43 **24** calls for the implementation of a Visitor Use Permit  
11:31:48 **25** Program. And the language reads something to this

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11:31:52 **1** effect -- I'm summarizing some of it: Those desiring  
11:31:56 **2** to use vehicles in the Rand Mountains would be  
11:31:59 **3** required to obtain permits prior to entering the  
11:32:03 **4** management area. To obtain a use permit for the  
11:32:08 **5** Rands, visitors would complete a short educational  
11:32:11 **6** orientation program. Once this is accomplished, they  
11:32:16 **7** could purchase a permit.  
11:32:20 **8** And the details of this program will be  
11:32:22 **9** developed in consultation with Kern County Planning  
11:32:25 **10** and Kern County Sheriffs and affected stakeholders.  
11:32:31 **11** And one of the affected stakeholders is Randy Banis.  
11:32:35 **12** And he also has been able to work with other  
11:32:41 **13** stakeholders and especially through our local  
11:32:43 **14** Ridgecrest Steering Committee, we have been able to  
11:32:47 **15** provide stakeholder input, which is done, and he has  
11:32:53 **16** done a great job of it. And I would like to thank  
11:32:56 **17** Randy for getting us going on this.  
11:32:58 **18** Anyway, I wanted to touch on the reason for  
11:33:01 **19** the payment of the fee. A fee that we are going to be  
11:33:04 **20** charging users out there will be applied to cover  
11:33:08 **21** administrative costs of administering the program.  
11:33:12 **22** And that's the rationale for that.  
11:33:15 **23** What we are trying to accomplish is  
11:33:17 **24** basically get a higher level of compliance in the  
11:33:21 **25** Rands area. And one of the things that's very

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11:33:23 **1** important, and I know that the county is very  
11:33:25 **2** concerned about that, is the biological opinion for  
11:33:29 **3** the original Rands Plan has language in there that  
11:33:33 **4** says you have to get high levels of compliance out  
11:33:36 **5** there or you are going to have to close the area,  
11:33:38 **6** which is where we are at right now.  
11:33:41 **7** The concept that we are coming up with  
11:33:44 **8** right now is basically, initially what we want to do  
11:33:47 **9** is develop a brochure. And Randy has kind of started  
11:33:51 **10** a mockup of a little brochure. It's very brief right  
11:33:56 **11** now. It's got just barely, just points of what we  
11:34:00 **12** want to include in a Rider Education Program. But a  
11:34:05 **13** short, brief pamphlet that a reader can go through and  
11:34:12 **14** at the end of the brochure, there will be a quiz that  
11:34:17 **15** they will take the quiz, tear it out, come to the  
11:34:21 **16** Jawbone Visitors Station, for example, or some other  
11:34:25 **17** arrangements and basically redeem this for the  
11:34:31 **18** opportunity to purchase a permit to go into the area.  
11:34:34 **19** And this permitting will be required to be displayed  
11:34:38 **20** somehow on the rider, not the bike.  
11:34:42 **21** There are other details, a lot of details  
11:34:45 **22** that we have to kind of come up with, and I'm wanting  
11:34:49 **23** to work with the TRT to help us with those details.  
11:34:53 **24** Details like one important question, for example, in  
11:34:56 **25** the language for the WEMO. It says "all vehicles."

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11:35:01 **1** And I am going to see if we can kind of tailor that a  
11:35:04 **2** little bit to the area and really make it to not SUVs  
11:35:10 **3** because really the issues that we have been finding  
11:35:13 **4** out there, monitoring are more related to motorcycles  
**5** and ATVs than SUVs, for example. And it would be kind  
11:35:22 **6** of silly to say, Mr. SUV Driver, you have to get a  
11:35:25 **7** permit in this area.  
11:35:26 **8** We would rather have it, okay, the issues  
11:35:30 **9** seem to be related to staying on trails. And the  
11:35:36 **10** folks that have a harder time staying on the trails  
11:35:40 **11** are the motorcycles and ATVs. And maybe your  
11:35:45 **12** occasional dune buggy-type vehicle out there. So  
11:35:49 **13** those are the kind of vehicles we are targeting, and  
11:35:52 **14** we want some recommendations from the TRTs along those  
11:35:57 **15** lines. We want to lay out the rationale for it.  
11:36:00 **16** Anyway, those are the kind of things why we want to  
11:36:04 **17** get the TRT going on that.  
11:36:06 **18** Again, this is one aspect of it. We are  
11:36:09 **19** developing a Rider Education Program pamphlet that may  
11:36:13 **20** be -- we want to incorporate that into an interactive  
11:36:19 **21** computer site where instead of getting a pamphlet,  
11:36:23 **22** some folks might prefer to go into the computer, look  
11:36:27 **23** at this program through the computer, type in some  
11:36:30 **24** answers for a quiz that will be included in there.  
11:36:34 **25** The computer then will spit out a little quiz results

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11:36:38 **1** and they can go take that to the station and get --  
11:36:43 **2** buy a permit.  
11:36:44 **3** The permit -- Randy is also working on cost  
11:36:49 **4** estimates of what that might be. We are trying to  
11:36:53 **5** make it as -- we want to have a professional product,  
11:36:56 **6** but at the same time, we don't want to get the cost so  
11:37:02 **7** high that people will start having problems with it.  
11:37:05 **8** So that's another thing we want the TRT to work on.  
11:37:09 **9** Since I'm going on longer and longer on  
11:37:12 **10** this thing, I will try and make it short. That's one  
11:37:15 **11** of the things I wanted to highlight for you. I want  
11:37:17 **12** to get with the TRT members before we split and see  
11:37:21 **13** whether some time that might be a good time for us to  
11:37:24 **14** get together before the next DAC meeting so we can  
11:37:28 **15** kind of have a formal discussion on that.  
11:37:33 **16** And that's it from Ridgecrest.  
11:37:36 **17** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you, Hector. Do  
11:37:38 **18** we have questions? Roy.  
11:37:40 **19** MEMBER DENNER: Just a comment, Hector.  
11:37:42 **20** I don't know if you are aware, but the Management Plan  
11:37:44 **21** for the Imperial Sand Dunes required exactly what you  
11:37:48 **22** are talking about. People take a test in order to get  
11:37:51 **23** a pass to go into the Adaptive Management Area and you  
11:37:56 **24** might talk to Tom about it. But some work has been  
11:37:59 **25** done on what that project ought to look like, so maybe

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11:38:02 **1** it will save you from reinventing the wheel.  
11:38:08 **2** MR. VILLALOBOS: We are looking at some  
11:38:10 **3** of the products we know have been done for Glamis. We  
11:38:15 **4** have to find out who the publisher was and start  
11:38:19 **5** talking. We might save some reinvention. Good point.  
11:38:25 **6** Another point that I want to make is Kern  
11:38:28 **7** County and I had a meeting with Supervisor John  
11:38:33 **8** McQuiston, and they are looking very favorably at this  
11:38:39 **9** in the form of maybe helping provide some seed money,  
11:38:43 **10** the seed money I feel we need to probably use, which I  
11:38:48 **11** know I am funded for. But seed money may be for  
11:38:54 **12** looking at some publishers or some designers and  
11:39:00 **13** publication costs, initial rounds of pamphlets.  
11:39:07 **14** We are also going to tie some of this stuff  
11:39:11 **15** to some special rules. We will have to delineate this  
11:39:14 **16** area and say this area, you just have a permit to ride  
11:39:18 **17** in and pass an education program. And if you don't do  
11:39:22 **18** that, there may be a grace period that we'll  
11:39:25 **19** incorporate. But if you don't do this by year such  
11:39:29 **20** and such, you are going to be in big trouble and  
11:39:31 **21** special fines may be developed through special rules.  
11:39:37 **22** Other questions, comments?  
11:39:44 **23** MEMBER HUND: Hector, I have noticed  
11:39:48 **24** when I have been driving through the Tehachapis  
11:39:51 **25** looking at existing wind energy developments, that in

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11:39:56 **1** some cases there is very severe erosion associated  
11:40:01 **2** with those sites. It appears to be the result of  
11:40:05 **3** improper grading. I wondered if that's something your  
11:40:10 **4** office has observed, and if that's going to be one of  
11:40:14 **5** the things that will be addressed in the permitting  
11:40:18 **6** process.  
11:40:19 **7** MR. VILLALOBOS: Geary, you are right.  
11:40:21 **8** There are some -- that particular area, there is a lot  
11:40:25 **9** of checkerboard land in there. So some of it's  
11:40:28 **10** private and some of it's BLM. In the past when we  
11:40:31 **11** have gone back into these areas to infill -- I won't  
11:40:39 **12** say infill, but replace because there have been  
11:40:42 **13** several generations of wind turbines that have gone  
11:40:45 **14** in. We have a specialist that has looked at how they  
11:40:49 **15** are going to do these things. And we have assessed  
11:40:53 **16** some of the erosional problems that have occurred in  
11:40:57 **17** the past. And we have incorporated some reclamation  
11:41:00 **18** and/or best management practices, I will call them,  
11:41:05 **19** when siting and building the replacement turbines that  
11:41:09 **20** go in that area. So we have been doing that in the  
11:41:12 **21** past on the BLM part of that.  
11:41:14 **22** And actually, the wind operators also kind  
11:41:18 **23** of learn from that and incorporate that onto the  
11:41:22 **24** private land when they are moving along from learning  
11:41:25 **25** from past experience and coming up with some best

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11:41:27 **1** management practices working with the BLM. They might  
11:41:30 **2** have to reroute a route and the pads, the way they put  
11:41:37 **3** the pads down. So yes, we look at those aspects of  
11:41:41 **4** it.  
11:41:41 **5** MEMBER HUND: Thank you. One other  
11:41:43 **6** question. This might be better addressed to Desert  
11:41:46 **7** District Staff. But you mentioned that you have at  
11:41:49 **8** least several applicants in some cases competing for  
11:41:52 **9** the same area. And what process will BLM use to  
11:41:59 **10** determine which applicant ultimately gets the lease on  
11:42:03 **11** an area of ground that there are several contenders  
11:42:07 **12** for?  
11:42:07 **13** MR. VILLALOBOS: I believe right now we  
11:42:09 **14** have policy that has been established through the  
11:42:11 **15** Washington office on that. And basically it is the  
11:42:14 **16** applicant that comes in the door first with a complete  
11:42:17 **17** application is probably the applicant that we'll be  
11:42:21 **18** looking at, unless that changes. And I'm not sure  
11:42:24 **19** that's going to change. That's it.  
11:42:28 **20** MEMBER HUND: Thank you.  
11:42:30 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Great. Thank you,  
11:42:31 **22** Hector. Are you ready to go, Bruce? We will do a  
11:42:43 **23** final presentation prior to our lunch. So once again,  
11:42:47 **24** it's Bruce who is holding us from our hamburger. He  
11:42:52 **25** likes to do that to us.

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11:42:54 **1** MR. SHAFFER: Won't be long.  
11:42:57 **2** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Service First  
11:42:57 **3** initiative will be the topic.  
11:43:55 **4** MR. SHAFFER: Bruce Shaffer, California  
**5** Desert District.  
11:43:56 **6** One of the things I wanted to try to give  
11:43:59 **7** you all some information on, and it does relate to  
11:44:02 **8** what we are doing with our energy program, but  
11:44:06 **9** slightly different.  
11:44:08 **10** Service First in the federal vernacular is  
11:44:13 **11** really a concept that's been around for a few years,  
11:44:17 **12** but it's been maturing in each of the federal  
11:44:20 **13** agencies. And what it is is that it's a way to get  
11:44:24 **14** federal agencies to start working together, take  
11:44:27 **15** advantage of the strengths that they have, and then  
11:44:30 **16** sharing those strengths.  
11:44:32 **17** So the first question I'm sure all of you  
11:44:35 **18** have is what is Service First? Well, those are some  
11:44:39 **19** three bullets that will give a quick summary of really  
11:44:43 **20** what it is. And right now, between the San Bernardino  
11:44:46 **21** National Forest, the three National Parks, Death  
11:44:49 **22** Valley, Mojave and Joshua Tree and the California  
11:44:55 **23** Desert District, we just signed this week on Tuesday a  
11:44:58 **24** Service First agreement amongst our four different  
11:45:02 **25** units or five units.

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11:45:08 **1** Again, this is kind of the concept. And  
11:45:14 **2** it's really up to each set of partners to define what  
11:45:20 **3** it is they want to share, do, or collaborate on.  
11:45:24 **4** There is no one fixed model.  
11:45:35 **5** This is what authorizes us to do Service  
11:45:39 **6** First. Initially it was Forest Service and BLM, and  
11:45:44 **7** in '06 it was expanded to include both the Park  
11:45:47 **8** Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently we  
11:45:51 **9** are not doing any Service First initiatives with the  
11:45:54 **10** Fish and Wildlife Service.  
11:45:57 **11** One of the things that you hear from time  
11:46:00 **12** to time from field managers and other staff is when we  
11:46:04 **13** are doing collaborative work amongst federal agencies,  
11:46:08 **14** it's very cumbersome, at best, to transfer money, to  
11:46:12 **15** share money, pool money together. We have had some  
11:46:18 **16** successes, but it's usually very frustrating. And I  
11:46:21 **17** have seen it take 9, 10, 12 months sometimes just to  
11:46:25 **18** transfer money if we want to share and work on a  
11:46:28 **19** project. Service First helps streamline that.  
11:46:32 **20** Again, these are the goals of Service  
11:46:35 **21** First. And again, it goes to what we kind of talked  
11:46:38 **22** about yesterday with CEC, although that's not Service  
11:46:43 **23** First because it's a state agency. But it's where we  
11:46:45 **24** can really begin to start looking at our missions and  
11:46:49 **25** see where we can share. Hopefully, it improves

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11:46:52 **1** customer service; hopefully, it begins to get at  
11:46:55 **2** making us more operationally efficient. And then  
11:46:59 **3** overall improve the stewardship of our various  
11:47:03 **4** missions.  
11:47:05 **5** What are some lessons learned that other  
11:47:08 **6** states that have done Service First say before us here  
11:47:11 **7** in the California Desert District? Washington and  
11:47:14 **8** Oregon, those two states have done Service First.  
11:47:17 **9** They were one of the first to do it. So these were  
11:47:20 **10** some of the lessons we took from them. There is no  
11:47:24 **11** one set of activities that Washington dictates to us  
11:47:27 **12** and says you must do Service First in this fashion or  
11:47:31 **13** with this program or this set of activities. No one  
11:47:35 **14** size fits all kind of thing.  
11:47:37 **15** We will be coming out -- actually Steve  
11:47:40 **16** Razo is working with the Forest Service and the three  
11:47:44 **17** parks, we will be coming out with a public release to  
11:47:46 **18** inform the public that we are going to have this  
11:47:49 **19** Service First initiative and what it includes.  
11:47:53 **20** These are the programs that we are going to  
11:47:57 **21** do here in the California Desert District. And some  
11:48:01 **22** of them were actually starting this summer, and the  
11:48:04 **23** other ones will actually start 1 October on the new  
11:48:08 **24** fiscal year. But those are the three. The Santa Rosa  
11:48:10 **25** and San Jacinto National Monument. That's between

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11:48:16 **1** Forest Service and BLM. We will actually be  
11:48:19 **2** co-managing, which we have been kind of doing, but now  
11:48:23 **3** we will formalize it in a better way. We get the  
11:48:28 **4** budget folks, the property folks, the HR folks,  
11:48:32 **5** everybody gets together and we talk about our  
11:48:34 **6** processes and how we can streamline them.  
11:48:36 **7** We also integrate our funding and we do co-  
11:48:40 **8** location agreements where we can share facilities and  
11:48:42 **9** we don't have to go out there and build separate  
11:48:45 **10** facilities for Forest Service and separate facilities  
11:48:48 **11** for BLM.  
11:48:48 **12** Our interagency communication center, which  
11:48:51 **13** really has been operating for over 20 years, and it  
11:48:54 **14** was really, if you will, a Service First organization  
11:48:57 **15** but it never was formalized. And that's between  
11:49:01 **16** Forest Service, BLM, and Park Service. We do  
11:49:05 **17** co-manage, co-locate and share funding with our  
11:49:09 **18** interagency dispatch center, which does all risk,  
11:49:12 **19** public safety type dispatching, law enforcement, fire  
11:49:16 **20** and all of our administrative functions that occur out  
11:49:20 **21** on the ground, as well as search and rescue and stuff  
11:49:23 **22** like that.  
11:49:23 **23** Our fire and aviation program between BLM  
11:49:27 **24** and Park Service, we actually co-locate our fire  
11:49:31 **25** engines at unique places at our fire stations, Hole in

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11:49:36 **1** the Wall, Black Rock, Olancho. Not all of those have  
11:49:41 **2** Park Service employees in them. The only two fire  
11:49:44 **3** stations where we actually co-locate is in Hole in the  
11:49:48 **4** Wall and Black Rock. Black Rock is over by Joshua  
11:49:50 **5** Tree. Hole in the Wall is out in Sterling's field out  
11:49:55 **6** there. It's in the preserve.  
11:50:00 **7** And next year we will probably -- those in  
11:50:04 **8** green are ones we are going to look at maybe next  
11:50:06 **9** year, some programs, our law enforcement. Sterling is  
11:50:11 **10** piloting one where he has a Park Service ranger  
11:50:14 **11** patrolling some of his lands because we have been  
11:50:18 **12** short on rangers lately. And this is a way we could  
11:50:22 **13** get a park ranger to enforce the same rule on our  
11:50:25 **14** land. We are kind of piloting that one, but we  
11:50:27 **15** haven't entered into a Service First agreement.  
11:50:29 **16** The last one is our radio. Because our  
11:50:31 **17** radio infrastructure is so huge within the California  
11:50:35 **18** Desert District and the Parks, we are looking at how  
11:50:37 **19** we can begin to share our radio infrastructure.  
11:50:41 **20** That's it.  
11:50:45 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. There has  
11:50:48 **22** been a suggestion that we take a break and come back  
11:50:52 **23** to deal with our last two items, Desert District Fire  
11:50:57 **24** Management brief and then the Council discussion and  
11:51:04 **25** setting a date rather than go to lunch and come back.

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11:51:07 **1** Maybe we could be done by 1:30 instead of 3:30 or  
11:51:12 **2** 4:00. What is the feeling of the Council?  
11:51:16 **3** Okay. That's great. So why don't we take  
11:51:18 **4** a 20-minute break until 10 after 12:00, and that will  
11:51:22 **5** let Tom get set up. And then we will come back and  
11:51:26 **6** finish up the meeting as quickly as we can and venture  
11:51:29 **7** down the freeway or up the freeway.  
11:51:34 **8** (Brief recess was taken.)  
12:13:17 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Let's pick up our  
12:13:19 **10** agenda, the last couple items here. The Desert  
12:13:23 **11** District Fire Management brief by Tom Sherman is the  
12:13:27 **12** next item. So Tom, if you would.  
12:13:33 **13** MR. SHERMAN: Good afternoon. Thank you  
12:13:34 **14** very much for inviting me in this afternoon to give  
12:13:38 **15** you an overview of our California Desert District Fire  
12:13:42 **16** Program.  
12:13:43 **17** First of all, what I would like to say is  
12:13:46 **18** this particular room has some nice meaning to me.  
12:13:51 **19** When I was living in Perris, I was a junior in 1963,  
12:13:55 **20** and this is where we had our junior-senior prom for  
12:13:59 **21** Perris High School in 1963. Of course, things have  
12:14:02 **22** changed since then. Back then to the entrance it was  
12:14:07 **23** still -- this happened to be a hardwood floor so the  
12:14:10 **24** dancing was much easier. And the homecoming queen was  
12:14:16 **25** stationed at the other end of the building.

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12:14:19 **1** Since then, that particular year, our  
12:14:21 **2** family moved on to bigger and better things and moved  
12:14:24 **3** to Blythe. So the Desert District, desert rat or  
12:14:30 **4** river rat, you have one right here.  
12:14:33 **5** What I would like to do this afternoon is  
12:14:35 **6** give you an overview in regards to our fire program in  
12:14:39 **7** the California Desert District. My name is Tom  
12:14:42 **8** Sherman. I am the fire specialist supervisor for the  
12:14:48 **9** fire program in the California desert, part of our  
12:14:51 **10** district office, fire management staff.  
12:14:54 **11** Again, as Bruce stated earlier with regards  
12:14:56 **12** to our Service First agreement, very, very, monumental  
12:15:01 **13** for all of us, especially in our fire program to share  
12:15:05 **14** our interagency resources with our cooperators and  
12:15:09 **15** especially the Park Service. It's all a big plus for  
12:15:13 **16** us to share resources where needed.  
12:15:15 **17** As you might understand, years ago when a  
12:15:17 **18** particular fire unit would come up to an invisible  
12:15:22 **19** boundary line, it kind of seemed like everybody  
12:15:24 **20** stopped right there and had to ask permission to go on  
12:15:28 **21** into the park or monument or somewhere to suppress a  
12:15:32 **22** fire or an emergency. So that's done. That's really  
12:15:36 **23** going to be an asset to our district and all those  
12:15:38 **24** people involved. Thank you very much.  
12:15:41 **25** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Is that kind of a

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12:15:42 **1** mutual aid agreement?  
12:15:45 **2** MR. SHERMAN: Yes, sir, it's kind of a  
12:15:47 **3** mutual aid thing, yes. But all in all, due to the  
12:15:51 **4** fact that we are an Interior Agency, as you understand  
12:15:54 **5** under the Department of Interior, it just opens up the  
12:15:59 **6** total program of situational work within the Park  
12:16:04 **7** Service, BLM, Forest Service, and we all have that  
12:16:08 **8** particular same mission in regards to the fire  
12:16:11 **9** program, fire and aviation program. All that does is  
12:16:15 **10** puts that solid foundation in being able to work  
12:16:19 **11** together towards our goal and mission without there  
12:16:22 **12** being a lot of hurdles to jump over.  
12:16:25 **13** MEMBER BETTERLEY: But is there an  
12:16:27 **14** actual agreement or an understanding?  
12:16:29 **15** MR. SHERMAN: This is an understanding  
12:16:31 **16** and now it went into agreement. Everybody is in  
12:16:35 **17** agreement with that. So the door is open for all of  
12:16:38 **18** us to participate in our fire and aviation program.  
12:16:41 **19** To take another thing into perspective,  
12:16:45 **20** under the United States Department of Interior, our  
12:16:49 **21** fire program, each department within the Interior,  
12:16:54 **22** that being National Parks Service, as you well know  
12:16:58 **23** has a fire program. The Fish and Wildlife also has a  
12:17:01 **24** fire program. The Bureau of Indian Affairs nationally  
12:17:07 **25** has a fire program. And of course, our BLM has a fire

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12:17:11 **1** program.  
12:17:11 **2** So within that structure, under the  
12:17:14 **3** Department of Interior, we have nationally one of the  
12:17:18 **4** largest fire programs in the United States and  
12:17:20 **5** including overseas, because we do support Guam and the  
12:17:24 **6** other countries that fly the flag of America on those  
12:17:29 **7** lands. They also participate in not only fire  
12:17:31 **8** programs but any national disaster where our incident  
12:17:35 **9** management teams are called to go abroad outside the  
12:17:39 **10** continental United States. All of us belong to that  
12:17:43 **11** group also.  
12:17:43 **12** Again, our California Desert District in  
12:17:48 **13** California is probably one of the most sophisticated  
12:17:53 **14** fire programs in the state, due to the fact that you  
12:17:57 **15** can well see in the last two days, probably within the  
12:17:59 **16** district, you know, respond to all incidences within  
12:18:05 **17** almost 22 million acres within the Park Service and  
12:18:09 **18** within the boundaries of our Desert District.  
12:18:12 **19** So as you can see, if you take a moment,  
12:18:15 **20** within our fire management zones, again, we have all  
12:18:20 **21** the field office representatives from each zone, like  
12:18:27 **22** the Ridgecrest zone. Within this particular zone, we  
12:18:29 **23** have two fire stations. A fire station facility at  
12:18:34 **24** Olancha, which again updated that as far as our  
12:18:38 **25** facility. We have a brand new living quarters there.

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12:18:42 **1** It's taken some time, but it's really nice. So if you  
12:18:46 **2** are going down the Highway 395 corridor, take a look  
12:18:52 **3** at it. You can see where we have really upgraded the  
12:18:55 **4** facility there.  
12:18:57 **5** Again, we have one engine that would be  
12:19:02 **6** 3634 at the Olancha station, moved down to our station  
12:19:07 **7** just east of the Ridgecrest field office. We have an  
12:19:10 **8** engine there, another model 14-wheel drive. All  
12:19:17 **9** off-road.  
12:19:19 **10** Move on down to the Barstow zone. This is  
12:19:22 **11** where we have our Apple Valley fire center. At this  
12:19:29 **12** location we run three engines and a water tender, and  
12:19:35 **13** we do run aviation helicopter operations out of there.  
12:19:38 **14** That one is one of our largest in the district.  
12:19:42 **15** Again, having three engines, a tactical 3500 gallon  
12:19:47 **16** water tender, and a type 2 helicopter for initial  
12:19:52 **17** impact response for our aviation program.  
12:19:55 **18** We go out to the Mojave zone. Here we are  
12:19:58 **19** with the shared zone again with regards to this  
12:20:01 **20** Service First agreement. We share the facility at the  
12:20:06 **21** Hole in the Wall. We both have a BLM engine and a  
12:20:11 **22** Park Service engine at that facility.  
12:20:14 **23** We go back -- we go back to the Apple  
12:20:18 **24** Valley and Barstow zone, and now the Palm Springs-  
12:20:21 **25** South Coast zone. We have shared fire facility at

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12:20:27 **1** Black Rock in the Joshua Tree National Park, BLM  
12:20:31 **2** engine and a Park Service engine at that facility.  
12:20:34 **3** And then up on the Santa Rosa-San Jacinto National  
12:20:38 **4** Mountain up at our Pinion facility, we have model 14  
12:20:43 **5** engine there. And we share a fire station with the  
12:20:46 **6** Cal Fire, Riverside County Fire Department at that  
12:20:48 **7** facility.  
12:20:49 **8** So as you can see, within the district, we  
12:20:53 **9** have got some facility in each one of the zones to  
12:20:56 **10** respond to fire, emergency, earthquake, flood or  
12:21:02 **11** whatever. And that goes back into what are diligent  
12:21:07 **12** trainings that we send all our people to every year.  
12:21:10 **13** Last year we spent 628 hours, our fire employees have  
12:21:14 **14** spent in training last year on the district. And that  
12:21:18 **15** is upper -- what we call upper management courses  
12:21:21 **16** clear down to the first seasonal firefighter that's  
12:21:24 **17** learning how to come up into the program.  
12:21:27 **18** Also, one of the things that's kind of hard  
12:21:31 **19** to understand about BLM fire in California, we are the  
12:21:36 **20** third largest wildland fire agency in California. A  
12:21:40 **21** lot of people don't understand that. But they do when  
12:21:43 **22** we show up, because we have the most modern equipment,  
12:21:47 **23** the most trained people, the most updated resources to  
12:21:52 **24** suppress fire in our emergency program.  
12:21:55 **25** We just updated two of our fire facilities

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12:22:00 **1** with two new engines. The other engines went to Hole  
12:22:04 **2** in the Wall to replace the engine. What I mean by  
12:22:08 **3** replacement, usually when we get up to having close to  
12:22:13 **4** 70, 80, 90, to 170,000 miles on them or in excess of  
12:22:20 **5** 500 hours, then it's time for an engine replacement.  
12:22:24 **6** It's a cost effective program.  
12:22:26 **7** Also, the other thing that I failed to  
12:22:28 **8** mention is that our aviation program on the District  
12:22:31 **9** is a very unique program due to the fact that every  
12:22:35 **10** year we are able to put in for severity dollars out of  
12:22:39 **11** our national office to help support our fire program  
12:22:43 **12** on the district and throughout the state of  
12:22:46 **13** California. But last four years, we have been able to  
12:22:48 **14** convince national office for severity dollars that we  
12:22:52 **15** need to update our fire aviation program by putting  
12:22:56 **16** two single engine air tankers at the San Bernardino  
12:23:01 **17** Forest Service Tanker Base over in San Bernardino.  
12:23:04 **18** These two air tankers is what they call 802 air  
12:23:09 **19** tractors. They carry 800 gallons of retardant, water,  
12:23:14 **20** foam or whatever else the application need is on the  
12:23:17 **21** district. So that's been a real benefit to us as far  
12:23:21 **22** as an additional attack resource, along with our  
12:23:25 **23** helicopter up at the Apple Valley Fire Center.  
12:23:32 **24** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: The helicopter, is  
12:23:35 **25** that a fire suppression unit that it grabs water,

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12:23:38 **1** carries it?  
12:23:39 **2** MR. SHERMAN: That's correct. The  
12:23:40 **3** contract this year, this year we were awarded the  
12:23:45 **4** contract with the Cochina (as pronounced) Aviation.  
12:23:48 **5** That's a type 2 helicopter. Those that remember what  
12:23:53 **6** a Huey helicopter looked like, basically it's a type 2  
12:24:01 **7** helicopter that we can support and we can carry nine  
12:24:04 **8** personnel inside that helicopter. You carry a 320  
12:24:10 **9** gallon what they call a vamping bucket for suppression  
12:24:11 **10** resources. And the heli-attack crew, that's 7 to 9  
12:24:15 **11** people on the heli-attack crew, that is probably the  
12:24:18 **12** most predominant initial attack resource we have.  
12:24:22 **13** That aircraft is launched, flies to the scene, sets up  
12:24:28 **14** a safety heli-spot zone. Than those other resources,  
12:24:34 **15** initial attack fire resources that are on that  
12:24:38 **16** helicopter that anchors the fire and starts fire  
12:24:41 **17** suppression activity prior to that.  
12:24:44 **18** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: What total  
12:24:45 **19** personnel do we have?  
12:24:49 **20** MR. SHERMAN: Districtwide, wintertime  
12:24:51 **21** our fire program we employ permanent staff around 53  
12:24:55 **22** permanent employees around the entire district. We  
12:24:58 **23** have been very, very fortunate these last two or three  
12:25:02 **24** years to be able to have a joint apprenticeship  
12:25:05 **25** program where we can have unauthorized people to start

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12:25:10 **1** in what we call our Jack training at the McClellan Air  
12:25:16 **2** Force Base, our national and state training center in  
12:25:18 **3** Sacramento. They will spend 4 to 6 weeks up there,  
12:25:23 **4** they come back, and we are programming and grooming  
12:25:27 **5** these newer kids for permanent employees.  
12:25:30 **6** Instead of a seasonal firefighter program  
12:25:33 **7** where they are on about 120 days throughout the entire  
12:25:38 **8** season, we usually try bring them out the first part  
12:25:38 **9** of April to get all the employees trained up, get them  
12:25:41 **10** certified, so we can at least maintain a 5 person  
12:25:45 **11** staffing on each one of our engines, and 7 to 9 people  
12:25:49 **12** on the helicopters.  
12:25:51 **13** So usually if you figure -- right now we  
12:25:55 **14** have 12 to 18 additional employees on the district  
12:25:58 **15** above and beyond the 53 that we have right now to be  
12:26:03 **16** able to meet our needs during our fire season.  
12:26:06 **17** The other thing in regards to that, too --  
12:26:10 **18** that's a great question. To mentor these people  
12:26:15 **19** within this joint apprenticeship program, once they  
12:26:19 **20** come back down from their training, then it's  
12:26:24 **21** continuous training. They have so many tasks they  
12:26:26 **22** have to perform during their joint training with  
12:26:31 **23** everybody.  
12:26:32 **24** For example, the last two years, we have  
12:26:34 **25** had to take two or three of our joint apprentice

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12:26:38 **1** folks. They have to have 240 hours aviation time. So  
12:26:42 **2** we were able to upgrade the staffing on that  
12:26:45 **3** helicopter with those folks. Right now we have two  
12:26:48 **4** individuals we sent on detail. They have to have so  
12:26:52 **5** many hours on a crew or hot shot crew. So all of  
12:26:56 **6** this, once it comes together and they pass their joint  
12:27:01 **7** apprenticeship program, we have a model employee. And  
12:27:04 **8** that's an asset to our fire program and the district,  
12:27:07 **9** having well qualified and trained personnel to meet  
12:27:10 **10** the needs of that.  
12:27:11 **11** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: Those are Interior  
12:27:13 **12** personnel so they stay Interior?  
12:27:17 **13** MR. SHERMAN: They stay Interior. They  
12:27:20 **14** fly our BLM flag. It doesn't mean they can't go out  
12:27:25 **15** and receive training with other agencies: Forest  
12:27:27 **16** Service, Cal Fire now, California Department of  
12:27:31 **17** Forestry, and any other agencies, federal agencies  
12:27:35 **18** within the --  
12:27:37 **19** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Even the municipal  
12:27:40 **20** agencies? Cities?  
12:27:41 **21** MR. SHERMAN: They do get some training  
12:27:43 **22** from the municipal agencies, especially when we go in  
12:27:48 **23** what we call our self-contained breathing apparatus  
12:27:51 **24** program. California BLM is the only state, any other  
12:27:54 **25** state with BLM in it that has the self-contained

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12:27:57 **1** breathing apparatus program. That means we put the  
12:28:00 **2** air packs on, whether it be hazardous material or  
12:28:08 **3** clandestine drug lab. California BLM is the only one  
12:28:11 **4** that's recognized nationally by having a  
12:28:14 **5** self-contained breathing apparatus program.  
12:28:17 **6** We carry -- each one of the engines carry  
12:28:21 **7** three of these SCBAs on the engine. That's part of  
12:28:28 **8** the other program we have on the district wide.  
12:28:31 **9** As I said, ongoing with the fire program --  
12:28:34 **10** just to give you another quick little overview on what  
12:28:37 **11** goes on with that. In 2005, we just could not fill  
12:28:46 **12** all the dots on the fires that we had in 2005. It was  
12:28:51 **13** an historical year for the California Desert District  
12:28:54 **14** in regards to the number of fires that we had on the  
12:28:57 **15** district in 2005, the largest of that being the  
12:29:02 **16** Hackbury complex. An interagency fire out at Mojave  
12:29:07 **17** National Reserve out by Hole in the Wall. That  
12:29:11 **18** particular fire we ran up about 127,000 acres and it  
12:29:16 **19** called for a type 2 incident management team to manage  
12:29:20 **20** that operation.  
12:29:22 **21** 99 percent of all the fires that are on the  
12:29:23 **22** district are caused from lightning. Mother Nature is  
12:29:29 **23** the ignition source for a lot of fires on the  
12:29:31 **24** district. All the other ones are human caused. If  
12:29:35 **25** you take a look at some of the fires on Interstate 40

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12:29:38 **1** or Interstate 15, they are from vehicle fires, vehicle  
12:29:43 **2** fires in the vegetation, depending on the daily  
12:29:46 **3** weather.  
12:29:47 **4** So our initial attack resources in  
12:29:50 **5** conjunction with our interagency program, state,  
12:29:54 **6** county, local and municipal departments that are  
12:29:57 **7** scattered throughout the district, within the county,  
12:30:02 **8** what we call local response zones for county and state  
12:30:06 **9** responsibility and land by Cal Fire and all the other  
12:30:08 **10** agencies, and we have a tremendous, tremendous working  
12:30:11 **11** program with our cooperating agencies.  
12:30:15 **12** And again, as this gentleman said,  
12:30:18 **13** statewide we do have a mutual aid contract or program  
12:30:22 **14** statewide through the office of emergency services,  
12:30:27 **15** the OAF program, Cal Fire, what we call the four-party  
12:30:32 **16** agreements. All state, federal and the local agencies  
12:30:35 **17** that are mutually programmed statewide. We have  
12:30:41 **18** disasters that require all resources to be involved in  
12:30:44 **19** an incident.  
12:30:46 **20** Again, each one of the zones as you can  
12:30:48 **21** tell, this year, this particular year we are starting  
12:30:51 **22** out again, a very busy -- 2007 and 2006, last year  
12:30:59 **23** again we had a monumental season in regards to our  
12:31:05 **24** fires within the district. Those particular two  
12:31:08 **25** single engine air tankers that we get severity

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12:31:12 **1** contracts with for the last four years, last year  
12:31:14 **2** those two single engine airplanes hold 800 gallons,  
12:31:20 **3** delivered 438,000 gallons of retardant last year, not  
12:31:25 **4** only on our district, but all our cooperating  
12:31:28 **5** agencies.  
12:31:29 **6** So it's a very, very valuable tool. With  
12:31:34 **7** these two aircraft with initial attack, clear out to  
12:31:38 **8** the Hole in the Wall country, we were able to suppress  
12:31:43 **9** fires within a burning period or initial attack. 90  
12:31:49 **10** percent of the fires in our district we are able to  
12:31:51 **11** contain within the first initial attack burning  
12:31:54 **12** period. And again, like I said, all these stations,  
12:31:57 **13** we stay very busy, very busy all year.  
12:32:01 **14** And the program, the fire management, each  
12:32:06 **15** one of the zone FMO's oversees the fire program within  
12:32:10 **16** their zone, the daily operational things. But when  
12:32:12 **17** the bell goes off where we do have a fire call on the  
12:32:16 **18** whole district, then fire management steps up to the  
12:32:20 **19** plate, what we call "get her done."  
12:32:23 **20** And again, nationally or through the whole  
12:32:26 **21** state of California, last year 2006, this was as of  
12:32:33 **22** October the 17th, and that, as everybody knows, the  
12:32:39 **23** Esperanza fire was a sad occasion for a lot of us  
12:32:44 **24** where we lost five of our firefighters up there.  
12:32:47 **25** Our field program, our fire prevention and

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12:32:51 **1** mitigation program I consider one of the best in the  
12:32:54 **2** state of California as far as BLM is concerned. We  
12:32:57 **3** make a diligent effort with all our cooperators to get  
12:33:01 **4** the word out on our fire prevention. Our fire  
12:33:05 **5** prevention folks, engine crews, all the staff  
12:33:07 **6** periodically and every month attend all fire safety  
12:33:12 **7** councils within our communities at risk.  
12:33:15 **8** That particular area in Silent Valley was a  
12:33:19 **9** community at risk years ago, but by our fuels or  
12:33:25 **10** prevention program in conjunction with our cooperator,  
12:33:27 **11** that particular Esperanza fire, we were able to  
12:33:32 **12** shelter and place over 600 residents that lived in  
12:33:35 **13** that Silent Valley area at the Silent Valley RV Park  
12:33:40 **14** up on the San Jacinto Mountain. So when the fire came  
12:33:46 **15** in, by our fuels program and having that huge fire  
12:33:50 **16** break built all the way around that community, we were  
12:33:54 **17** able to divert that Esperanza fire and control it  
12:33:59 **18** contained around that great big circle within that  
12:34:03 **19** community.  
12:34:03 **20** That was recognized nationally. We did  
12:34:06 **21** receive a very nice citation from national office on  
12:34:12 **22** all the efforts that our fuel program and our  
12:34:16 **23** prevention staff provided for that particular fire.  
12:34:19 **24** Again, along the border, our Border Fire  
12:34:23 **25** Lines Council in regards to our BLM fire program and

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12:34:27 **1** our prevention and mitigation personnel down there,  
12:34:30 **2** again, it's quite an area to work. It's quite an area  
12:34:35 **3** to work at when we do have fires along the border.  
12:34:39 **4** Sometimes we just have to back off because we have a  
12:34:43 **5** lot of people, a lot of movement and a lot of things  
12:34:46 **6** going on down there. And it becomes a safety issue.  
12:34:49 **7** And one of the programs within the  
12:34:51 **8** California Desert District, when we relate back to our  
12:34:54 **9** training program, the main goal -- the main goal is  
12:34:58 **10** our safety. We don't want to have anybody hurt out  
12:35:02 **11** there. It's not worth losing a life. So when we  
12:35:06 **12** train hard, it makes our work easy. And to be able  
12:35:12 **13** to -- one thing I always have to say about fire. To  
12:35:15 **14** understand it, to understand fire, you have to sleep  
12:35:20 **15** with it. You've got to eat with it. You've got to  
12:35:25 **16** breathe it to understand it because it has a mind of  
12:35:27 **17** it's own.  
12:35:28 **18** So all this training, you know, it's just a  
12:35:31 **19** situational awareness that everybody that's coming up  
12:35:34 **20** through the ranks, through this training and is  
12:35:37 **21** assigned to the engine or prevention officer or moves  
12:35:40 **22** up to fire management, has to have those skills.  
12:35:43 **23** Again, I thank you very much for letting me  
12:35:45 **24** come in this afternoon. I will open it up to  
12:35:49 **25** questions.

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12:35:50 **1** MEMBER CHARLTON: Would you talk a  
12:35:52 **2** little bit about the status of maybe cooperation with  
12:35:57 **3** military bases?  
12:36:00 **4** MR. SHERMAN: On the military bases, we  
12:36:03 **5** do have that one that we have been working on for  
12:36:06 **6** quite some time out of the Ridgecrest zone. Hector  
12:36:10 **7** has been working with the folks up there.  
12:36:13 **8** Periodically on the China Lake Military  
12:36:16 **9** Reservation or Fort Irwin or any of the military  
12:36:21 **10** reservations, they already have a fire agency within  
12:36:25 **11** the military reservation. And those are what we call  
12:36:29 **12** the Department of Defense fire folks on the case.  
12:36:33 **13** MEMBER CHARLTON: I wrote the wildland  
12:36:36 **14** Fire Plan for Edwards. And our big problem there is  
12:36:40 **15** that the staff are trained to fight commercial fires.  
12:36:45 **16** They are not trained to fight wildland fires. And we  
12:36:49 **17** are having trouble coming up with funding to provide  
12:36:54 **18** that in a timely manner. That's our major problem.  
12:36:57 **19** MR. SHERMAN: That's correct. But  
12:36:59 **20** everyone at the military bases has the same  
12:37:02 **21** opportunity as everybody else to be able to get into  
12:37:04 **22** our national training program through NWCG, NWCG  
12:37:11 **23** training, and that is out of Boise, Idaho. And  
12:37:15 **24** annually we do have a Western Regional Meeting. They  
12:37:20 **25** open up a number of slots for what we call all the S&I

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12:37:25 **1** and prevention classes. It's open to everyone.  
12:37:29 **2** I will go back to Cal Fire real quick.  
12:37:32 **3** They are very, very much in need of our wildland fire  
12:37:37 **4** training certification program. Each and every one of  
12:37:40 **5** us once we take a class and you move up into the  
12:37:43 **6** program, has to have a task book. That means it's  
12:37:47 **7** more than just getting a certificate of completion  
12:37:50 **8** when you take the class. You have got to go out and  
12:37:53 **9** prove that you are able to do what you were taught to  
12:37:57 **10** do.  
12:37:57 **11** So all of us have what they call a task  
12:38:00 **12** book. You have to at least respond or be at four  
12:38:04 **13** incidences. And the overview from the staff is what  
12:38:08 **14** they have, a red card committee. Each one of us is  
12:38:12 **15** given a card with all our fire qualifications on it.  
12:38:15 **16** And that has to be updated every year. It's something  
12:38:18 **17** that you don't really understand, you know, what we  
12:38:22 **18** have to do to get to a particular level. As you well  
12:38:26 **19** know, we have to meet physical requirements. We have  
12:38:29 **20** to meet training requirements. We have to do an  
12:38:33 **21** arduous or what we call a pack test every year just to  
12:38:37 **22** stay qualified in the fire program.  
12:38:39 **23** So with training, physical, interviews --  
12:38:44 **24** we just finished up and were mandated every year again  
12:38:48 **25** to do an annual fire preparedness review. And that

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12:38:52 **1** means sometimes folks come out from national office.  
12:38:56 **2** We have our staff out of Sacramento, out of the state  
12:39:01 **3** office. And they have a review team. And we go to  
12:39:04 **4** every one of the fire stations. We do simulated  
12:39:09 **5** drills. We check records, make sure everything is up  
12:39:12 **6** to date.  
12:39:12 **7** And again, this all goes back to the safety  
12:39:15 **8** issue. That's our number one thing is safety. So if  
12:39:18 **9** we go to each one of the fire stations, we put on  
12:39:22 **10** simulated drills. All the guys and gals are out doing  
12:39:26 **11** a preparedness review every year to meet the  
12:39:30 **12** expectations from national office is that, okay, you  
12:39:34 **13** are good to go. You guys are ready to go out and  
12:39:39 **14** fight fires and save lives.  
12:39:42 **15** MEMBER SCOTT: What about all of the  
12:39:44 **16** properties that BLM has in, say, Western San Diego  
12:39:48 **17** County or Western Riverside County, the postage  
12:39:52 **18** stamps, the single sections? How is fire management  
12:39:56 **19** taken on there?  
12:39:57 **20** MR. SHERMAN: Fire management basically  
12:39:59 **21** in those particular areas of BLM lands, public lands  
12:40:05 **22** that are dotted around private lands, with the  
12:40:10 **23** statewide California agreement, like I said, our  
12:40:13 **24** mutual aid and our four or five party agreement with  
12:40:16 **25** the agencies within California, essentially now Cal

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12:40:21 **1** Fire, which used to be California Department of  
12:40:24 **2** Forestry, they are the direct protection agencies for  
12:40:28 **3** that particular geographical locations to where we  
12:40:31 **4** have BLM lands within a particular area.  
12:40:35 **5** And that would be the same, for example, as  
12:40:39 **6** you can see by our fire map, we have got stuff dotted  
12:40:43 **7** all over. And everybody knows how that went. The  
12:40:46 **8** Park Service got the best part of the property  
12:40:49 **9** nationally. Forest Service got the next-best-looking  
12:40:53 **10** piece of property nationally. And all the leftover we  
12:40:56 **11** got. But we take pride in what we have because we  
12:40:59 **12** have such diversified geographical locations  
12:41:04 **13** throughout the whole United States.  
12:41:05 **14** We are proud of what we have here on the  
12:41:08 **15** Desert District. And that response, the first initial  
12:41:11 **16** attack response by Cal Fire on public lands within  
12:41:17 **17** their direct protection, they are the direct  
12:41:20 **18** protection agency. The same with reservation lands  
12:41:25 **19** through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Basically  
12:41:29 **20** Southern California, without being one of the  
12:41:33 **21** sovereign nations where we are running casinos on some  
12:41:36 **22** of the reservations, Cal Fire is also the direct  
12:41:40 **23** protection agency for a lot of the reservations in  
12:41:43 **24** Southern California and California nationally due to  
12:41:46 **25** the fact that California has more reservations than

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12:41:49 **1** any other state in the United States. Quite a  
12:41:51 **2** diversified program. And again, that relationship and  
12:41:54 **3** that communication between all agencies is a very  
12:41:58 **4** valuable tool in our fire program.  
12:42:00 **5** Any other questions?  
12:42:02 **6** MEMBER SCHILLER: I have a question.  
12:42:05 **7** Ron Schiller. You mentioned that you have to replace  
12:42:11 **8** your trucks at 75 to 100,000 miles or 500 hours. How  
12:42:17 **9** long a period is that in calendar time and how much do  
12:42:22 **10** they cost to replace?  
12:42:23 **11** MR. SHERMAN: Basically the calendar  
12:42:25 **12** time, we are looking at around 10 to 12 years, life  
12:42:31 **13** expectancy for those engines.  
12:42:33 **14** Pricewise, it varies in regards to the  
12:42:37 **15** contract agreement and what the bid issue is and how  
12:42:41 **16** many we are ordering statewide. But off the top right  
12:42:44 **17** now, each one of these model 14s, wildland type 3  
12:42:47 **18** engine, that's a 4-door cab. We moved everybody  
12:42:51 **19** inside, another safety issue -- keep them out of the  
12:42:55 **20** elements driving to and from an incident or  
12:42:57 **21** whatever -- run around \$240,000 per vehicle right now.  
12:43:04 **22** MEMBER HUND: First, it's Tom; right?  
12:43:08 **23** First Tom, thank you very much for your presentation.  
12:43:12 **24** And I formerly worked for California State  
12:43:14 **25** Parks for 25 years and was involved in fire

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12:43:17 **1** management, primarily prescribed burning, but also  
12:43:21 **2** into incident and to be the agency rep. And I'm very  
12:43:24 **3** impressed with your description of the BLM program.  
12:43:26 **4** It looks like a very progressive and very well thought  
12:43:30 **5** out program.  
12:43:30 **6** I was one of the ones that asked for a  
12:43:33 **7** presentation on fire management. One of the things I  
12:43:37 **8** wanted to inquire about was what strategy and tactics  
12:43:45 **9** that you might be considering or have adopted in  
12:43:48 **10** response to the increased intensity, size and duration  
12:43:52 **11** of fires as a result of the spread of exotic species  
12:43:56 **12** and also drought, because of climate change.  
12:44:02 **13** MR. SHERMAN: A large concern for all  
12:44:04 **14** agencies and especially us on the Desert District due  
12:44:07 **15** to the fact that we do have, as you folks well know, a  
12:44:10 **16** lot of sensitive areas, a lot of sensitive areas  
12:44:14 **17** within our district.  
12:44:15 **18** If and when we do have a fire or an  
12:44:19 **19** incident in these close locations, whether in  
12:44:22 **20** wilderness or whatever, there are tactics and  
12:44:25 **21** strategies that we use, what we use minimal impact  
12:44:28 **22** suppression activities. What we call a miss tactic.  
12:44:33 **23** There will be no use of what we call the big yellow  
12:44:38 **24** clouds, which would be bulldozers. A lot of that --  
12:44:42 **25** because of our cooperating agencies, again, we do have

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12:44:45 **1** the -- the first responding agency will send  
12:44:48 **2** everything. And we try to get there in time and say,  
12:44:54 **3** stop, don't unload it. We can't drop this particular  
12:44:56 **4** retardant in our jurisdiction.  
12:44:59 **5** So here again, to go back with this Service  
12:45:02 **6** First agreement, every one of these topics and items  
12:45:05 **7** that have been discussed have been identified. So  
12:45:07 **8** that if we do respond to Hole in the Wall or we do  
12:45:11 **9** respond to the Joshua Tree or Death Valley and even  
12:45:16 **10** all the lands within our district, there is a  
12:45:19 **11** template. There is protocol we use in regards to our  
12:45:23 **12** suppression tactics and strategies. And that's all  
12:45:26 **13** identified in the Desert Plan. That's identified in  
12:45:30 **14** each of the subactivities we have in each one of the  
12:45:32 **15** zones.  
12:45:33 **16** So if we have a fire in the Ridgecrest zone  
12:45:37 **17** but it's really, really close to this wilderness area,  
12:45:38 **18** let's stop and think about this real quick. We can't  
12:45:41 **19** let it keep going. But here again, we are mandated by  
12:45:44 **20** our training. And there again, it all comes back to  
12:45:49 **21** training, the new kid on the block, situational  
12:45:52 **22** awareness.  
12:45:53 **23** Once that is instilled in everybody in the  
12:45:56 **24** fire suppression program, then we know every time, we  
12:46:00 **25** still have the same management people, all the same

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12:46:02 **1** engine captains every year. Once you get used to that  
12:46:06 **2** program and can identify all these areas that are of  
12:46:09 **3** concern to all of us, then that makes the program much  
12:46:14 **4** easier.  
12:46:14 **5** But when we have a turnover with employees  
12:46:17 **6** and you are starting a new person or new engine  
12:46:21 **7** captain, it takes time to bring this person up to this  
12:46:24 **8** level to let him know this is what the program is  
12:46:28 **9** going on be on the district.  
12:46:32 **10** MEMBER HUND: Just to follow up  
12:46:38 **11** regarding maybe changes in tactics and because of  
12:46:39 **12** these more intense and frequent fires, just to give  
12:46:42 **13** you an example -- well, first, I'm really glad that  
12:46:45 **14** you have those protocols in place for sensitive  
12:46:48 **15** habitats in wilderness areas. But at the same time,  
12:46:53 **16** in State Parks I kind of run into a dilemma where,  
12:46:57 **17** because the fires were becoming more frequent and  
12:47:04 **18** intense in some areas or too frequent, that I was  
12:47:08 **19** actually encouraging CDF in some cases to use more  
12:47:13 **20** aggressive tactics in certain circumstances because of  
12:47:13 **21** the risk of such a destructive fire and losing so much  
12:47:16 **22** habitat.  
12:47:21 **23** We went from trying to get the fire  
12:47:21 **24** agencies to be less aggressive and to let, say, fires  
12:47:21 **25** burn out within a compartment, to in some cases asking

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12:47:27 **1** that they go back to the more aggressive tactics  
12:47:29 **2** because we had such a volatile situation out there.  
12:47:33 **3** MR. SHERMAN: That's a true statement.  
12:47:35 **4** Every year we have to go back and revisit what we call  
12:47:40 **5** the Wildland Urban Interface Program, due to the fact  
12:47:44 **6** that our public, state, county and local were putting  
12:47:48 **7** more merchandize out into the wildlands now.  
12:47:51 **8** As you can tell as of last year -- I will  
12:47:53 **9** have to revert back to the Esperanza fire again --  
12:47:57 **10** what are we doing? What direction -- just like you  
12:48:00 **11** said, what direction are we heading with the fire  
12:48:04 **12** program, statewide and nationally?  
12:48:06 **13** Is it worth that risk to send a crew in  
12:48:12 **14** which states in what we call our Bible -- we have what  
12:48:14 **15** we call the red book, Standards of Fire and Aviation  
12:48:17 **16** Operations through our BLM agency -- where we used to  
12:48:23 **17** be able to go into -- we had a route. We knew how to  
12:48:27 **18** get in and get out of a particular area now.  
12:48:30 **19** Those areas, all those roads aren't there  
12:48:33 **20** anymore. All we produced around the borders of all of  
12:48:38 **21** our agencies and all of the Desert District is all  
12:48:44 **22** ripped up in blacktop now. So the area of response  
12:48:47 **23** that we used to be able to get in right away and  
12:48:50 **24** control that by going in and doing a very diligent  
12:48:55 **25** direct attack on the incident, sometimes now we have

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12:48:58 **1** to drive four or five or six miles around just to get  
12:49:02 **2** back into the area where we used to be able to go.  
12:49:05 **3** So again, when we leave or everybody pulls  
12:49:07 **4** out of that garage, most everything is against you  
12:49:12 **5** because it's taking you more time to get there, i.e.,  
12:49:15 **6** whether it be traffic that we all fight every day.  
12:49:19 **7** The response time has become an issue, not because we  
12:49:23 **8** don't have the most sophisticated fire program in the  
12:49:27 **9** United States, i.e., aircraft, engine crews and  
12:49:32 **10** everything else, but that response time to get there  
12:49:35 **11** anymore, we are having to rely more -- that's why we  
12:49:40 **12** went back four years ago and increased the aviation  
12:49:44 **13** program on the District so we can get something right  
12:49:47 **14** there right away. We can get there and get a good  
12:49:51 **15** size up and put the incident out.  
12:49:54 **16** MEMBER HUND: One more thing. Could you  
12:49:56 **17** speak briefly to your pre-suppression program  
12:49:59 **18** including prescribed burning on the District?  
12:50:02 **19** MR. SHERMAN: Exactly. There again I  
12:50:04 **20** will go back to the Esperanza incident again.  
12:50:07 **21** Prescribed fire in our fuel program within  
12:50:11 **22** the District, clear from Olancha clear back down to  
12:50:15 **23** the Mexican border, it's ongoing to get with our  
12:50:20 **24** cooperators, review contracts and agreements in areas  
12:50:23 **25** where we are going to do fuel reduction in. Most all

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12:50:28 **1** of the fuel programs within the District has all  
12:50:30 **2** basically been from the Ridgecrest zone or the Palm  
12:50:34 **3** Springs-South Coast, which includes most all of  
12:50:37 **4** Southern California, San Diego, part of eastern  
12:50:39 **5** Riverside County and then the southern part of Los  
12:50:43 **6** Angeles County. But our largest fuels program has  
12:50:47 **7** always been from the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa National  
12:50:52 **8** Monument in the San Jacinto district, clear down to  
12:50:53 **9** the border.  
12:50:54 **10** Programs, prescribed fire -- and again I  
12:50:58 **11** have to go back to training and all the individuals  
12:51:00 **12** that we have within our fuels program and our fuel  
12:51:05 **13** staff, we have to meet certain criteria. You have to  
12:51:09 **14** be a qualified person; you have to be a qualified burn  
12:51:11 **15** boss. Your crew has to be qualified in understanding  
12:51:15 **16** how that fuels program works. You take some, you  
12:51:18 **17** leave some. You can't take that down. You have to  
12:51:23 **18** leave a particular species in place.  
12:51:25 **19** So it's a very taxing type of job to be  
12:51:28 **20** able to identify all the fuel types we are working in,  
12:51:32 **21** all we can take out. Do we do standing burns?  
12:51:36 **22** Basically we don't try to do that here. It's all bush  
12:51:41 **23** pile and windrow burning.  
12:51:43 **24** Again, I have to go back to the Esperanza,  
12:51:46 **25** Silent Valley, very, very, intense program. Because

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12:51:52 **1** when you are working to put your perimeter line around  
12:51:55 **2** what you are going to do for that community and all  
12:51:57 **3** the prevention, all the updated programs that deal  
12:52:03 **4** with community awareness in these communities at risk,  
12:52:06 **5** and the Fire Safe Councils, everybody is involved in  
12:52:09 **6** that fuel program, depending on the geographical  
12:52:13 **7** location we are going to do the project.  
12:52:16 **8** MEMBER BETTERLEY: You might mention  
12:52:16 **9** that Cal Fire too just signed a contract with the DC-  
12:52:20 **10** 10 for a 12,000 gallon air tanker to it at that  
12:52:26 **11** particular time. Million dollars.  
12:52:28 **12** MR. SHERMAN: That's correct. And the  
12:52:29 **13** governor has the right to do that, to be able to have  
12:52:34 **14** that additional tool in that toolbox when needed. But  
12:52:38 **15** right now -- that particular aircraft right now for  
12:52:44 **16** federal lands, it would take an act of Congress to  
12:52:48 **17** have that fly fires by our agency, only if it was  
12:52:54 **18** approved by national office. Right now that's not  
12:52:57 **19** only us, but it's the Forest Service, even though Cal  
12:53:02 **20** Fire has basically contracted that particular aircraft  
12:53:06 **21** at \$41,000 an hour when it takes off the ground.  
12:53:10 **22** The only way that particular aircraft would  
12:53:15 **23** be involved is where we do have a structure threat to  
12:53:18 **24** both life and property. And that that particular  
12:53:21 **25** incident is involving all parties involved, like they

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12:53:27 **1** did use it on the Esperanza Fire. They did use it on  
12:53:30 **2** the Pinnacles Fire and all these other fires. That  
12:53:34 **3** was a joint authorization to use that aircraft.  
12:53:41 **4** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. Well, thank  
12:53:43 **5** you, Tom.  
12:53:43 **6** MR. SHERMAN: Thank you very much. Have  
12:53:45 **7** a good afternoon, and please be safe on the way home.  
12:53:48 **8** Thank you.  
12:53:50 **9** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Well,  
12:53:53 **10** moving on to the last major item on the agenda, the  
12:53:57 **11** Council Round Table Meeting Summary and selection of  
12:54:01 **12** the next meeting site and topics. And I think Steve  
12:54:04 **13** has something to say about that.  
12:54:09 **14** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Field reports by  
12:54:15 **15** field managers. Today you got to see some variation  
12:54:19 **16** in short, brief reports or rather lengthy reports. I  
12:54:23 **17** know a while back BLM agreed to provide reports to  
12:54:31 **18** you, written reports two weeks in advance. I don't  
12:54:35 **19** think we met that deadline this go-around. I  
12:54:38 **20** apologize. We will try to get back on that deadline  
12:54:41 **21** in hopes that providing those written reports to you a  
12:54:45 **22** couple weeks in advance will give you a chance to go  
12:54:48 **23** through and formulate questions and would kind of  
12:54:51 **24** negate the need for lengthy presentations by field  
12:54:57 **25** managers.

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12:54:58 **1** Today you saw both short and lengthy  
12:55:03 **2** presentations. I guess I would like your opinion on  
12:55:10 **3** the format that you would like. Do you want us to try  
12:55:13 **4** and get that -- our previous commitment, the two-week  
12:55:21 **5** preview of the report with a very short presentation,  
12:55:29 **6** just basically a Q-and-A session with each field  
12:55:33 **7** manager? Or is your preference more of a review of  
12:55:40 **8** report here on the floor and then a Q-and-A?  
12:55:48 **9** MEMBER HUND: My feeling is a reasonably  
12:55:51 **10** detailed written report, like I will pick out Needles  
12:55:56 **11** this time, to me is a good format. I would like to  
12:55:59 **12** have a little bit of the meat. Not down to the  
12:56:05 **13** minutiae, but at least each major category and a  
12:56:08 **14** summary.  
12:56:08 **15** For me it would be nice for the field  
12:56:11 **16** office manager to do a very brief summary of -- verbal  
12:56:16 **17** summary of that report and any update since the  
12:56:20 **18** report. But I think more emphasis on the written  
12:56:24 **19** report and less on the verbal and more on the Q-and-A.  
12:56:28 **20** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: The Q-and-A time is  
12:56:31 **21** very valuable. You feel we would be better reserving  
12:56:35 **22** the time for, say, questions and answers rather  
12:56:42 **23** than -- to make that happen right, we have to get  
12:56:45 **24** those reports to you a couple weeks in advance.  
12:56:49 **25** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: I think it's

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12:56:51 **1** helpful -- I like what Geary suggested. And I think  
12:56:56 **2** Q-and-A is probably more informative --  
12:57:01 **3** UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mike.  
12:57:02 **4** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: I'm sorry. The  
12:57:04 **5** Q-and-A is probably more informative than the whole  
12:57:09 **6** volume of the report, but after you have been able to  
12:57:12 **7** review the text, I would like to hear a highlight from  
12:57:16 **8** each of the managers of what they think is hot in  
12:57:18 **9** their particular area, you know, just giving them the  
12:57:24 **10** flexibility to present what they think is a topical  
12:57:28 **11** part of their report, as well.  
12:57:34 **12** MEMBER CHARLTON: I know there is a lot  
12:57:36 **13** of new people here. Historically we are spending too  
12:57:40 **14** much of the meeting going over those reports. So we  
12:57:44 **15** decided to have them send us a full report  
12:57:48 **16** electronically so we could read them and shorten the  
12:57:53 **17** amount of time.  
12:57:56 **18** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: That was the  
12:57:57 **19** original idea. Okay.  
12:58:02 **20** Yeah, so it sounds like consensus is we  
12:58:07 **21** will strive for our two-week advance of the written  
12:58:10 **22** report, a fairly meaty report. And then a very, very  
12:58:19 **23** brief summary of what the field manager wants to point  
12:58:22 **24** out as the highlights. And then opportunity for  
12:58:25 **25** Q-and-A. Okay. We will do that.

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12:58:31 **1** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. We will try  
12:58:34 **2** that for the next meeting. And I guess that brings us  
12:58:38 **3** to an idea about where we should have our next meeting  
12:58:41 **4** and when.  
12:58:42 **5** We do have a proposal or invitation to meet  
12:58:47 **6** in Needles at the new field station there, new  
12:58:54 **7** offices. It's been graciously offered by field  
12:58:58 **8** manager Sterling White. And does anybody have any  
12:59:01 **9** objections to that? I think, Steve, our next meeting  
12:59:05 **10** would be when? Late September or early October?  
12:59:11 **11** MR. RAZO: Late September, 22, 23, I  
12:59:14 **12** believe. I just closed my calendar on myself. 21,  
12:59:18 **13** 22, and September 28, 29 is late September. I don't  
12:59:24 **14** know if that conflicts with anything.  
12:59:27 **15** MEMBER ACUNA: October works good  
12:59:29 **16** because of the cooler weather.  
12:59:32 **17** MR. RAZO: You would rather switch to  
12:59:34 **18** October?  
12:59:34 **19** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: We can't go too far  
12:59:37 **20** into October. Do we have another one?  
12:59:43 **21** MEMBER JOHNSTON: September 28 and 29.  
12:59:47 **22** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. September 28  
12:59:48 **23** and 29 in Needles.  
12:59:51 **24** MR. RAZO: Suggested field tour is the  
12:59:54 **25** Viceroy mining reclamation. Actually go out there and

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12:59:59 **1** see that. And also visit a solar site, I believe.  
13:00:04 **2** Correct this? So we have a field tour pretty much  
13:00:10 **3** set.  
13:00:11 **4** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: That sounds very good.  
13:00:13 **5** DIRECTOR BORCHARD: What about the new  
13:00:16 **6** Kingston campground? Is it possible to do all those  
13:00:20 **7** things in a one-day field trip?  
13:00:23 **8** MR. WHITE: It would be a full day and  
13:00:26 **9** is possible.  
13:00:27 **10** MR. RAZO: It would be a full day and is  
13:00:29 **11** possible.  
13:00:29 **12** MEMBER HUND: I would like to visit a  
13:00:31 **13** site, and that incorporates an aspect of resource  
13:00:35 **14** management, restoration, and also recreation.  
**15** MEMBER BETTERLEY: Do we need a motion  
**16** on that?  
13:00:37 **17** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: So if we could fit  
13:00:39 **18** that in, that would be great. Okay. We don't need a  
13:00:53 **19** motion on that. We just said the date is September  
13:00:57 **20** 28, 29, 2007. Needles. Friday field trip to Viceroy  
13:01:02 **21** mine and up to Horsethief.  
13:01:08 **22** MR. RAZO: If I could take advantage of  
13:01:13 **23** the recent conversation about field reports, field  
13:01:14 **24** office managers that are here, please mark your  
13:01:17 **25** calendar the week of September 4 through 7. Let's

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13:01:21 **1** just say by September 6 your reports are due to me.  
13:01:27 **2** That way I'm sure to get them to the DAC Committee two  
13:01:31 **3** weeks in advance.  
13:01:32 **4** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: At that time would it  
13:01:33 **5** be possible to have an agenda? I have some points  
13:01:40 **6** that I wrote down. There were four things that I have  
13:01:45 **7** written down that were asked to be on the agenda for  
13:01:49 **8** discussion. The recreation plan, at least its status  
13:01:52 **9** for the Desert District. Supplemental Rules Committee  
13:01:56 **10** update. Probably should have been energy task force  
13:01:59 **11** update at that time. And then we had mentioned -- you  
13:02:04 **12** and I talked about a Truckhaven update with  
13:02:08 **13** geothermal.  
13:02:08 **14** MR. RAZO: Yes, you can. You did  
13:02:11 **15** receive a short briefing in your package on  
13:02:14 **16** Truckhaven. We can certainly follow up with a more  
13:02:17 **17** detailed brief if you would like. And my other one  
13:02:21 **18** was the guzzlers. I think you wanted a guzzler policy  
13:02:27 **19** briefing.  
13:02:29 **20** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: One of the things that  
13:02:31 **21** we kicked around last night at dinner was the idea  
13:02:36 **22** that in California, we have a lot of these  
13:02:39 **23** applications for solar and wind and geothermal. And  
13:02:44 **24** in Southern California, in the Desert District, we  
13:02:46 **25** probably have more than most other parts of

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13:02:50 **1** California. And in fact, Northern California is  
13:02:53 **2** starting to get applications for wind applications.  
13:02:59 **3** And there seems to be an idea that the Desert District  
13:03:04 **4** here is ahead of the curve on most of this, on ideas  
13:03:09 **5** that we have given. The District people, BLM managers  
13:03:14 **6** and staff and with some input from DAC, have been able  
13:03:18 **7** to begin the process and clarify the process and have  
13:03:22 **8** some ideas about where they are going. And you might  
13:03:25 **9** even say there is a loose plan. And to have a plan is  
13:03:28 **10** amazing. That's wonderful.  
13:03:30 **11** So in our discussion last night it was  
13:03:34 **12** kicked around that perhaps we should think about  
13:03:37 **13** inviting BLM Nevada and BLM Arizona to the Needles  
13:03:44 **14** meeting to try to get a dialogue started with those  
13:03:50 **15** agencies, because some of the applications, one of  
13:03:52 **16** which we heard yesterday, the Blythe project where the  
13:03:56 **17** transmission line has been essentially stopped at the  
13:03:59 **18** moment at the Arizona border, and that there is some  
13:04:03 **19** consideration of individuals going to make  
13:04:06 **20** applications that would carry electricity from the  
13:04:10 **21** west to the east into Arizona, that perhaps a dialogue  
13:04:15 **22** with some of BLM representatives from Arizona and  
13:04:19 **23** Nevada would be profitable in trying to ease the  
13:04:23 **24** protocols between the three states. Perhaps some kind  
13:04:27 **25** of an agreement.

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13:04:27 **1** I think -- would this be called -- what's  
13:04:32 **2** it called? Would this be a Service First idea that  
13:04:39 **3** BLM makes protocols with BLM and agreements in  
13:04:43 **4** different states? That might ease things for both the  
13:04:46 **5** transmission people and for developers. So I don't  
13:04:50 **6** know if that's possible, but we might be able to  
13:04:52 **7** explore that between now and then and see what  
13:04:55 **8** happens.  
13:04:56 **9** MR. RAZO: We are used to writing the  
13:05:00 **10** book on things. This could be another one.  
13:05:04 **11** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Okay. So that takes  
13:05:06 **12** pretty much care of the next meeting, where, location,  
13:05:09 **13** the whole bit. And we will figure out where to stay  
13:05:12 **14** later on.  
13:05:16 **15** Is there any other business that the DAC  
13:05:21 **16** wants to consider? Individual summaries?  
13:05:27 **17** MEMBER THOMAS DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, two  
13:05:29 **18** things that follow up from last meeting. One was that  
13:05:33 **19** BLM staff was going to look into providing a  
13:05:38 **20** graphic -- geographic location of these permits for  
13:05:43 **21** our reference. I wonder if we could see where that's  
13:05:46 **22** at. And also, we were going to get a -- more or less  
13:05:52 **23** a listing in our backup also of all the TRTs and who  
13:05:56 **24** is on them.  
13:05:58 **25** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: I can answer or

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13:06:00 **1** attempt to answer the TRT.  
13:06:03 **2** Jennifer and I have been trying to put that  
13:06:05 **3** together since the last meeting. And we have -- we  
13:06:11 **4** came up with a list of some of the names of people who  
13:06:13 **5** I knew were on TRTs in the past. And Roy has helped  
13:06:17 **6** with that as well. And we are still trying to get  
13:06:20 **7** some responses from some of the people in the past.  
13:06:25 **8** So I have to say that it's not finished and it's not  
13:06:28 **9** clear as to what the past TRTs are. But we are  
13:06:32 **10** working on that, and we are trying to move forward in  
13:06:35 **11** that area.  
13:06:37 **12** And as to the GIS/GPS map, I believe  
13:06:48 **13** somebody -- Hector mentioned that that was coming,  
13:06:51 **14** that it was in the process. And Bruce has been  
13:06:53 **15** working in that area as well. I did receive a couple  
13:06:57 **16** of comments from -- oh dear -- Geary, and I think  
13:07:06 **17** somebody else, but I don't remember who, maybe Tom, as  
13:07:10 **18** to what they would like on the overlays. And those  
13:07:12 **19** have been forwarded. So I think it's moving forward,  
13:07:15 **20** but I don't think it's on the -- real high on the list  
13:07:19 **21** at the moment, given all of the application materials  
13:07:22 **22** that we heard about yesterday, but it's moving  
13:07:25 **23** forward.  
13:07:28 **24** Any other comments or questions of the DAC?  
13:07:33 **25** Okay. We have as a last item, then, public comment.

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13:07:40 **1** If there is any public comments that are to be made?  
13:07:42 **2** John.  
13:07:44 **3** MR. STEWART: Good afternoon. John  
13:07:55 **4** Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel Drive  
13:07:58 **5** Clubs.  
13:08:00 **6** A favorite topic of mine is sticking up for  
13:08:03 **7** the recreationists. And I heard a lot of words today  
13:08:07 **8** that I want to clarify and make sure that people  
13:08:10 **9** understand that as this effort for the supplemental  
13:08:15 **10** rule goes forward -- I endorse the idea; I think it's  
13:08:20 **11** a great idea -- but I'm kind of concerned that it's  
13:08:23 **12** limited to just TRTs and start talking about riders  
13:08:28 **13** and trails. When, in fact, you are looking at  
13:08:32 **14** something that is -- recreation is not limited to just  
13:08:36 **15** riders with the connotation with riding on dirt bike  
13:08:40 **16** and ATV. We also have four-wheel drive vehicles out  
13:08:45 **17** there, and when you are looking at areas where the  
13:08:48 **18** energy projects are not going to be in OHV areas but  
13:08:53 **19** yet there is still other recreation using four-wheel  
13:08:54 **20** drive vehicles that are street legal, I want to make  
13:08:56 **21** sure that that is something that is kept in mind and  
13:08:58 **22** part of the discussion as recreationists' picture, an  
13:09:02 **23** overall picture as these efforts move forward.  
13:09:06 **24** Thank you.  
13:09:07 **25** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Thank you. Any other

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13:09:11 **1** comments? Yes, sir.  
13:09:14 **2** MR. MATTHEWS: My name is Dave Matthews.  
13:09:20 **3** Some of you know me from previous meetings. 717 Kevin  
13:09:25 **4** Court in Ridgecrest.  
13:09:26 **5** One of my main concerns here all the way up  
13:09:29 **6** to the end of the meeting was the fact that for this  
13:09:32 **7** meeting and the past several meetings, I have been  
13:09:36 **8** unable to find any agenda reasonably prior to notice  
13:09:41 **9** to the meeting itself.  
13:09:43 **10** And I was about to chastise you for that.  
13:09:48 **11** And in fact, I consider it a delinquent action on the  
13:09:53 **12** BLM's part because people that are interested in what  
13:09:59 **13** may take place here have no way of finding out unless  
13:10:03 **14** they come down here. And with the price of gas these  
13:10:06 **15** days, that's part of the reason why I haven't been  
13:10:10 **16** coming down more regularly than I have.  
13:10:12 **17** So I thank you for trying to get that  
13:10:14 **18** agenda for the next meeting straightened out. And  
13:10:19 **19** also now I know what the dates are and whether it's  
13:10:23 **20** going to be a field trip. Sounds interesting.  
13:10:26 **21** My thoughts yesterday when the message from  
13:10:36 **22** State Director Mike Pool was given was that kind of a  
13:10:42 **23** déjà vu thing, you might say, when he was talking  
13:10:47 **24** about the BLM getting older, the employees getting  
13:10:51 **25** older. And the déjà vu part came to my service days

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13:10:56 **1** up to ten years ago with the federal -- with the Navy  
13:11:02 **2** as a civil servant. There, too, I saw the aging  
13:11:07 **3** taking place.  
13:11:10 **4** And it was also mentioned in the message  
13:11:13 **5** yesterday that there was going to be an efficiency  
13:11:19 **6** program or something like that implemented. Well,  
13:11:22 **7** that's great. It sounds good. However, I would like  
13:11:28 **8** to get the message back that that's not going to  
13:11:32 **9** completely solve the problem. You've got to find ways  
13:11:35 **10** to start back-filling with younger people. Some kind  
13:11:39 **11** of incentive to get people to come work for the BLM  
13:11:44 **12** because what happens is you lose a lot of corporate  
13:11:48 **13** memory, so to speak, when old people move on and you  
13:11:52 **14** don't have somebody there in sort of an apprentice  
13:11:57 **15** status looking to see what is going on.  
13:12:04 **16** The funny kind of a thing happened on the  
13:12:09 **17** way home last night. My partner that was with me  
13:12:13 **18** yesterday, Sam Merck, and I were driving up 395. And  
13:12:20 **19** somewhere around Victorville, we passed under some  
13:12:26 **20** power lines that were crossing across the road. And  
13:12:31 **21** Sam just happened to mention, "Hey, look there. Why  
13:12:35 **22** don't we just put some photovoltaic panels in a line  
13:12:43 **23** along the transmission line?"  
13:12:45 **24** And she chuckled, and I said, "That's not a  
13:12:50 **25** bad idea. You have the power grid and the

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13:14:29 **1** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Moved and seconded.  
13:14:31 **2** All in favor? Opposed? So adjourned.  
**3** (The proceedings concluded at 1:14 p.m.)  
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13:12:52 **1** right-of-way right there." And I know I'm bringing  
13:12:55 **2** this up because there is a lot of different situations  
13:13:00 **3** that could be addressed.  
13:13:03 **4** And you people are going to be interfacing  
13:13:05 **5** with some of these suppliers or vendors or whatever  
13:13:11 **6** that are looking to put in some of these systems. And  
13:13:14 **7** I would encourage you to maybe start having them look  
13:13:18 **8** at that situation. I think it's feasible myself.  
13:13:21 **9** There is a little bit different mounting systems  
13:13:27 **10** involved, but I think it could be done. Anything can  
13:13:30 **11** be done if you really put effort and time into it.  
13:13:36 **12** And I believe that's probably all -- oh,  
13:13:40 **13** no. The Needles field office manager mentioned that  
13:13:44 **14** he was going to make an OHV tour guide or something to  
13:13:51 **15** that effect. And it wasn't apparent to me, and I'm  
13:13:53 **16** curious as to where the funding for that guide comes  
13:13:57 **17** from, because I know Hector in the Ridgecrest field  
13:14:03 **18** office is pressed for funds for those kinds of things  
13:14:06 **19** and maybe we can get some hints for up there. Thank  
13:14:09 **20** you.  
13:14:15 **21** CHAIRMAN PRESCH: Any other public  
13:14:16 **22** comments? Seeing none, do I hear a motion for  
13:14:23 **23** adjournment?  
13:14:25 **24** MEMBER HUND: So moved.  
13:14:28 **25** MEMBER MABEN: Second.

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1 R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E  
2  
3 I, Judith W. Gillespie, a certified  
4 shorthand reporter, do hereby certify that the  
5 foregoing pages comprise a full, true and correct  
6 transcription of the proceedings had and the testimony  
7 taken at the hearing in the hereinbefore-entitled  
8 matter of June 23, 2007.  
9 Dated this 29th day of July, 2007, at  
10 Riverside, California.  
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17 Judith W. Gillespie, CSR No. 3710  
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