

1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
3 CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
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11 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
12 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019  
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21 JOB NO. 3785281  
22 REPORTED BY:  
23 DIANE CARVER MANN,  
24 CLR, CSR NO. 6008  
25 PAGES 1-158

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1 MEETING OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF  
2 LAND MANAGEMENT CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT ADVISORY  
3 COUNCIL AT 888 EAST TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, PALM SPRINGS,  
4 CALIFORNIA, COMMENCING AT 9:06 A.M. ON SATURDAY,  
5 DECEMBER 7, 2019, BEFORE DIANE CARVER MANN,  
6 CSR NO. 6008.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:	REPRESENTING:
FRAZIER HANEY (ACTING CHAIR)	ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS CATEGORY 2
DAN TAYLOR	COMMERCIAL RECREATION ACTIVITIES, CATEGORY 1
JIM KENNEY	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INTERESTS, CATEGORY 2
MARIANA MAGUIRE	PUBLIC-AT-LARGE, CATEGORY 3
ANDREW ARCHULETA	DISTRICT MANAGER, DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER
PAUL MARTIN	ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, CATEGORY 1
ROBERT LOVINGOOD	ELECTED OFFICIAL, CATEGORY 3
ED STOVIN	OFF-HIGHWAY USERS, CATEGORY 1
JIM BAGLEY	PUBLIC-AT-LARGE, CATEGORY 3

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1 PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

2 9:06 A.M.

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

4 ---000---

5 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Welcome, everybody, to the  
6 Desert Advisory Council meeting. Really good to see  
7 everybody, and glad to have you here today. My name is  
8 Andrew Archuleta. I'm the California Desert District  
9 manager as well as the designated federal official for  
10 this advisory committee.

11 I want to just say thanks to all of the local  
12 BLM field office Palm Springs for helping us out here  
13 today and for getting things set up, but I want to point  
14 a couple of folks out. You know, with me coming in new  
15 and just a lot of vacant positions, there's been a lot  
16 of transition and people moving around, and I just want  
17 to thank some folks.

18 So first of all, Sarah Webster, she's with our  
19 public affairs office in Sacramento, and she's kind of  
20 been on loan to us, helping us out here on the district  
21 for probably the last year. So thank you, Sarah. We  
22 really appreciate your help.

23 In that position, in our public affairs  
24 position, we just hired Michelle VanderLinden. And so  
25 she'll be taking over that role for the district. So

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1 we're excited to have Michelle on board.

2 Let's see. There were a couple of others here.  
3 Brandon in the back there, I just wanted to point  
4 Brandon out, Brandon Anderson. We created a new  
5 position in the district called our assistant district  
6 manager for project management. With all of the  
7 projects going on that you looked at yesterday, a lot of  
8 heavy workload, and so Brandon has been supervising that  
9 group of folks. So glad to have Brandon in that  
10 position.

11 Then Vicki Wood. Vicki, we have a vacancy down  
12 in El Centro with our BLM manager position, and more  
13 recently Vicki has agreed to step up and fill in that  
14 position. We did make a selection there, and  
15 Ryan Chatterton, who some of you may know, is going to  
16 be taking over as the field manager down in El Centro.  
17 He's back on the job Monday. So thank you, Vicki, for  
18 stepping up and doing that.

19 With that, now that I've put us off schedule  
20 already, we'll get started here. And I'll turn it over  
21 to Frazier, and we'll start off with the pledge.

22 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Great. Thank you, Andrew.  
23 I'll just take us straight in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
24 If you would stand.

25 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

1           MANAGER ARCHULETA: I did forget one person  
2 here. I wanted to acknowledge Ben Gruber. You all know  
3 Ben. He's associate district manager, but he's been  
4 acting as the district manager for several months and  
5 has just done an outstanding job. So thank you, Ben. I  
6 appreciate all the hard work there.

7   (Applause.)

8           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Okay. Just a couple of  
9 procedural things, and we'll get into the agenda. One,  
10 I think I recognize most of you here, but if anybody is  
11 new, there's comment cards on the back table. So as we  
12 go through the agenda items, please walk back if you'd  
13 like to make a comment, pick up a comment card and fill  
14 it out, and they'll walk them up here to us so that we  
15 can call you out in order of the agenda items you're  
16 interested in talking about.

17           Two is the same as last meeting. We don't have  
18 a -- I understand we don't have a quorum because of the  
19 lack of Category 2 representatives; is that right?

20           MANAGER ARCHULETA: I'm not sure which  
21 category, but we don't have a quorum.

22           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah, so we don't have a  
23 quorum this morning, but as Mark Algazy suggested at the  
24 last meeting, we'll proceed and pretend that we do have  
25 a quorum. So if there's matters that we want to vote on

1 to advise the BLM, I would recommend that we just go  
2 ahead and make those recommendations and advisements.

3 And with that, that's all the procedural  
4 pieces. So I think -- do we want to look at or  
5 approve -- it's on the agenda to look at or approve the  
6 transcript from the last meeting, but that's not been  
7 our habit.

8 MANAGER ARCHULETA: So did everybody receive --  
9 so I'm going to be asking some questions here because  
10 this is my first DAC meeting, a little different than  
11 previous RACs that I've been involved with, but just  
12 curious from the DAC members, did you receive the  
13 transcript from the last meeting?

14 MEMBER KENNEY: No.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's posted on the  
16 website.

17 MANAGER ARCHULETA: It's posted on the website?  
18 So, you know, I'm not going to take over here, Frazier.  
19 I just wanted to clear some things up. We've had a lot  
20 of transition. When I came in, we had 50 vacancies just  
21 in the Desert District alone, so we're working hard at  
22 filling a lot of those positions. But whenever you have  
23 that many vacancies and people filling in, it's tough to  
24 keep things running smoothly. But we're going to try to  
25 get that information to the DAC much sooner than we did



1 for this meeting, so apologies with that. That's just  
2 the way things have gone.

3 What we'll try and do in the future, though, is  
4 just let you know when those transcripts get posted on  
5 the web. We won't send them out, but you can get on  
6 there and take a look. We'll be trying to get those  
7 reports out ahead of time so you can be taking a look at  
8 them. So I would say let's just move on.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Okay. That brings us to  
10 the Desert Advisory Council member reports. I'd like to  
11 suggest if any of the council members here, if you'd  
12 like a report in, Dan, we can start with you and just  
13 work our way down the table here right to left.

14 MEMBER TAYLOR: I don't think I have anything  
15 special to report except for I know that the filming on  
16 Federal Lands was really good this year, especially in  
17 the Barstow region, so --

18 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Member Kenney?

19 MEMBER KENNEY: Nothing special to report.

20 MEMBER MAGUIRE: Nothing to report. Just want  
21 to thank our -- everyone at BLM for working hard to put  
22 this together. And it looks like we are returning to a  
23 regular order of meetings, which is great, and we all  
24 look forward to it. Thank you.

25 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I've just got a couple of

1 things to discuss. One is to welcome Andrew. We're  
2 really glad to have you, Andrew. You seem like a  
3 seasoned veteran at BLM. We're glad that you've come  
4 over to join your family in California. Hopefully this  
5 opens a period of kind of stability in the district. We  
6 will keep our fingers crossed.

7 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Thank you.

8 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Two is I think the fact  
9 that we again don't have a quorum here this morning sort  
10 of is a symptom of maybe something larger that's going  
11 on. And that is we all know that there's a constant  
12 struggle with trying to keep the agency well-staffed. I  
13 know that there's open positions in the district and in  
14 the field offices.

15 And I know that part of that is budget at the  
16 agency and part of it is just the ability to fill  
17 positions quickly with the human resources capacity that  
18 BLM has. So as I think about 2020 and BLM, one of my  
19 priorities for the agency and any advocacy that I would  
20 do is to try and make sure the agency is flush and  
21 well-staffed. I think that's a major priority right  
22 now.

23 The other thing that I'd like to report out on  
24 is just to remind the DAC that in previous years, as we  
25 face the amendment -- the possible amendment to the

1 DRECP, we expressed our concern to BLM about any  
2 amendments and wanting to make sure that the DRECP was  
3 handled carefully, especially in the face of positive  
4 things that many of us would think, well, more renewable  
5 energy is a good thing out there in Riverside East in  
6 the zone, that's going kind of according to plan.

7 But it could be that we're looking into the  
8 next solar rush in the California Desert, and I think  
9 tinkering with the fundamental components of DRECP over  
10 the next year or two could get us right back where we  
11 were eight or nine years ago when solar was kind of  
12 dominating the landscape and there was a lot of  
13 contention. So we should keep our eyes to a possible  
14 DRECP amendment coming out in the next couple of months,  
15 and I think we should all look at that carefully and be  
16 ready to read and respond to that.

17 And that's all I've got that I wanted to  
18 recognize at the beginning of the meeting.

19 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Paul?

20 MEMBER MARTIN: Yep. I was very impressed  
21 yesterday with the visit to the solar and the wind  
22 turbine. I was very impressed yesterday with our field  
23 trip out to the solar and wind facilities, and it's  
24 really good to see how much development is occurring in  
25 this area and how technology is beginning to optimize

1 this procedure where the costs now are dropping to a  
2 very reasonable rate. And I'm very pleased to see that,  
3 and I hope that we can do the same in optimizing mineral  
4 development on BLM lands along with nonrenewable  
5 energies. Thank you.

6 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you.  
7 Supervisor Lovingood?

8 MEMBER LOVINGOOD: Good morning. This is my  
9 first -- Robert Lovingood, First District supervisor,  
10 San Bernardino County, covering from the top of the  
11 Cajon Pass to Mountain Pass to Needles then out to Trona  
12 and Searles Valley. That's the area that I cover, and  
13 I'm glad to be able to join you this morning.

14 MEMBER STOVIN: Well, I'd like to thank Doug  
15 for the tour yesterday, and I got some quality time  
16 talking to him. I enjoyed that quite a bit.

17 As for the solar and the wind projects, my  
18 personal opinion is it really bothers me to see that  
19 much habitat, desert destruction to gain electricity for  
20 the cities. I'm an off-road vehicle user and advocate,  
21 and to come over the hill and see that expanse when I'm  
22 expecting just raw, virgin, natural desert, it really  
23 hurts me.

24 I understand the BLM has a mandate to process  
25 permits for these kind of events, so I don't hold you

1 guys responsible. I know how the process works, but it  
2 still just bothers me. I mean, tractors went out there  
3 and destroyed all that habitat, square miles of habitat.  
4 I think as a society we can do better. We can use way  
5 more rooftop. I understand that they're making solar  
6 panels that can be embedded in the road, so there's  
7 other ways to get the power. I just don't like it.

8 I am president of the San Diego Off-Road  
9 Coalition, and last month we had a poker run on BLM land  
10 near Superstition Mountain in the El Centro District.  
11 And it was a great event. Nothing went wrong. We had  
12 about 650 entries, 3,000 signatures on the release, and  
13 it was a wonderful event.

14 We followed the permit and the stipulations  
15 provided by the BLM, and it helps us to put on a  
16 high-quality event. I mean, hundreds of people just  
17 said, "Oh, we had a great time. We always look forward  
18 to this event." It's our first event of the season, so  
19 that was great.

20 We did have one problem. I marked a route on  
21 the Thursday before. Friday afternoon before the event  
22 I went around to check part of it, and some people had  
23 set up a camp right on the route. And we don't have a  
24 lot of discretion as a user group to adjust the route.

25 And I stopped, and I talked to the people, and

1 the guy was adamant they weren't moving. They've been  
2 camping here for years and years. And even though he  
3 had a beer in his hand, he was really quite serious. So  
4 I thought, oh, God. So the next morning of the event I  
5 went by there. It turned out they had moved their camp  
6 a hundred yards away, so that was kind of a relief.

7           There's an action for a gypsum mine expansion  
8 in the El Centro District. I went over there, and I  
9 went inside the mine. And I found some people, and they  
10 showed me what they were doing. And I don't think it's  
11 going to have any effect at all on recreation and barely  
12 anything on conservation, the people who want to  
13 conserve. It's just they're mining a little bit further  
14 in an area where there's practically nothing living.

15           I'm interested in becoming an archaeological  
16 site steward, and I contacted a group called CASSP,  
17 California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program. And  
18 we're going to be coordinating a training in San Diego  
19 in the coming year. They had two trainings last year,  
20 and both of them were in the far Northern California. I  
21 live in San Diego, so it's hard to get up there for a  
22 weekend. So I think it's going to be with the Cleveland  
23 National Forest. They're interested in having some site  
24 stewards, so we'll see how that goes.

25           In the El Centro District there's an area

1 called Painted Gorge. Our organization is teaming up  
2 with a Second Amendment group. We're going to be doing  
3 a cleanup out there a week from tomorrow. So thank you,  
4 El Centro BLM and Neil, for coordinating the dumpster to  
5 be put out there. It's one of those areas that I really  
6 value, and it's been sort of a forgotten place. I've  
7 never heard of a cleanup out there in all the decades  
8 I've been going. So it's really nice that we can get  
9 people out there and clean up a really great area.

10 By the way, Painted Gorge Road is the western  
11 border of the open area, Plaster City open area, so  
12 people off-road on the east side of that. And then on  
13 the west side is limited use, and people shoot in there,  
14 so there's a lot of trigger trash.

15 In Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation  
16 Area there's an Environmental Assessment to add  
17 geothermal test wells on the very outskirts of the park,  
18 and that's land that's owned by the Bureau of Land  
19 Management. And I commented on that. I don't like  
20 having geothermal test wells in a State Park, an  
21 off-road park.

22 But given that, it's not the worst thing to  
23 happen to us. They're right on the very border of the  
24 park. It's in the limited use area, and it won't be  
25 affecting any actual routes. But I don't like the

1 precedent that it sets that they can put energy  
2 facilities inside an off-road park.

3 And finally I'm really happy that WEMO is just  
4 about finished as far as contention. I know Christina  
5 has a lot of work to do implementing the plan, but it's  
6 been litigated for many years, and to actually see it  
7 being done and being processed. And it appears like  
8 there's a fair amount of routes out there. We were  
9 worried that all the routes were going to go away. So  
10 I'm happy that's moving forward. That's all I have.

11 MEMBER BAGLEY: Good morning. My name is  
12 Jim Bagley. I'm the public member. I live in 29 Palms.  
13 My family goes back to the homesteading period in the  
14 California Desert. I'm a third-generation member of the  
15 desert. I'm also a recycled DAC member. I was on a  
16 part of the DAC in the 1990s. And, Andrew, welcome  
17 aboard. I'm glad to have you be here. I'm new back on  
18 the DAC.

19 I hope we're going to restore the DAC to what  
20 it should be, and this is public comment about that. I  
21 would like us to meet quarterly. I come from the public  
22 sector. When we hold public meetings, we are bound by  
23 the Brown Act and open meeting procedures, and I believe  
24 that we should conduct these meetings in that same  
25 spirit.



1           The Brown Act is unique to California. It's an  
2 open meeting law, but it requires public agencies to  
3 publish their agendas in advance so the public has full  
4 access to everything we're discussing. And as a member  
5 of the DAC, I would like the public to see everything  
6 that I see also in advance so there's plenty of time for  
7 us to review this. I understand there's a lot of  
8 changes, but I hope that we can change the way the DAC  
9 functions in the future.

10           I would love to see the agendas come out. I  
11 know you have a constraint with trying to deal with  
12 Washington, but if there are staff reports or we're  
13 going to look at things, I would like -- part of the  
14 website should be posting those agendas and inviting  
15 people to come.

16           I take this role very seriously. We are the  
17 public input into the agency. You hold separate public  
18 meetings, but this is the opportunity for the public  
19 from the wide spectrum of public interest in the Public  
20 Lands to come before us. And I want that opportunity to  
21 be there, and people need to know that that's why we're  
22 here. And Palm Springs is a perfect opportunity.

23           I feel like we miss an opportunity if we don't  
24 do that, and so I'm hoping in the future we'll just get  
25 those staff reports out. And if there's anything we can

1 do to help with Washington being more cooperative, that  
2 would be important too. But as a DAC member for the  
3 staff sitting here, the district managers, the people  
4 who are going to facilitate these meetings, I hope that  
5 message gets passed up, that we take this role  
6 seriously.

7 I want to thank the staff for the field trip  
8 yesterday. It was excellent. It's one of the pleasures  
9 of being on the Desert District Advisory Council is to  
10 go out in the field and actually see things on the  
11 ground. It's very insightful when we see alternative  
12 energy when we were at the solar project yesterday, the  
13 technology change that's happened in just the decade  
14 since they've been permitted.

15 And wind energy has changed dramatically. In  
16 my lifetime the original wind energy was fought tooth  
17 and nail, and now it's the most popular thing you can  
18 shoot here in Palm Springs. I'm very glad to see new  
19 efficiencies come off the progress in solar technology  
20 and wind technology and innovations even with the water  
21 battery project for Eagle Mountain.

22 These are creative, interesting ways to  
23 providing alternative energy, and I think we need to be  
24 open in the future. It's refreshing to me to see a  
25 smaller footprint with larger gain from the energy. I

1 think that's what the future will bring for us. We  
2 always need to be open to that, and I'm glad to see that  
3 happening.

4 On a personal note I had an opportunity to go  
5 out to Roy's Café in Amboy in early November. They  
6 celebrated relighting the sign. I'm a multiple-use  
7 advocate. In my lifetime the California Desert has  
8 become extremely restricted. When I grew up as a boy,  
9 there were millions of acres that I had recreational  
10 access to. There are hundreds of miles of roads and  
11 recreational opportunities that have been curtailed in  
12 my lifetime. These have been bitter public battles.

13 I, as somebody who lives in the desert and  
14 makes a choice to live in the desert for recreation,  
15 feel that I have been on the losing end of a political  
16 process more than once. We used to see the Bureau of  
17 Land Management as an impressive government agency. Now  
18 I look at the Bureau of Land Management as the last best  
19 hope to maintain multiple-use access on the Public  
20 Lands.

21 So going to Roy's was really fun. Roy's is a  
22 private café. It is the most recognizable icon in the  
23 California Desert that I can think of internationally.  
24 Roy's Café is used for advertising in print media. In  
25 my lifetime it used to be a location that has become

1 phenomenal in ways that recognize that. They're  
2 struggling to make a living there. They've got water  
3 quality issues. I would love it if they could open the  
4 hotel again.

5 But I'm also a pilot. And this is part of the  
6 multiple-use recreational part of this. The Amboy area  
7 is now included in a national monument, which I was on  
8 the other side of. I don't want to have more  
9 restrictions on public access. I understand the desire  
10 to maintain the California Desert, but this ability to  
11 fly in and have an aviation component is part of a  
12 recreational broad spectrum of Public Lands.

13 It was so refreshing to have them open up this  
14 private strip again and invite people to fly in. It was  
15 a major component. It was really fun if you had a  
16 chance to be there. They brought the airplanes in.  
17 They taxied. And they relit the sign. It was a  
18 wonderful November night. It was really spectacular.

19 This is why I live in the desert, and it's part  
20 of the many hats I wear recreationally. And the  
21 opportunity to use aviation and other recreational  
22 aspects of the desert are disappearing. So it's really  
23 nice to see that, and I hope that will be part of the  
24 ethos of that monument in the future. So I'm glad to be  
25 here. Glad to be in Palm Springs even on a rainy day,

1 and look forward to the rest of the meeting.

2 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, DAC members.

3 Thanks for those comments, Jim.

4 We're going to move into the public comment on  
5 any Desert Advisory Council member reports or any  
6 non-agenda items right now. So if there's items that  
7 are outside of the written agenda -- Jim, would you like  
8 to -- I think Jim has something to say on behalf of a  
9 member of the general public.

10 MEMBER KENNEY: I have some comments made by  
11 Sophia Merk, who most of us know as Sam. She wanted me  
12 to reiterate that she didn't feel like we got the 30-day  
13 notice on some of the stuff that's happening here, and  
14 that's been something we've talked about a lot. The  
15 agenda was late according to -- I'm reading verbatim  
16 what she sent me -- and not very informative. Items  
17 brought up at the last DAC meeting not added to the  
18 agenda, and she wants me to add trash in the desert and  
19 MOU with counties and BLM to let us users kind of pick  
20 up some of this trash and deposit it without having to  
21 lie at the landfills to be able to get rid of it.

22 And then she had a question about the plaque  
23 for Marie Brashear. Has anybody followed up on that? I  
24 think that's the sum total of her comments. Thank you.

25 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, Jim.

1           And, Andrew, I think it would be good for us to  
2 discuss at some point during the meeting today, we did  
3 have some specific items from last meeting that didn't  
4 carry over that we were interested in talking about at  
5 this meeting.

6           MANAGER ARCHULETA: Some agenda topics?

7           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah, that's right. I  
8 think, Ed, you mentioned one, which was the  
9 archaeological site stewardship, that program. So we'll  
10 get together that list again. I think I got it put  
11 together after the last meeting and sent it around.

12           Okay. So there's two public comment cards we  
13 have here for non-agenda items. The first one is  
14 Randy Banis from the Friends of Jawbone.

15           Randy?

16           MR. BANIS: Good morning. Hi, Frazier. Thank  
17 you. Good morning, DAC members. Today's a holiday;  
18 it's a DAC meeting. Every DAC meeting seems like a  
19 holiday to me, one of my favorite weekends, so -- hey,  
20 this was a good year. Three meetings in a year was a  
21 step up. And I echo Councilman Bagley's call for  
22 quarterly meetings. It seemed that was really when the  
23 DAC was running on all cylinders.

24           That said, I'm reporting on behalf of Friends  
25 of Jawbone and Friends of El Mirage and some of the work

1 we've been doing in the desert lately. First, Friends  
2 of Jawbone, we finished our road maintenance program.  
3 150 miles of roads and trails in the Jawbone area are  
4 clear of whoops and dips, and so RVs and recreationists  
5 and other users can get in the backcountry and enjoy  
6 recreating in the desert this winter. So it's looking  
7 good there.

8           Also we finished a restoration project, a  
9 three-year restoration project, that put 45 acres of  
10 disturbed land back into restored state. Of course it  
11 doesn't take effect immediately. We've got to give it  
12 some time, but we have a monitoring program in place to  
13 keep a look at that as well.

14           We had some snow at Jawbone over Thanksgiving.  
15 It was really remarkable. I don't think some people  
16 have ever seen that much snow. We did have an impact in  
17 the number of visitors that came out. Those that did  
18 come out were rather hearty souls and very well  
19 self-contained. We didn't see a lot of tent campers,  
20 but folks did have a very good time. It was a smaller  
21 crowd than usual, but I think the people that were there  
22 had an experience of a lifetime that they may never  
23 forget. It was really a remarkable weekend for  
24 recreation.

25           On the other hand, that same snow brings water

1 to the El Mirage Lake Bed. The El Mirage Lake Bed now  
2 is closed for recreating. It's probably going to be a  
3 couple of months before that gets opened if we have a  
4 continual deluge of storms that we see lined up. So  
5 with the good comes the bad. Nonetheless, the El Mirage  
6 OHV area has been expanded, and it has a great, great  
7 number of roads and trails in the mountains behind the  
8 lake bed, so there's still great riding opportunities  
9 out there, regardless of the lake bed being open or not.

10 With that, know that Ed Waldheim sends his  
11 regards to everyone. Ed is the president of Friends of  
12 Jawbone and Friends of El Mirage and CTUC. And all have  
13 known Ed, as well as those in the audience. I'm sure  
14 you all have memories of times with Ed. And Ed has been  
15 transferred to home hospice care, and his family has  
16 asked that, if there are some memories that you have of  
17 your days with Ed, so either working with Ed or anything  
18 that Ed did to inspire you, if you wanted to e-mail a  
19 little word of hello, a word of thanks to  
20 webmaster@Jawbone.org, I'll make sure that Ed's family,  
21 his wife, Linda, and son, Chris, receive the messages.  
22 They received several hundred in the past couple of  
23 weeks, and it's done a lot for Ed in the last few days.  
24 He's really enjoyed hearing them.

25 Thank you kindly for this time to address you.



1 Good luck today.

2 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, Randy. And we  
3 miss Ed's presence in the room right now, so thank you  
4 for bringing that up.

5 MR. BANIS: You can feel that he's not here.  
6 It's weird.

7 MEMBER HANEY: Yeah. One other comment card,  
8 and that's for John Stewart from Cal Four-Wheel Drive.

9 Good morning, John.

10 MR. STEWART: Good morning, DAC members.  
11 Welcome to cloudy, rainy Palm Springs. It's kind of sad  
12 to see that there was not an official quorum, but it's  
13 also good to see the public supervisors and the public  
14 governments are again present at the DAC meeting. So  
15 welcome, Mr. Lovingood. Good to see you here.

16 MEMBER LOVINGOOD: Thank you.

17 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Doug, for the tour  
18 yesterday. It was very informative. And it will be  
19 covered later, so I've got some comments about the tour  
20 I'll save for then.

21 One item that is not on the agenda that I would  
22 encourage the BLM to look at the Special Recreation  
23 Permit processing, especially how it pertains to an area  
24 in the El Centro Field Office called Devil's Canyon. A  
25 number of years ago there was a lot of discussion. An

1 Environmental Assessment was done to allow a certain  
2 number of permitted trips through Devil's Canyon.

3 Now, for those that aren't familiar with  
4 Devil's Canyon, it is a former highway that linked  
5 Imperial County to San Diego. With the building of  
6 Interstate 8, a section of the original roadbed was  
7 abandoned, and over the years it became a very active  
8 and well-liked area for some of the extreme  
9 four-wheel-drive advocates.

10 Due to environmental issues, such as bighorn  
11 lambing season, some limitations on activity in the area  
12 were put in place. This goes back 10 and almost 12  
13 years now. And I would encourage the BLM to look at  
14 saying, all right, maybe the restrictions on the number  
15 during the off season or off time for the lambing season  
16 should be lifted and provide that as just more of an  
17 open area for more frequent use by a lot of the  
18 recreation advocates that would love to get down through  
19 there but find the rigors of going through the  
20 permitting process beyond their capability. So thank  
21 you.

22 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, John. And what  
23 was the name of the location again?

24 MR. STEWART: It's Devil's Canyon. It's just a  
25 small, almost a two-mile section of road that sits down

1 inside the draw. And if you've been on Interstate 8,  
2 you'll see where the two eastbound and westbound  
3 sections split. This is on the northern side, and  
4 you'll see it directly from the westbound side of eight.

5 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you. Thank you,  
6 John.

7 That's the only public comment cards that we  
8 have for this section of the agenda. And since we're  
9 covering non-agenda items, I think before we move on,  
10 any last thoughts on non-agenda items from the council  
11 members?

12 Go ahead, Mariana.

13 MEMBER MAGUIRE: Thank you. So I just wanted  
14 to circle back around and mention this may be my last  
15 meeting, as my term is coming up to its end, although I  
16 would like very much to stay on the DAC in one capacity  
17 or another. One of the reasons I joined the DAC, and as  
18 public-at-large in particular, was because my work and  
19 time in the desert working with many different  
20 communities of many different backgrounds, many  
21 different types of user groups and felt that it was  
22 important for me to be in a position where I could help  
23 to represent those different voices.

24 I know there are a number of vacancies still  
25 with positions -- or with posts coming to their end of

1 their term. There will be additional openings. These  
2 have to be filled. And as I look at this panel, and I  
3 very much enjoy all of my panel mates and have really  
4 enjoyed getting to know them and talk to them, with all  
5 due respect, I realize I am the only female. And I am  
6 the only female who can claim Latino heritage. My  
7 parents are from Argentina.

8 So we have a serious diversity problem on this  
9 panel, and I would like to see very much that future  
10 appointments for these seats take that into account. We  
11 need more women. We need more diverse communities. The  
12 Latino community in the desert is massive and vibrant,  
13 and they should have a voice here.

14 I know that there is interest, but it is not a  
15 community that has been traditionally involved in  
16 government issues and government affairs at this kind of  
17 level, and so perhaps a little bit more outreach is  
18 necessary, recruiting, promoting, seeking out members of  
19 these communities and making sure that they're aware  
20 that this opportunity exists beyond knowing that they  
21 have to go to a website and where to go to find the  
22 right link to do the application, maybe partnering with  
23 diverse groups in the community and certainly groups  
24 that are represented here today on this council and in  
25 the public to make sure that the word gets out in a

1 really robust way. I could even envision easy, not  
2 costly pamphlets in the visitor centers and BLM offices  
3 just explaining what the DAC is, who we are, what we do,  
4 so that, when people do stop by, they have some extra  
5 information and it's a year-round resource.

6 But the Native American community as well is a  
7 very important community in the desert with a lot to say  
8 and a lot to contribute and very different perspective,  
9 and I think that's a gap on this panel as well. And I  
10 think it's extremely important, especially given the  
11 purported interest in prioritizing diversity that was an  
12 early priority announced by this administration.

13 I also would love to see if there is any  
14 possibility for those of us who joined the DAC just as  
15 former Secretary of Interior Zinke cancelled DAC and RAC  
16 meetings, I'd love to -- you know, that truncated a year  
17 and a half, almost, of our terms where we were unable to  
18 meet, ineffective, and if there was some way to redact  
19 that for us, that would be great.

20 Most of my term I spent waiting, hoping to meet  
21 with -- meet on this council, so I realize that that may  
22 not be possible. That's certainly way above your pay  
23 grade. But just to put that on public record, that was  
24 a very unfortunate decision that led nowhere and really  
25 stalled the business of this panel and the work that we

1 were able to get done.

2 So with that, I do hope to continue to see  
3 everyone, and I do hope to see the openings filled  
4 quickly and that there is significant consideration for  
5 a real diversity of backgrounds and opinions on the  
6 panel. And there are many people in these diverse  
7 communities that are also represented in diverse user  
8 groups. And I know there's a vibrant Latino off-road  
9 community and hunting community. And so I think all of  
10 us as current panel members, former panel members, and  
11 the public have people to pull from who we can be  
12 supportive in endorsing to join this panel. Thank you.

13 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Really appreciate those  
14 comments.

15 And just to kind of follow up with that, we  
16 will have several terms that are expiring come December  
17 or January, and we're expecting to put out an  
18 announcement soon requesting nominations, so just look  
19 to all the DAC members and everybody out here. We can  
20 really use your help to get the word out and to get  
21 folks to apply. Getting folks to apply has been  
22 difficult in the past, and like you said, you know, a  
23 lot of people aren't well aware of what the DAC does and  
24 what its function is, so we can definitely try to do  
25 some things along those lines. But just helping us get

1 the word out and getting people to apply and step  
2 forward and make that commitment would be a great help  
3 to us.

4 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you both.

5 I've looked up the items from the last meeting  
6 that we all agreed to bring in, and if it's okay, I'd  
7 just like to read them off so they're part of the record  
8 for this meeting. And I can forward them on. Some of  
9 them look like they're on the agenda for today, and I  
10 haven't gone through the field office reports, so maybe  
11 some of them are covered in there.

12 At the top of the list was BLM was going to  
13 look into getting a memorial placed at the CDD district  
14 office for Marie Brashear, as Jim mentioned; bringing  
15 the subgroups back into regular meeting schedules; an  
16 update on how DRECP implementation affects grazing  
17 allotments; an update on the Wildlife Corridor Study  
18 that Department of the Interior is putting together for  
19 the California Desert under the Dingell Act; an update  
20 on the managers oversight group about raven abatement;  
21 an update on the management actions taken at  
22 Vinagre Wash Special Management Area.

23 It looks like there's an update about West  
24 Mojave and DRECP here today. We wanted to schedule at  
25 least three meetings for 2020. An update on the status

1 of the Mojave Trails resource management plan or any  
2 associated activities; an update on the survivorship  
3 around the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Desert  
4 Tortoise Translocation Project; and the advisement that  
5 we gave from the last meeting was to host a California  
6 site stewardship program in the California Desert  
7 District and having a presentation on that program, as  
8 Ed mentioned, at a future DAC meeting. Those were all  
9 the carryover items from last time.

10 So with that I think we can move on in the  
11 agenda. And the next item on the agenda is closing out  
12 on the implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr.  
13 Conservation Management and Recreation Act.

14 And, Katrina, I have you on the agenda for  
15 that. So welcome, Katrina.

16 MS. SYMONS: For those of you on that side of  
17 the room, the column may be in your way, so you might  
18 want to move.

19 So as we are getting all set up here, I do want  
20 to take a moment to echo Randy's comments about  
21 Ed Waldheim. He's my energizer bunny. I mean, he's  
22 just an incredible force of nature. And BLM Ridgecrest  
23 and Barstow is incredibly grateful to the work that he  
24 has done in the West Mojave.

25 He's been able to get boots out on the ground



1 in order to put up route signs, do route maintenance,  
2 restoration. You can go into many of the areas, and you  
3 can wind up seeing a red "Route Closed" sign followed by  
4 some OHV barrier fencing followed by some horizontal and  
5 vertical mulching, all to keep the users on the  
6 designated route system.

7 So thanks, Ed. I miss him not being here at  
8 this meeting and just really do want to acknowledge the  
9 incredible work, lifetime work, that he has done, not  
10 only as a former DAC member, but certainly for BLM and  
11 in California.

12 (Katrina Symons gave a PowerPoint presentation titled  
13 "Update on Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr.  
14 Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act in the  
15 California Desert District.")

16 MS. SYMONS: Are there any questions?

17 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I've got a couple. I  
18 think they're easy.

19 Thank you, Katrina. And I'm just getting  
20 through some of the field office report from Barstow,  
21 and just as a side note, you guys have done a lot of  
22 work.

23 MS. SYMONS: Absolutely. And I think the only  
24 reason why my office has been able to get a little bit  
25 more is because I had -- I have a dozen contractors

1 underneath there that's working for me. So I have a  
2 forced multiplier by those contractors, and thank God  
3 that the work that came up with the Dingell Act was  
4 within the scope of those contracts so that we were able  
5 to do some work assignments in order to get that  
6 boundary signing in and the route signing. So I'm sure  
7 that the other field offices would have loved to have  
8 had that tool in place.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah. Congratulations on  
10 this list.

11 A couple of easy things, do you know, in  
12 Surprise Canyon and Whitewater, as those become wild and  
13 scenic rivers, as you're doing your baselines, how does  
14 the visual resource management tie into that? Will  
15 there be some marked change in the way that that  
16 landscape is managed from a BRM standpoint?

17 MS. SYMONS: So as you know, it's because  
18 National Conservation Lands, there is a change in BRM  
19 that takes place. That will wind up taking place.  
20 There is a plan maintenance document that has to be put  
21 in place to recognize the new wild scenic rivers.  
22 That's also being worked on. You know, you have the  
23 legislatively designated quarter-mile that comes in;  
24 right? There can be some adjustments to that, and then  
25 that will wind up being dealt with when it comes to the

1 management plan itself.

2 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: The quarter-mile is off  
3 the centerline of the river or the creek?

4 MS. SYMONS: Yes.

5 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: The other question I have  
6 is in some of the BLM land near Joshua Tree there was  
7 quite a bit of mountain biking that had gone on, in  
8 Section 5 specifically, and I just wondered how that  
9 kind of casual use -- how BLM's inventoried that so as  
10 those lands are transferred to the Park Service they can  
11 consider continuing those uses in their management. Is  
12 that cataloged at all?

13 MS. SYMONS: So that use was underneath the  
14 West Mojave planning area, so we do have some baseline  
15 information. Like I said, it will be part of that  
16 package that I wind up providing to David.

17 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: That's great.

18 MS. SYMONS: As I said, then it's working with  
19 the park services as to whether or not the park services  
20 would like to continue that ongoing activity.

21 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Great. You mentioned the  
22 report, the Wildlife Corridor Study Report. Do you  
23 think it will be complete at the end of 2020, or is that  
24 an estimate?

25 MS. SYMONS: The note I have was that they're

1 working on it now. And we had a projected target date,  
2 so -- and we're just at the very beginning of that  
3 review, so it could change.

4 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Is there going to be a  
5 public process in that, or is the report just going to  
6 be completed and published then out on the streets? Or  
7 will we get a look at a draft first?

8 MS. SYMONS: I do not have any information  
9 concerning that. I can do a follow-up with state  
10 office.

11 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I'm happy to contact the  
12 state office too. Thank you.

13 MS. SYMONS: It'll be Amy Fesnock would be that  
14 touch. Amy is also taking a detail to the Washington  
15 office as well.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you.

17 Other members of the council, questions for  
18 Katrina?

19 Okay. That is it.

20 MS. SYMONS: Thank you, Carl.

21 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: So the next item on the  
22 agenda is any Desert Advisory Council comments on the  
23 implementation of the Dingell Act that Katrina just  
24 discussed and described to us. Any comments?

25 Okay. We've got --

1           MEMBER BAGLEY: We talked about this just a  
2 little bit. I would liked to have had a -- I'm  
3 Jim Bagley. I would have liked to have had a chance to  
4 go to the field trip to the Vinagre Wash. I hope that  
5 may be on a future schedule. This is a very cherished,  
6 valuable recreation area. Its wilderness designation is  
7 a major change in how the public will have access there,  
8 and I'm concerned about route designation and  
9 maintaining.

10           This has been an area where people have been  
11 able to freely camp and rockhound and do a lot of  
12 recreational activities my whole lifetime. The value of  
13 that is very important to the public. The people who  
14 use those areas don't necessarily come to public  
15 meetings, and so this is why we're here and just really  
16 worried about the route designation process and  
17 maintaining the integrity of as much public access as  
18 possible.

19           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Any other comments from  
20 council members?

21           I appreciate that, Jim. And I think  
22 Vinagre Wash is particularly interesting because there  
23 was the legislated route network in the Special  
24 Management Area that is pretty specific, but I've driven  
25 around and camped and collected rocks in Vinagre Wash

1 and had a great time, so I'm with you.

2 Okay. There's time for public comment, but I  
3 don't have any public comment cards. Would anybody like  
4 to submit a card?

5 MR. STEWART: Do you want a separate card for  
6 each time?

7 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah, on any agenda item  
8 you want to talk on, John. Oh, "all"?

9 MR. STEWART: Yes.

10 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Come on up, John.

11 MS. SYMONS: So, Frazier, I do have one  
12 clarification. One of my fellow field managers said I  
13 misspoke. It's quarter-mile from the high watermark,  
14 not from the center of the river, quarter-mile from high  
15 watermark.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you.

17 MR. STEWART: Good morning, DAC. John Stewart  
18 with the California Four-Wheel Drive Association. Thank  
19 you for the presentation and explanation of a lot of the  
20 factors of the Dingell Act.

21 Some of the conversation about Vinagre Wash,  
22 yes, Vinagre Wash is a high-value area. It's been very  
23 contentious over the years, and to my feelings is that  
24 there should have been some wilderness boundary  
25 adjustments to make it -- well, to facilitate it so that

1 violations of wilderness boundaries were not so easy to  
2 accomplish. So many of the wilderness boundaries  
3 actually run through and basically bisect washes, which  
4 are the normal routes of travel in that region. So I  
5 encourage the BLM to take a good close look at the area  
6 and pay attention to what is happening there.

7 I'd also like to point out that as Vinagre Wash  
8 is looked at along with analysis of recreation patterns  
9 and rock patterns throughout the rest of the area  
10 covered by the Dingell Act, and this is even within the  
11 Mojave Trails Monument area, is there's a changing of  
12 use patterns within the OHV community.

13 In other words, the concept of over-landing is  
14 now becoming very big, and in over-landing people do not  
15 start from a base camp and then go out and spend a day  
16 around a small area. They will go three to four or five  
17 days along a trail with an entry point in one spot and  
18 exit point somewhere down the road. We need  
19 connectivity of routes in order to accommodate the  
20 public recreation patterns as they change over time.

21 Wild and scenic rivers in the desert, enough  
22 said. There's so many contradictions within that that  
23 it's very difficult to really address the hardcore facts  
24 and what is appropriate.

25 Now, there's land conveyance mentioned about

1 Table Mountains Wilderness Study Area as being  
2 transferred to the state. What is not addressed is the  
3 fact that, with the statehood acts, every state had a  
4 certain number of acreages of federal managed or  
5 federally controlled lands that they could request to be  
6 brought into the state inventory. A lot of the  
7 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was accumulated and built  
8 that way.

9 What is unclear is whether this transfer of  
10 acreage of BLM-managed Public Lands from the Table  
11 Mountain Wilderness Study Area, does that decimate  
12 (as spoken) the land area that the State of California  
13 has at its disposal and yet to exercise their right to  
14 claim Federal Lands on the inventory for when California  
15 was estated. Thank you.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, John.

17 The next comment card we've got is Randy Banis,  
18 and that's the final comment card that I've got from  
19 this section.

20 MR. BANIS: I'll be brief. But I second the  
21 DAC's desire to visit the Vinagre Wash Special  
22 Recreation Management Area. And I just want to explain  
23 with respect to the genesis of this Dingell Act or the  
24 California component -- or the California Desert  
25 component of the Dingell Act, there's a large geographic



1 area that brought people together from different places  
2 and from different communities. And if the BLM may be  
3 looking to visit the Vinagre Wash area, I would  
4 recommend reaching out to the community of Walter's Camp  
5 as they were the most involved body with respect to the  
6 genesis of the design of that Special Recreation  
7 Management Area. And I think it would be helpful to  
8 hear from them as to what they had in mind and what  
9 their thoughts were too.

10 So thank you. Just sharing a little background  
11 on that one.

12 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, Randy.

13 Any other public comments for this section of  
14 the agenda? Any other comments from the DAC?

15 Okay. Very good. We're a little bit ahead of  
16 schedule, and we're scheduled for a morning break at  
17 10:45. Want to press ahead into the next agenda item,  
18 Andrew, or do you want to take a break?

19 MANAGER ARCHULETA: We're scheduled for a  
20 break. That will flow better.

21 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: So we'll take a 20-minute  
22 break. It's 10:10 right now. Please be back in the  
23 room and ready to start again at 10:30. Thank you.

24 (Morning break.)

25 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Welcome back. The next

1 item on the agenda is the District Manager Report. I  
2 think the state office report was going to be included  
3 in this and the field office report, so take it away,  
4 Andrew.

5 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Thank you. Well, a few  
6 folks have asked about my background. I thought I'd  
7 just give you a little bit of background on myself. I  
8 do come from Colorado, and people tell me I dress like I  
9 came from western Colorado. I'm not sure what they mean  
10 by that, but anyway, so I did come from Colorado. I  
11 grew up in -- I was born and raised in Colorado. Grew  
12 up in the area that former Secretary Salazar grew up, so  
13 I know him and his family pretty well.

14 Prior to this job I was in western Colorado as  
15 a Northwest District manager, and similar to the Desert  
16 District, pretty busy district. Rather than it being  
17 renewable energy and desert and forest, it was oil and  
18 gas and sage grouse. A lot of the same issues, a lot of  
19 similar interests. Not quite as big as the  
20 Desert District, which is 11 million acres or so.

21 But I am super excited to be here, having a  
22 great time in this job, so far anyway. And, you know,  
23 I'm a wildlife biologist by training, so the desert has  
24 always been just an attraction to me, so I'm super  
25 excited to be here.

1           Prior to being the district manager, I was a  
2 field manager in southern Colorado. Prior to that I  
3 spent some time with the Forest Service as a program  
4 manager managing the Abandoned Mines Land Program then  
5 as a district ranger as well.

6           But my first 15 years in government service  
7 were with the Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife  
8 toxicologist, so kind of completely different there, but  
9 spent a lot of time out in the field and always  
10 considered myself a field guy. So if I screw up some of  
11 these formal meeting things, you'll kind of understand  
12 why. But anyway, again, I'm glad to be here, having a  
13 great time.

14           I'm going to start out talking a little bit  
15 about things from the Washington office perspective and  
16 our State Director's perspective, go into some focus for  
17 the district, and then I'll turn it over to the field  
18 managers to give you just a real quick briefing on what  
19 you got in your reports there, and then we'll be able to  
20 answer some questions.

21           Most of you probably know that William Perry  
22 Pendley is our Deputy Director for Programs and Policy,  
23 and he is exercising the authority of the BLM director.  
24 So essentially he's our acting director for the agency  
25 right now. And Mike Nedd is our Deputy Director for

1 Operations. Mike Nedd has been around for a long time,  
2 a lot of experience with BLM and really provides us some  
3 good leadership up there.

4 Here in California they just selected a new  
5 State Director for California, Karen Mouritsen, and she  
6 comes from the Eastern States Field Office, which is  
7 actually located in Washington. But she spent some time  
8 in different positions there in Washington, D.C. She  
9 was an acting State Director in Alaska, acting  
10 State Director, New Mexico. She comes with a lot of  
11 experience, and I think she's going to be really good  
12 for California.

13 Joe Stout, who is right now our acting  
14 State Director, will go back to his position as the  
15 Associate State Director. Joe has done a pretty  
16 incredible job running the show for BLM. And he  
17 actually did not apply for the State Director position,  
18 but really glad that he'll be staying around.

19 Leadership here at the district level, you all  
20 know the field managers here. Vicki is acting field  
21 manager, and Ryan Chatterton will be coming in as our  
22 El Centro field manager. I mentioned that before.

23 The three folks we haven't talked about,  
24 Dani Ortiz is our monument manager for the Santa Rosa  
25 and San Jacinto Mountain National Monument. That

1 position is vacant, but Dani has been acting and doing a  
2 great job there. She was on the field trip yesterday,  
3 so some of you should have met her there.

4 Jihadda Govan is our Sand to Snow National  
5 Monument manager. We co-manage that monument with the  
6 Forest Service, and she's a Forest Service employee.  
7 Kyle Sullivan is our Mojave Trails National Monument  
8 manager, and he works out of the Needles Field Office.

9 Switch gears a little bit from leadership  
10 there, talk about budget. Right now we're in a  
11 continuing resolution, so our budget for this year is  
12 really based on last year's budget. Hopefully something  
13 will get passed here before too long and we'll be off  
14 and running. This current continuing resolution  
15 expires -- I believe it's December the 20th. So hoping  
16 something happens there.

17 Just a little bit about numbers there, for FY19  
18 State of California BLM budget was about \$150 million.  
19 That does not include fire suppression. Bring that down  
20 a little bit to California Desert District, our  
21 expendable budget is about \$33 million for the entire  
22 Desert District. About 24 million of that is  
23 appropriated dollars. About five million is fees that  
24 we get from OHV, camping, and that kind of thing. And  
25 then about four million is cost recovery from some of

1 the projects you looked at yesterday.

2 Most of those projects are what we call cost  
3 recovery, and the proponent actually pays our staff to  
4 process those projects. So 33 million is about where we  
5 were in FY19.

6 So Joe wanted me to be sure to thank the folks  
7 that worked on West Mojave, not just the BLM folks, but  
8 all of you, the DAC members and members of the public  
9 that have had input in that over many years. Quite the  
10 process, so we're really pleased to have that piece of  
11 it done. Katrina reminds me we're not done yet, but  
12 that piece of it is a good one to have wrapped up so  
13 far.

14 As you all know we talked about yesterday, you  
15 know the BLM is a big contributor to the nation's energy  
16 independence, and that's a big focus of this  
17 administration. And so our renewable energy projects  
18 are a big focus for the BLM right now, both the solar  
19 energy, wind energy, and other states all have gas  
20 programs.

21 I say other states. We actually in California,  
22 you know, our Bakersfield office has a pretty big oil  
23 and gas program, and those wells there, if you don't  
24 know anything about them, are over a hundred years old  
25 some of them and still producing. So it's a pretty big

1 oil field there that's pretty important. We also have  
2 some oil and gas activity down on the South Coast Field  
3 Office, out of Doug's field office. You don't hear too  
4 much about that, but we do have some oil and gas  
5 activity there as well.

6 Let's see. This week we had two public  
7 meetings on the Crimson Solar, one in Blythe, one in  
8 Palm Springs. We also had a public meeting on the  
9 Whitewater River Groundwater Replenishment Project  
10 that's going on here in Palm Springs. I say that just  
11 to let you know there's a lot going on behind the scenes  
12 that you may not be aware of associated with each of  
13 those projects. They're all pretty complicated and just  
14 a lot of things going on. Our staffs are super busy in  
15 all the field offices. I know you know that but just  
16 wanted to point that out.

17 The last thing I wanted to just remind folks  
18 of, that we are taking a look at the Desert Renewable  
19 Energy Conservation Plan. I think it was two years ago,  
20 actually, and we're going to be taking a look at that  
21 and working on an amendment to that. We're still  
22 working on it. Like Frazier said, expect something out  
23 probably early next calendar year.

24 And we definitely want to hear your comments,  
25 hear your concerns, hear your comments. You know, I met

1 with a lot of different groups, and that has continued  
2 to be a concern if there's any changes to that plan, and  
3 so we definitely want to get your input and hear about  
4 your concerns with that.

5 On the agenda a little bit later is secretarial  
6 orders, and I think that was as part of our new RAC  
7 direction. You know, we're asked to talk a little bit  
8 about that. And I'm going to talk about that here.  
9 Then we'll come back to it a little bit later. But we  
10 have streamlining for NEPA is one of the big emphasis of  
11 this administration and trying to get documents down to  
12 a reasonable page limit as well as a reasonable time  
13 limit.

14 And the teams have been doing an excellent job  
15 of doing that. It kind of requires that we get a lot of  
16 upfront work done. A lot of the studies that drive our  
17 EISs we're needing to get done before we go out with our  
18 Notice of Intent for those EIDs, so it kind of changed  
19 the process that we use internally to get that  
20 information out and to get things done, but it is, I  
21 think, helping to produce and streamline analysis and  
22 get those documents out in a reasonable time.

23 For EISs, you know, the department has set a  
24 page limit of 150 pages. We can request a variance for  
25 complex projects and go up to 300 pages, but we're



1 generally trying to keep them down to 150 pages. You  
2 know, people look at some of the historic EISs. You  
3 know, we're talking thousand-page EISs in some cases, so  
4 big difference there, big change.

5 We're also required to get those EISs done  
6 within a year of our Notice of Intent. Again, that  
7 changes kind of the process that we use and our  
8 requirement for getting studies done for our analysis  
9 and all.

10 As you all know, the administration has a big  
11 focus on securing the border, and in September the  
12 Department announced the temporary transfer of about 560  
13 acres from BLM to the Department of the Army all along  
14 the border to build border barriers. That transfer  
15 included about 44 acres in the Palm Springs Field  
16 Office, a little less than that in the El Centro Field  
17 Office as well, so definitely involved with those things  
18 going on.

19 The transfer followed the president's  
20 announcement declaring a national emergency on the  
21 southern border and the Department of Defense deferring  
22 \$3.6 billion to barrier projects. And I point that out  
23 because some of those funds are being used to construct  
24 the barrier projects on formerly managed BLM lands as  
25 well.

1           Switch gears from that. Talk a little bit  
2 about reorganization and regionalization. You probably  
3 heard a little bit about that. DOI, the department  
4 under Secretary Zinke, started a regionalization  
5 process, and we went to 12 unified interior regions.  
6 And that process is still going on, a little different  
7 focus or a little different emphasis now. But for  
8 California, for the Desert District, we're part of  
9 Regions 8 and Region 10. And actually I have a map here  
10 I'll just pass around to the DAC members to take a look  
11 at those regions.

12           Really what that does for us or what the focus  
13 of that is, is when we are working on some of these big  
14 projects, as we discuss with other agencies or have  
15 issues or concerns, say with Fish and Wildlife Service  
16 or Bureau of Reclamation, that that regional -- they  
17 were going to call them directors, different titles now,  
18 but there's a person identified that is responsible for  
19 those issues within that region, and rather than the  
20 issues going to the Washington office, we will meet with  
21 that person and try to resolve those sister agency  
22 issues at a lower level. So kind of how it affects us  
23 the most.

24           You probably heard about BLM relocating its  
25 headquarters to Grand Junction. That process is moving

1 forward. About 60 positions from programs that are  
2 really inherently D.C. based, things like legislation,  
3 regulatory public affairs, budget, Freedom of  
4 Information Act, about 60 positions will stay in  
5 Washington, D.C., and about more than 200 positions will  
6 be coming either out to Grand Junction itself or other  
7 western states.

8           There is a website. If you go on to the BLM  
9 website, you can find more information about what's  
10 going on with that move. And that's in process right  
11 now.

12           Switch gears a little bit to district  
13 priorities. Obviously we have a lot of big renewable  
14 energy projects going on, and just maintaining those  
15 projects and maintaining oversight for those projects,  
16 working with the field offices to be sure that they're  
17 staffed to get those done, that's one of our major  
18 priorities.

19           We had about 50 vacancies in the district, so  
20 another one of our priorities is just filling positions,  
21 getting positions filled. We've really been working at  
22 that hard and cut that number down quite a bit but still  
23 trying to get positions filled.

24           We are going to be moving the district office  
25 from Moreno Valley and co-locating in the Palm Springs

1 office here. That's going on right now. We're looking  
2 at engineering drawings and how we're going to make  
3 modifications to the building to get everybody to fit in  
4 that space and hoping to have that moving pretty far  
5 down the road, if not complete by late spring, early  
6 summer. So we will be closing the Moreno Valley office  
7 and housing both offices here in Palm Springs.

8 Budget is always an issue. I gave you those  
9 budget numbers. To me, looking across the  
10 Desert District and the number of employees and the  
11 resources that we manage and just the area that we  
12 manage, we definitely could use a shot in the arm there.  
13 So we'll be working with our new State Director and  
14 seeing how we can continue to bring money down to the  
15 desert.

16 Partnerships are a big priority for me. Been  
17 getting around, trying to meet with a lot of our  
18 partners. We at BLM can't get a whole lot of work done  
19 without our partners. So you all are really important,  
20 so I really appreciate the partnerships here on the DAC,  
21 partnerships with the counties and the cities, and  
22 that's going to be a big emphasis for me as a district  
23 manager.

24 Kind of the last thing I'll mention here is  
25 down in the Imperial Sand Dunes, we've got some funding

1 to replace the Cahuilla Ranger Station down there, so  
2 we're going to be working hard on that. That's a pretty  
3 old facility down there. Really needs replacement with  
4 the amount of work that goes on down there, so we're  
5 hoping to get that moving this year as well.

6 So that's kind of the news from the Washington  
7 and state office and the district office. So you all  
8 now have copies of the field office reports, but I want  
9 to have each field manager come up and just hit a couple  
10 of the highlights for you and give you an opportunity to  
11 ask them any questions.

12 So, Mike, you want to start us off with  
13 Needles?

14 MR. AHRENS: Mike Ahrens, Needles field  
15 manager. Good morning. I think it still is. So just  
16 real quick, then, I led off on the report with one of  
17 the bigger projects we've been working on in Needles for  
18 a while now, Castle Mountain Mine. It's mine located up  
19 in northeastern San Bernardino County on the east side  
20 of the Mojave Preserve. It's a gold mine. It was  
21 operated in the '90s and into the early 2000 range and  
22 then closed as the price of gold diminished.

23 Recently came back to us a couple of years ago  
24 and started talking about reopening that mine now, and  
25 so they've given us a plan modification to consider.

1 Essentially they're actually going to reprocess some of  
2 the old overburdened ore that they had recently filled  
3 the pit with and go back and basically reprocessing that  
4 ore. So we're looking at were those previous  
5 authorizations all still valid and see if they are.

6 The one thing that had really changed in their  
7 plan was the water-monitoring wells that were scattered  
8 now are located within the Castle Mountain Monument in  
9 the Mojave Preserve, so they're going to re-establish  
10 some new water wells, about five and a half acre, new  
11 impact.

12 So we've completed really the draft on the EIA,  
13 and I think you'll see that opened up to public  
14 commentary perhaps as early as next week. So we look  
15 forward to your comments on that.

16 We've been doing some work on grazing leases  
17 and what have you, some water improvements and what have  
18 you. One of the big projects that we just completed  
19 this week, there's a fence line in Lazy Daisy Allotment  
20 meant to keep cattle off of the railroad and Route 66  
21 from Danby to Essex. That project is actually done now.  
22 So real happy about that. That was a legacy project for  
23 us, and happy to get that done.

24 Also did some restoration work at  
25 Crystal Springs up in the Horsethief Creek Springs area.

1 That also, really pretty, very nice spring area there,  
2 had been influenced by cattle as well. So we've gone  
3 back in there now and cleaned up the spring. And before  
4 we did that, we provided water outside for cattle and  
5 actually worked with our rancher and Friends of Amargosa  
6 all helped with that. A good project and I think a  
7 really good outcome.

8 Let's see. So in the Mojave Trails National  
9 Monument, we had an opportunity this year to have an  
10 intern, a few interns, actually, working with us. One  
11 in particular did a project to -- survey work on bighorn  
12 sheep, looking at the interaction between them and  
13 humans at in the Afton Canyon part. And that's been  
14 real successful, so you can read about that. We're  
15 looking to hopefully continue that effort into the  
16 future years as well.

17 At the Amboy Recreation Area we've had some  
18 heat-related fatalities, quite a rash of them here  
19 recently. So our office has taken on that and developed  
20 a heat safety plan to put some facilities in place to  
21 help make that trailhead more visible so that the hikers  
22 can find their way back. Real, I think, big piece of  
23 work found and a good balance, I think, between making  
24 that visible to visitors, easier to find their way back,  
25 and still not be visually intrusive. So that's been

1 super great.

2 And also at Amboy we went through a Government  
3 Performance and Results Act visitor satisfaction survey,  
4 and we're real proud to say that results we got back  
5 showed overall satisfaction at Amboy, 98 percent, so we  
6 were very happy with how that's going.

7 Then also at Amboy I guess we can say too we  
8 took it upon ourselves to nominate the Amboy Trail as a  
9 National Recreation Trail. They had a call for projects  
10 here last month. That's now in consideration. We're  
11 hopeful to get that recognition on that trail.

12 And maybe that's it for now for the highlights,  
13 unless there's questions.

14 MANAGER ARCHULETA: All right. Questions for  
15 Mike?

16 MEMBER STOVIN: Is the Mojave Trails National  
17 Monument in your district? Is all of it or part of it?

18 MR. AHRENS: So the majority of it is within  
19 our field office. Portions of it are also in the  
20 Barstow and Palm Springs Field Office. And so the  
21 management responsibility for that is nested in my field  
22 office, and we work very closely with Barstow and  
23 Palm Springs field managers.

24 MEMBER STOVIN: Is there somebody assigned to  
25 that?



1 MR. AHRENS: Yeah. Kyle Sullivan is our  
2 national monument manager.

3 MEMBER STOVIN: And you're developing a  
4 management plan for that? Or I don't even know if you  
5 started.

6 MR. AHRENS: We will be, yeah. And it's not  
7 been something that has been a huge part -- it really  
8 hasn't had the priority that probably it deserves. So  
9 we've been really working at gathering baseline  
10 information to work on portions of the project, such as  
11 the safety plans and the monitoring of our bighorn sheep  
12 population.

13 MEMBER STOVIN: I'm interested in that plan  
14 formation. I'd like to be a part of that as it moves  
15 forward. I guess it's off in the distance for now?

16 MR. AHRENS: Yeah, absolutely. We'd love to  
17 see that too. The advisory council had previously  
18 suggested a subgroup for the Mojave Trails National  
19 Monument. We're really eager to see that get going when  
20 the timing is appropriate.

21 MANAGER ARCHULETA: So we don't have funding to  
22 put that plan together yet, so we've been collecting  
23 some of the basic information in preparation for  
24 developing the plan. So we'll definitely let the DAC  
25 know.

1 All right. Any other questions for Mike?

2 Thank you, Mike.

3 Katrina, let's hear from Barstow.

4 MS. SYMONS: All right. Just so that you guys  
5 can wind up following along, I'll just basically go page  
6 by page and pick up some of the highlights. The big one  
7 is on enhancement of our desert springs. Just completed  
8 the environmental document on that. We do have some  
9 implementation dollars in order to put up some  
10 protective fencing around our springs as well as  
11 ensuring that we've got water that is outside the  
12 protective fencing in order to continue to allow cattle  
13 grazing. Our big focus right now is up in the  
14 Juniper Flats area as well as in and around the Ords.

15 For the West Mojave you've already heard about  
16 that. We issued that record of decision October 4th,  
17 but we didn't receive any appeals, so now we're into  
18 implementation. The continuing work that we're going to  
19 be doing, besides putting out the new maps and the  
20 kiosks and the new route signing, is also we have the  
21 Section 106 compliance work of the National Historic  
22 Preservation Act. Our next Consulting Parties Meeting  
23 is March 18th from ten to noon at the field office.

24 In addition with the archaeological surveys  
25 that have been done, we've completed two rounds of the

1 modeling. It is now going to peer review. Based upon  
2 the results of that peer review, we'll be making  
3 probably some additional adjustments to the sensitivity  
4 modeling and then also making that available to the  
5 consulting parties. We're hoping to have that done and  
6 ready for the March 18th meeting.

7 Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation  
8 Area, I do want to bring to your attention that the  
9 Marine Corps plans to utilize the shared-use area  
10 starting April 30 to May 11th of 2020, so the shared-use  
11 area will be closed to the public. However, the  
12 remainder of Johnson Valley, which is probably 60,000  
13 acres or so, will still be available for use by the  
14 public.

15 Like I said, bring your attention to Page 4  
16 underneath "Status," they have announced the next two  
17 years of closures. The Marines did not close and  
18 utilize the shared-use area in fiscal year '19.

19 Dumont Dunes, this past Halloween we had 15,000  
20 visitors, and we also had a very successful  
21 trunk-or-treat event. We estimated about 5,000  
22 individuals. And my thanks go out to Jason Ardenski and  
23 Friends of Dumont Dunes for supporting that event and  
24 providing the families out there at Dumont Dunes with a  
25 safe trick-or-treating event.

1           In fiscal year '19 with the furlough and the  
2 government shutdown, two of our five holiday week events  
3 did not take place, so visitation was down in  
4 Dumont Dunes in fiscal year '19. We were looking at  
5 about 30,000 or so total for three out of the five  
6 holidays.

7           As far as Special Recreation Permits, right now  
8 on my calendar for fiscal year '20, we have 60 scheduled  
9 recreation events. Most of them are motorized OHV. In  
10 fiscal year '19 we issued 181 Special Recreation  
11 Permits.

12           Also film permits is really a high workload for  
13 the field office. And due to the programmatic  
14 environmental documents that we have in place as well as  
15 the help that we get from Dan Taylor and Sheri Davis at  
16 the Inland Empire Film Services, the film office was  
17 successfully able to implement 153 commercial film  
18 permits, which is, I believe, the highest in the nation  
19 and with Moab following.

20           MEMBER TAYLOR: That's right.

21           MS. SYMONS: We're quite proud with the amount  
22 of film permits that we're able to process in the field  
23 office.

24           One also, really a gem for us on the district,  
25 is our Desert Discovery Center. It used to be the old

1 Barstow Field Office, and it's located right down the  
2 street from our current office. And it is run in  
3 partnership with a number of entities, but it really  
4 does provide an excellent environmental education basis  
5 for, you know, not only the kids in the community and  
6 the surrounding area, but also adult programs.

7           It allows there to be field trips out to the  
8 Public Lands and gets kids -- instead of sitting in  
9 their houses on all of their electronic gear, it  
10 actually gets them out there on the ground experiencing  
11 nature and learning to appreciate the wonderful desert  
12 resources that we have to offer on the Public Lands out  
13 there.

14           Underneath lands and realty there's the  
15 XpressWest high-speed rail. Well, that project is back  
16 on the radar screen. The new alignment of that  
17 high-speed rail is now -- the bulk of it is in the  
18 median of I-15, which is a huge benefit for us. It will  
19 wind up starting in Apple Valley at one of the train  
20 stations and then running all the way up to Las Vegas.

21           Right now the lead is the Federal Railway, and  
22 they are in the process of doing the cultural surveys  
23 along with the tribal monitors and looking hard in the  
24 environmental documentation that's in place in order to  
25 develop a plan for it. So you should be seeing more

1 from us here in the next few months once we have some  
2 idea of what that environmental plan is going to result  
3 in.

4 The Amargosa River. There is a ton of effort  
5 being spent out in the Amargosa, primarily with the  
6 critically endangered Amargosa vole. We continue to  
7 work with many partners including the universities in  
8 order to ensure that the Amargosa vole continues to  
9 exist out in the wild. There is a number of restoration  
10 actions that continue to take place out there, including  
11 tamarisk control.

12 We're also doing some fish monitoring of the  
13 Amargosa. The big item for us out there is, like we  
14 mentioned before, that we've got the wild scenic river  
15 management planning that will be starting up here after  
16 the first of the year. And we will be having public  
17 meetings out at the Tecopa area on that.

18 As well as next week, we do have repair of  
19 fencing in and around our Amargosa River niterwort site.  
20 We've had some vehicles leaving the state highway and  
21 running into the existing fence, so there's a need to do  
22 some repairs there.

23 We also wound up putting up some Amargosa wild  
24 scenic river portal signs, Old Spanish Trail portal  
25 signs, as well as portal signs for Avawatz Wilderness,

1 Soda Mountains, as well as Kingston. So when you wind  
2 up on the road between Baker going north to Shoshone and  
3 then over to Pahrump, you will see a lot more signage  
4 out there. We have also have a couple new "Welcome to  
5 Your Public Lands" signs.

6 Afton Canyon is within the Mojave Trails  
7 National Monument. Restoration work continues in that.  
8 Over the last couple of weeks we've had a crew working  
9 on site, tamarisk removal, and there will be some piling  
10 of that material as well so that we can wind up getting  
11 ready to burn. And we've also done some planting out  
12 there as well.

13 We also have -- we have been working with  
14 Victor Valley College in their greenhouse. They've been  
15 doing a lot of plant outgrowths for us. It winds up  
16 being a really good opportunity for the students in  
17 order to learn about greenhouse operations as well as  
18 providing BLM plant material for restoration work.

19 To get to your question, Frazier, having to do  
20 with the status of the 29 Palms desert forest lands  
21 location, BLM in fiscal year '19 did issue a  
22 right-of-way to the Marines for 30 years for the right  
23 of renewal for the biological opinion action of  
24 construction of OHV barrier fencing and desert tortoise  
25 exclusion fencing.

1           That fencing has been completed along 247,  
2           which is from Barstow down towards Lucerne Valley. That  
3           section is completed. Work is occurring right now in  
4           the southern boundary between 247 and Old Camp Rock  
5           Road. And then there will also be some additional  
6           fencing that will be along Camp Rock Road.

7           BLM continues to work with the City of  
8           Apple Valley on its Natural Community Conservation Plan  
9           Habitat Conservation Plan. And the draft is due to us  
10          here shortly, so you'll see some more activity on that.

11          And if you have any questions, I'm ready for  
12          them.

13          MEMBER STOVIN: You briefly mentioned  
14          Juniper Flats.

15          MEMBER TAYLOR: Use your mic, please.

16          MEMBER STOVIN: You briefly mentioned  
17          Juniper Flats. What were you referring to at the  
18          beginning of your talk?

19          MS. SYMONS: Juniper Flats?

20          MEMBER STOVIN: You threw out the term, and I  
21          wasn't sure what you were referring to.

22          ACTING CHAIR HANEY: The springs.

23          MS. SYMONS: Oh, the springs, desert springs.  
24          Thank you, Frazier, for bailing me out on that one.

25          So there was a spring survey that was done



1 desertwide. We augmented that survey from going  
2 site-specific to areas within the field office, and from  
3 those surveys we identified a number of springs that  
4 were not in proper functioning condition.

5 MEMBER STOVIN: This is natural water coming  
6 out of the ground?

7 MS. SYMONS: Springs, yeah. And based upon  
8 that inventory, we identified some corrective actions  
9 that we believe will help move those springs towards  
10 proper functioning position. The actions for five to  
11 eight of them -- and I don't remember the exact  
12 number -- is to put up some exclusion fencing as well as  
13 making sure that we have water that is piped outside the  
14 exclusion fencing to still allow for livestock grazing.

15 MEMBER STOVIN: Exclusion fencing? That's to  
16 keep people out or keep critters out?

17 MS. SYMONS: It's to wind up keeping livestock  
18 out. It's still built where wildlife can still go  
19 underneath the fence, but it's to keep livestock out.

20 MEMBER STOVIN: Okay. I understand. You  
21 mentioned permits, 60 permits, that were mostly  
22 motorized events?

23 MS. SYMONS: Yes. Yes, that's on my calendar  
24 for this year is 60 recreation events on my current  
25 calendar.

1 MEMBER STOVIN: That's 2020?

2 MS. SYMONS: That's for 2020.

3 MEMBER STOVIN: I think that's outstanding, by  
4 the way. Then you mentioned two other numbers. One was  
5 180, and one was another.

6 MS. SYMONS: Yeah, for fiscal year '19, my  
7 field office issued 181 Special Recreation Permits, and  
8 we issued 153 commercial film permits.

9 MEMBER STOVIN: Wow, that's amazing. That's a  
10 lot of administrative work.

11 MS. SYMONS: Yeah. So part of the reason for  
12 the 181 Special Recreation Permits, let me put some  
13 context to that, are the vending permits that the field  
14 office issues, including, you know, the film permits --  
15 the special recreation vending permits for King of the  
16 Hammers.

17 MEMBER STOVIN: I was going to say King of the  
18 Hammers is one permit. Are there a lot of permits  
19 associated with that event?

20 MS. SYMONS: There are the vending permits.  
21 Yeah, we're looking around 100 vending permits for King  
22 of the Hammers.

23 MEMBER STOVIN: That makes sense. If you  
24 exclude that, then the number of permits is similar to  
25 the normal number of motorized events and other similar

1 kind of events?

2 MS. SYMONS: Correct. It will come close to  
3 our currently -- the 60 recreation events I have on my  
4 calendar for fiscal year '20. It's similar.

5 MEMBER STOVIN: That's a lot of events. Thank  
6 you for processing so many events.

7 MS. SYMONS: And I do add is that, you know,  
8 part of the reason that we're very successful is we wind  
9 up getting support from the other field offices,  
10 particularly when it comes to being able to have those  
11 law enforcement rangers come in as well as the monitors  
12 as well. And in particular is the King of the Hammers,  
13 we have lots of folks come in for that.

14 MEMBER STOVIN: That's a big deal.

15 You mentioned a rail from Apple Valley to  
16 Las Vegas?

17 MS. SYMONS: High-speed rail, yes, sir.

18 MEMBER STOVIN: I have not heard of that until  
19 just now. And did you say that's going to run right  
20 along the center of Highway 15?

21 MS. SYMONS: Correct. That's the alignment  
22 currently being proposed.

23 MEMBER STOVIN: So why would have the BLM have  
24 an interest in that?

25 MS. SYMONS: Because we have some actions --

1 well, before we needed to issue the right-of-way because  
2 it wasn't part of being in the median, the original  
3 alignment. We issued a right-of-way on that, gosh,  
4 probably five years ago. I mean, it was a while ago.  
5 Now we have the new proposal in place to put it in the  
6 middle, but we also have power that has to come across  
7 BLM lands, as well as there might be some construction  
8 sites on BLM as well. So that's our piece of it right  
9 now is reviewing those.

10 MEMBER STOVIN: That makes sense. That's  
11 pretty exciting that people could maybe leave their car  
12 in Apple Valley and then hop on the train and go to  
13 Vegas, because if anyone's gone to Vegas on Friday night  
14 or come home from Vegas on Sunday evening, like, traffic  
15 is really bad. Maybe that would be a big help to all  
16 those gamblers.

17 MS. SYMONS: Well, that's the hope, that it  
18 will help with the congestion, because right now there's  
19 times that it could take you five to eight hours to get  
20 from Vegas to Barstow, yeah.

21 MEMBER STOVIN: That's great. I'm glad your  
22 office is helping to facilitate that. All right.  
23 That's all I have.

24 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Jim, you had a couple.

25 MEMBER BAGLEY: Dan was first.

1           MEMBER TAYLOR: One thing I do want to say  
2 about -- there we go -- about the film permits is that  
3 the only reason why Barstow is number one in the nation  
4 is because of Katrina and her staff. They understand  
5 the importance of the economics of filming and how it  
6 impacts the community around them, and they bend over  
7 backwards to try to stay within the law but still allow  
8 things to happen.

9           I'll give you a great example is that fiscal  
10 year 2018-'19 San Bernardino County made around  
11 \$20 million on filming, and almost half of that is  
12 because of filming on Federal Lands. That's how  
13 important that the BLM offices are in understanding  
14 filming and work with filming and try to make them a  
15 part of what they do because they help the communities  
16 around them. And Barstow really is the jewel for that.  
17 I wanted to give them some public praise.

18           MS. SYMONS: Thank you, Dan.

19           MANAGER ARCHULETA: Jim?

20           MEMBER BAGLEY: I want to make a comment about  
21 the Special Use Airspace proposals for the Marine Corps.  
22 It's a generic comment because the Federal Aviation  
23 Administration has jurisdiction over the airspace. The  
24 Bureau of Land Management owns the land, but they have  
25 impacts on each other.

1           When the Marine Corps took over most of the  
2 Johnson Valley area, it was a massive loss of  
3 recreational access for the public in the California  
4 Desert. But there's also an airspace component to this  
5 expansion, and so I'm going to put my other hat on. I'm  
6 a commercial pilot. I'm a flight instructor, a fierce  
7 advocate of having aviation access for the general  
8 aviation population also.

9           This current proposal is what is called Special  
10 Use Airspace. For those of you who are not pilots,  
11 there is a restricted airspace proposal from the surface  
12 to 60,000 feet. That will eliminate the ability of  
13 general aviation aircraft to access the airspace. These  
14 are complex issues, but I want to raise them here  
15 because there's a connection here, and I'm going to give  
16 you some examples.

17           The airspace proposal has not been finalized.  
18 It's going through the process right now. For full  
19 disclosure, I was once a part of the Department of  
20 Defense effort to --

21                           (Reporter clarification.)

22           MEMBER BAGLEY: I'll try and slow down. I'm  
23 sorry I talk so fast.

24           For full disclosure, I was once an employee  
25 with the Department of Defense, did an expansion study

1 on a Marine Corps base, so I have a lot of knowledge in  
2 this area.

3 So my concern here, if the restricted airspace  
4 takes a footprint beyond the immediate training  
5 facilities that the Marine Corps are entitled to use, it  
6 has an impact to the public. In the Johnson Valley Open  
7 Use Area there's an aviation component to recreation.  
8 You have people flying ultralight. You have amateur  
9 rocketry. You have people who can do some bush flying  
10 there on the drylands. It's an important part of the  
11 American experience on the Public Lands.

12 But more importantly you have major events now,  
13 like King of the Hammers, and if there is a restricted  
14 airspace restriction over these open public use, it will  
15 eliminate the use for helicopter access support for  
16 these races, and that's major. So I'm very concerned  
17 about the expansion of the airspace proposal. It hasn't  
18 been finalized. And I'll give you a real example of  
19 just how much of an impact this has.

20 On the report from the Needles Field Office, it  
21 talked about the fatalities at Amboy Crater. As a  
22 commercial pilot, I was contacted by the family of two  
23 of those folks. They were desperate to find their  
24 relatives before they passed away. I told them I'd be  
25 happy to take you up and we'll do an aerial search, but

1 I need a clearance from the United States Marine Corps  
2 to access their airspace.

3 I'm an insider, and I can't get it over the  
4 phone. But I say, "Listen, I understand your plight.  
5 We'll launch in the air. If I can get a clearance in  
6 the air, we'll get it and we'll do a search." The  
7 reason I mention this, the Amboy Crater is a National  
8 Recreation Area, but it is overlaid by a restricted  
9 airspace from Marine Corps from the surface up which  
10 prohibits even the use of humanitarian or law  
11 enforcement action without specific clearance.

12 In my case, I've got relatives, and you can  
13 imagine how tragic it is. There's only a matter of days  
14 where there's really no hope of finding anybody alive.  
15 I was able to get a clearance to go in there, but this  
16 is exactly the kind of impacts on the airspace I want  
17 the Bureau of Land Management to be aware of.

18 The airspace beyond the Marine Corps base in  
19 29 Palms goes way beyond the footprint of their  
20 training. I don't want to interfere with the national  
21 need for military training missions, but there has to be  
22 some realistic acknowledgements about where those  
23 limitations should occur also.

24 I would love if the part of the national air  
25 space would be modified right now so if Amboy Crater was



1 cut out, there was at least a ceiling in there, but my  
2 real concern right now is the expansion of restricted  
3 airspace into what is now overlaying, not just the  
4 shared-use area, but it appears to also go into the open  
5 areas that aren't impacted. I don't want to be  
6 prohibited from going in there.

7 As a commercial pilot there's another component  
8 to it. These are very complex issues. There are  
9 airways like freeways that you drive on a freeway when  
10 you depart Palm Springs. If you take a commercial  
11 flight out of Palm Springs and you're going anywhere  
12 north, you're going to get a clearance that clears you  
13 to Yucca intersection, which is an imaginary -- it's not  
14 imaginary. It's a freeway in the sky. But that  
15 intersection is now in this proposed restricted  
16 airspace. It's going to have a huge impact on users  
17 going into Big Bear but also the commercial users  
18 leaving this area.

19 The reason it's there is for topography. When  
20 you take off out of Palm Springs, we're not going to fly  
21 you directly to San Gorgonio and see if you can hop over  
22 it in the clouds and get over it. You go out through  
23 Yucca Valley, and you go out of Johnson Valley area then  
24 take a turn towards Palmdale.

25 So these restricted airspace proposals have

1 impact on the public. And BLM has a land-use component  
2 of it, and I wanted that discussion to be there. And  
3 BLM has the ability to comment on these things, but I  
4 want to protect the integrity of public access, not to  
5 the land, which also has an aviation component,  
6 especially in these areas.

7 So I raise that issue, just it's ongoing right  
8 now. The FAA is in the process. I'm engaged with it.  
9 I'm also the chairman for the San Bernardino County  
10 Airport Commission. We have public use commissions, but  
11 I'm an advocate for preservation of general aviation  
12 rights to the airports around Barstow, Yucca Valley,  
13 29 Palms, Big Bear, Apple Valley will all be impacted by  
14 this, so it's pretty major.

15 So I raise that, Katrina. I hope that filters  
16 into the discussions that happen. It's just like the  
17 off-road community. If you go and talk with pilots and  
18 say, "Hey, there's restricted air use space that's going  
19 to pop up," they don't know. They're not engaged in the  
20 public process, the hearings where you go publish in the  
21 federal register. Even though the Marine Corps is out  
22 trying to engage people, I can just tell you for a fact  
23 it's not an effective. So here we are, public forum,  
24 and I'm raising the issue. Hopefully it will get  
25 dialogue. But I don't think there are any pilots

1 sitting in the audience that will be aware of this  
2 issue.

3 So I'll get off that. The Needles search was  
4 unsuccessful. There was really unfortunate fatalities.  
5 You can imagine that as a humanitarian flight, if the  
6 Marine Corps denied me access, we couldn't have gone.  
7 Same with law enforcement, they need access too. Marine  
8 Corps (inaudible). They don't necessarily work. You  
9 can see how frustrating that is to me because, if this  
10 was my family, I would be absolutely outraged if you  
11 told me I couldn't do an aerial search, especially on  
12 Public Lands.

13 So I'll get off that topic for a minute. I'm  
14 going to make a general comment. We talked about  
15 tortoise fencing. I have great concerns about this.  
16 And you talked about briefly going along Highway 247.  
17 We see it commonly in the desert. I'm absolutely  
18 certain that there will be unintended consequences in  
19 the future where biological studies will reveal that  
20 these tortoise fences have stopped the migration and the  
21 normal evolutionary processes of the animals, not just  
22 the tortoises.

23 It's common sense to me when you look at those  
24 kind of areas. I think they are wrong, and I hope that  
25 we have that sort of discussion when we look at them.

1 But I see them all over the desert. And I've grown up  
2 in the desert, and so if you tell me that a horned toad  
3 lizard can get through that fence and go somewhere or  
4 any other small creature, no, they can't. They're real  
5 barriers to migration.

6 Is there roadkill and other things that occur?  
7 Yes, it happens, which is part of it, but I don't want  
8 to change the entire evolutionary process of the  
9 California desert species that if they can't get through  
10 that fencing. So there's unintended consequences. And  
11 we need to be wise about what we do in our zeal for the  
12 environment.

13 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Thanks, Jim, for your  
14 unique perspective you have with the airspace, so thank  
15 you for that.

16 MEMBER LOVINGOOD: Just two things. One, it's  
17 the town of Apple Valley. They're very sensitive about  
18 that. Not a city. Just a kind of outlook.

19 Then the other thing on the high-speed train,  
20 that's now -- as you mentioned here, they've raised a  
21 multibillion dollars in tax-free exempt bonds, and  
22 they're going to drive that. They're also the operator  
23 of a train at the old Flagler line, if you're familiar  
24 with that, from Florida. It goes from the state line  
25 all the way to the Keys. And they've developed this

1 transportation corridor from Miami north, and they have  
2 the rights now to develop in Orlando and then over to  
3 Tampa.

4 But their focus is intent. Anyplace that  
5 should be an hour and a half to drive that becomes three  
6 to five hours nationally is their focus, and so it's  
7 really brought a very effective means, and just to kind  
8 of share with you, it's more like an airline. When I  
9 say that, it has a coach, a comfort, and a first class.

10 It's kind of interesting even what they've done  
11 with security, having been to their Florida site.  
12 Unlike going to an airport to where we go through the  
13 screening process, you deposit your bags, there will be  
14 X-rays. Then you walk through what looks like to be  
15 really, you know, the cement barriers you see outside of  
16 buildings, they come up, and there are several rows of  
17 those, and those are actually metal detectors.

18 So you're not touched, gone through. You just  
19 simply walk through a series of these. Then you pick up  
20 your bags on the other side. So it's a little longer  
21 walk but very efficient because it's multiples of  
22 people, and then your luggage comes out.

23 The theory with this train, once it's  
24 developed, you'll put your baggage on -- they're  
25 building on 38 acres down by the airport in Las Vegas,

1 which you'll check your bags in when you arrive at your  
2 hotel. That's where they'll be. So it's a really  
3 interesting, well-financed organization. Just comments.  
4 Thank you.

5           MANAGER ARCHULETA: Anybody else have a  
6 question for Katrina?

7           All right. Thank you, Katrina.

8           Carl, let's hear from Ridgecrest.

9           MR. SYMONS: Good morning. I'll do kind of the  
10 same thing. I'll just go through the report and hit  
11 some highlights. The first part is the mining. Mining  
12 activity in the Ridgecrest Field Office takes a lot of  
13 our resources, and they range anywhere from Searles  
14 Valley Mineral -- which they're in Trona -- and the  
15 Golden Queen Mine -- it's outside of Mojave -- which are  
16 large operations, to smaller just casual-use mining, a  
17 lot of clubs that have mining claims they like to go out  
18 on.

19           One of the things that we face is that a lot of  
20 the area in our field office cannot be done under a  
21 notice, and so you have to get a plan of operation,  
22 whereas other places you can operate under a notice.  
23 And one that's not on here that we just had that example  
24 is two miners. One would come in, had claims on  
25 Cuddeback Lake. One of them drilled about a thousand

1 holes with a little tractor, but that takes it out of  
2 casual use because of the tractor. So now they're going  
3 to do it under casual-use because they can take dig  
4 those by hand. They're three feet deep. I can't  
5 imagine drilling a thousand holes by hand, but they can  
6 do that under casual-use.

7 One of the things of interest, I told you we  
8 have a lithium proposal, but that's been appealed to  
9 IBLA, and we responded to the stay. And we'll see where  
10 that goes.

11 Also with the Searles Valley Minerals, we do  
12 now have a biologist -- I mean a geologist that covers  
13 that area. That position was vacant for quite a while,  
14 but Brian Ferwerda, he's been doing a great job, and  
15 he's processing now because leases are coming up for  
16 renewal. He's already done several of those, and we're  
17 processing, doing some others to keep that operating.

18 The abandoned mine lands, the biggest one is  
19 out by Randsburg. There's several operating units there  
20 which we did clean up. We spent millions of dollars  
21 trying to get those cleaned up and get the area  
22 stabilized. A lot of arsenic in the soils and different  
23 areas which we're trying to cap, and then once that's  
24 all done, then behind the scenes as far as who the  
25 responsible parties are and things like that, that will

1 be done by solicitors and others. Trying to make it  
2 safe because there's a lot of OHV activity, a lot of  
3 people out there, working for public safety.

4           Grazing. We had a pretty good year. We  
5 actually issued 17 sheep turnouts and seven cattle  
6 turnouts. We had quite a bit of grazing. We've already  
7 had two applications for cattle since the beginning of  
8 this year. But also I lost my range con. We're relying  
9 on Barstow's range person to come over because we have  
10 to do cuttings and make sure that there's enough forage  
11 out there when they turn out. So they've been very  
12 helpful.

13           Renewable energy. We have a solar project out  
14 in the Mojave area. Basically right now we're trying to  
15 get our last-minute reviews. We're hoping to put it out  
16 for public review here shortly. We're still going to  
17 get with the district and get some of their expertise  
18 and stuff like that. That particular project is in a  
19 DFA, so we are doing it under an EA, not an EIS. So  
20 that will be coming out shortly.

21           Geothermal. Ridgecrest, our petroleum  
22 engineering technician position was vacant for a little  
23 while. We did get it filled. We handle the inspections  
24 for not only Ridgecrest with Coso but also Mammoth and  
25 for El Centro. So one person travels to all three



1 locations and handles their downhole and stuff like  
2 that. They do have some geologists to help us with  
3 meter reading and things like that, but when it comes to  
4 the downhole stuff, we have to have a petroleum  
5 engineering technician to do that.

6 We also are working on Haiwee Geothermal  
7 Leasing Area proposal, and that will be about 22,800  
8 acres, roughly, that we're looking at. That's in  
9 response to right now we have applications for 4,460  
10 acres, which is three leases within that area, so that  
11 the EIS and plan amendment will decide whether or not  
12 that area will be appropriate for geothermal leasing.

13 Lands and realty. Some of the ones that we  
14 have that we've been trying to give priority to, there's  
15 a couple of projects for wells and water pipelines to  
16 communities both in Rand and up along Highway 58. So  
17 we've been rushing those through, ensuring the water  
18 supply is there and not compromised in those areas.

19 For transmissions and other stuff falling over  
20 there, the North Haiwee Dam, we've got that through that  
21 they're going to be replacing that dam and realigning  
22 the aqueduct. And so we have a lot of actions that we  
23 need to do because there's a lot of cultural resources.  
24 We did put together a plan there, so now we need to keep  
25 monitoring that to ensure that, as that project goes

1 forward, that those sites are continuing to be  
2 protected. It is a large project, but there's a lot of  
3 stipulations set aside to protect those cultural sites.  
4 That's part of our responsibility.

5 Recreation. We have put through quite a few  
6 permits, and with our field office what we try to do is,  
7 if they're not competitive racing events or some unusual  
8 thing, we try to give five- to ten-year permits to speed  
9 along that process so that we don't have to process  
10 those every year. They just need to come in, give us  
11 their insurance plans, and then we work with them with  
12 that.

13 We covered the Dingell Act and WEMO.

14 OHV grants. This year we did get four OHV  
15 grants from the State Parks for just over one and a half  
16 million dollars. Some of the things we're doing in  
17 support with Friends of Jawbone, they do a lot of work,  
18 and they've got a lot of equipment out at Jawbone  
19 Station, so we did get a development grant in order to  
20 install three fuel tanks -- actually, one fuel tank with  
21 three different slots for regular diesel, then off-road  
22 diesel and gasoline, because they spend a lot of time  
23 driving back and forth to get gas and stuff like that.  
24 So to increase that efficiency and have that, we're  
25 going to put brand-new tanks in there that are all up to

1 specs and have that.

2 So law enforcement. We're pleased to announce  
3 we've hired two -- well, we've extended offers, and  
4 they've accepted to two new law enforcement officers.  
5 We're just waiting for their background checks to come  
6 in before we get a start date on that.

7 And one of the other things, with some of the  
8 partners that we have that the Inyo -- I don't know if  
9 many of you are familiar with the salt tram that's up in  
10 the Inyo Mountains that for the last couple of years  
11 they've been going up and basically cutting the small  
12 little vegetation that's around the towers there, so if  
13 a fire happened to be there, it would give us a better  
14 chance in order to protect those features that were  
15 there.

16 They used to haul the minerals over the top and  
17 take it down to Owens Lake. Then they barge it across  
18 the water. So it has a long history out there. We try  
19 to make sure those don't get caught up in a fire. It  
20 will probably be about a five-year project in order to  
21 get all the towers, because you have to hike all the way  
22 down and do it by hand and then hike out, and that just  
23 takes a while.

24 With our wild scenic rivers, you heard a little  
25 bit about that. Besides the -- we've got Cottonwood

1 Creek as well as the Forest Service, Surprise Canyon  
2 with the Park Service, and we're trying to do joint  
3 plans, because we try to do one plan for the whole river  
4 rather than segment it out between different agencies.

5           Filming permits, they've still been active. We  
6 did get slowed down a little bit. As probably all of  
7 you are aware, things got shaken up a little bit up  
8 there in Ridgecrest. We had the 7.1 earthquake, and  
9 there was a lot of -- it didn't necessarily affect being  
10 able to get out to film, but what it affected was the  
11 fact that, with all the things going on, the damage, and  
12 people coming in to do that, the hotels filled up.

13           There wasn't the resources that the filming  
14 industry needs in order to support the people to go out  
15 there. Some go out for self-containment. A lot of them  
16 need to utilize facilities in the town, and that's a lot  
17 of the economic value. For a while after the earthquake  
18 there wasn't the ability to provide that.

19           And in regards to that, we did get a lot of  
20 interest as soon as the earthquake happened to put  
21 equipment out to monitor such a rare event. So I think  
22 about 50 percent of it we worked on permitting, and the  
23 other 50 percent we worked on finding what was already  
24 out there. It's time sensitive, so they rushed out and  
25 put it out there and came and asked us later. Then we

1 had to start trying to permit it so we know what's out  
2 there.

3 Wild horse and burro. The staff there this  
4 year, they do every year, but just outstanding job. You  
5 see in there that 350 animals through adoptions, but  
6 there's also over 200 animals that were sold. And  
7 that's not counting a lot of the stuff that we put out  
8 through tips and stuff, the corrals. The manager there  
9 is very, very dedicated, and it's kind of his mission to  
10 get animals adopted. And they're one of the top  
11 adoption agencies in the entire country for wild horses  
12 and burros. So they did a fantastic job this year  
13 placing that many animals.

14 And with wildlife, we do a lot of things  
15 ongoing, but one of the areas that we really work with  
16 is we partner with the Desert Tortoise Preserve  
17 Committee for the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area.  
18 It's just over 25,000 acres that's set aside. They do a  
19 lot of research in there. We also help with the  
20 naturalist. So people who go out there, they've got  
21 interpretive trails, and they'll show you around and  
22 stuff. And hopefully you can see a tortoise maybe out  
23 there maybe in the wild. It's one of the few areas  
24 that's just set aside, and it's all been taken off, so  
25 it's natural. And we can compare that to the areas

1 outside the program to help them recover the tortoise.

2 That's most of the stuff, unless people have  
3 questions.

4 MEMBER STOVIN: Just a quick question. I  
5 didn't know you had geothermal out there. That's pretty  
6 interesting. You said you had to determine if you're  
7 allowed to go after it?

8 MR. SYMONS: Oh, we have Coso Geothermal Area,  
9 which is an active producing one. It's actually on the  
10 base, but it's on BLM land. And then we are doing  
11 another area, which is called our Haiwee Geothermal  
12 Leasing Area, which we got three proposals, three  
13 requests for leases. And so we took an area, and what  
14 we are doing is doing the Environmental Impact Statement  
15 to decide whether or not it's appropriate to have  
16 geothermal leasing in that area. It's a process that we  
17 have to go through because it's not regularly open for  
18 geothermal.

19 MEMBER STOVIN: I was wondering if the DRECP  
20 covers that.

21 MR. SYMONS: In this area it didn't cover what  
22 we have there. We have to do a plan amendment in order  
23 to allow that.

24 MEMBER STOVIN: Oh, okay. Did you have any  
25 damage from the earthquake to your facilities?

1 MR. SYMONS: We did, but most of it was  
2 cosmetic. It was a little disturbing at first because a  
3 couple of bricks fell off the wall, but then we had a  
4 structural engineer in. It's a steel frame building,  
5 and the brick is just a facade, so we were very lucky in  
6 that case. Broke a few lines at the wild horse and  
7 burro corrals, but the staff got on that quick. As far  
8 as our facilities went, we actually came out really  
9 well, a lot better than a lot of places, Ridgecrest, and  
10 then Trona in particular. Trona got hit really hard,  
11 along with Searles Valley Minerals got hit really hard.

12 MEMBER STOVIN: Thank you, Carl.

13 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Two things, one just for  
14 the audience. Billy and Julie, you have comment cards  
15 in. We haven't forgot about you. Everybody keep  
16 filling those things out. It's on the agenda in just a  
17 little bit.

18 I just want to clarify something, Carl, and  
19 this might be my understanding, but in the Haiwee  
20 Geothermal Leasing Area there are some Areas of Critical  
21 Environmental Concern and National Conservation Lands  
22 designated by DRECP in that larger area. Not the 4460  
23 acres that was applied for, but there's a larger area  
24 being discussed that includes those conservation  
25 designations, and that's what you have to decide whether

1 you can open those areas up for geothermal leasing?

2 MR. SYMONS: Correct. The area that they're  
3 analyzing for allowing geothermal activity is 22,805  
4 acres, I think is what it is, roughly 22,800 acres. And  
5 yeah, there is ACEC and NCL lands. And there's some  
6 private that we have in there -- actually some private  
7 lands that they applied to, but we own the minerals  
8 underneath.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: My understanding is that  
10 that would be the first time -- if you allowed the  
11 geothermal leasing, it would be the first time since  
12 DRECP that renewable energy was permitted in ACECs or  
13 the NCLs; is that right?

14 MR. SYMONS: I don't know if anybody else has  
15 identified that, but it's -- yeah, I don't know if  
16 anybody else has, so I can't answer that question.

17 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you.

18 MANAGER ARCHULETA: All right. Let's move on.  
19 Thank you, Carl.

20 Let's have Doug come up and talk about  
21 Palm Springs. And for the DAC members, could I get you  
22 to hold off on your questions for Palm Springs and  
23 El Centro until we go through the public comment period  
24 because we're going to be pushing that a little bit and  
25 I want to be sure the public has a chance to ask some



1 questions.

2 MR. HERREMA: Sounds good. Thank you, Andrew,  
3 and hi, DAC members. Doug Herrema, Palm Springs South  
4 Coast office field manager. And like my colleagues, I'm  
5 going through a few highlights of our report beginning  
6 on Page 24.

7 Starting with renewable energy projects, that's  
8 probably the biggest single program that my office  
9 manages. As we discussed yesterday at the field trip,  
10 we manage about 21 individual wind rights-of-way,  
11 several large transmission projects, and right around a  
12 dozen utility-scale solar projects. I actually have a  
13 presentation on that this afternoon, so if it's okay  
14 with the council, I would prefer to kind of dispense  
15 with a lot of details and just focus on that later.

16 But for the benefit of everybody here, the  
17 names of a few of those projects are the Weston-Beavers  
18 Transmission System Upgrade. That is an upgrade to 48  
19 miles of a 220-kilovolt transmission project that runs  
20 from Palm Springs to San Bernardino. Construction on  
21 that project began last year, and it's currently in  
22 construction operations going through BLM lands and  
23 Public Lands.

24 The Ten West Link Transmission Project is a  
25 500-kilovolt transmission project. It starts in Arizona

1 and ends at the Colorado River substation, which is on  
2 the far eastern edge of what our office manages. And so  
3 it's only a few miles on the BLM in California, but it  
4 was a joint effort with Arizona to get that thing  
5 through. And we've published the final EIS on  
6 September 13th, and a Record of Decision was signed by  
7 the Arizona State Director on November 22nd. The  
8 right-of-way grant is pending, and the notice to proceed  
9 is also pending.

10 Let's see. A couple of the highlights for wind  
11 energy. We took a look at the proposed San Jacinto wind  
12 repower project yesterday. That was the smaller  
13 turbines in the valley floor. The company there is  
14 proposing to remove 146 of the smaller turbines, and  
15 actually now it's down to three, replacing with three of  
16 the new big ones.

17 Likewise with Mesa Wind Repower, the company  
18 that owns that project is proposing to remove -- it says  
19 230 there. It's the remaining turbines that are  
20 operational. It's actually a total of 460 turbines, and  
21 to replace it with ten or 11 of the big ones.

22 On solar, again, we're going to be talking  
23 about that in detail, so I'll just list the projects by  
24 name. I think we have more solar projects in our office  
25 than any other office in the BLM. It's Blythe; Palen;

1 Ford Dry Lake, which is also known as the Genesis  
2 Project; Desert Sunlight, which we visited yesterday;  
3 Desert Harvest, which we saw the beginning construction  
4 on; the Athos Solar GmbH; McCoy and Arlington; Desert  
5 Quartzite; Crimson; Blythe Mesa; Erika; Victory Pass.  
6 So it's quite a few.

7 Over on lands and realty we're currently  
8 processing a request by the Coachella Valley Water  
9 District to upgrade and expand their operations at the  
10 Whitewater recharge facility. That's those aquifer  
11 recharge ponds that are on that end of the valley.

12 Regarding land tenure, our office is currently  
13 processing somewhere between several dozen and a couple  
14 hundred, depending on how you look at it, land tenure  
15 adjustments and other rights-of-way actions. A couple  
16 key ones are the land exchange with the Agua Caliente  
17 Band of Cahuilla Indians, which was conceived of in  
18 statute in the year 2000, and we were able to complete  
19 that action last year. And the tribe accepted our  
20 patents in April of this year. So closeout of about 20  
21 years of work there.

22 Likewise, this is outside of the CECA, but  
23 under the Dingell Act Congress directed the BLM to  
24 exchange lands in the Santa Ana River Wash Area with the  
25 San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and

1 we're actively working on that.

2 Moving now to the recreation program, unlike my  
3 colleagues to the north and south, we don't have really  
4 big organized events per se, but the Palm Springs South  
5 Coast Field Office is home to about 23 million  
6 residents, all of whom live within 50 miles of Public  
7 Lands. And so our recreation program is largely  
8 disbursed. It can be very high volume, very intense,  
9 but it's not really concentrated in too many individual  
10 areas, with a couple of notable exceptions.

11 The Ladder Canyon and/or Painted Canyon area in  
12 the Mecca Hills Wilderness gets about 100,000 visitors a  
13 year. It has risen to No. 8 on best things to do on  
14 TripAdvisor top ten list, which we do see significant  
15 increases in visitation when TripAdvisor has something  
16 on the top ten list.

17 Likewise, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
18 Mountains gets, we think, somewhere between two- and  
19 300,000 visitors here on the BLM portion. They get  
20 closer to 650,000 visitors a year at the top of the  
21 tram, where it's a State Park land and the Forest  
22 Service.

23 Just a few individual highlights of our  
24 recreation program. We manage three commercial Special  
25 Recreation Permits for local touring operations in the

1 Coachella Valley and a little bit further east in  
2 Riverside. That's Desert Adventures, Big Wheel Tours,  
3 and the ATV Experience. These are all small businesses.

4 We're currently managing a five-year  
5 competitive motorbike trail SRP for the  
6 Southern California Trails Association outside of  
7 Lakeview.

8 In partnership with Coachella Valley Mountains  
9 Conservancy and others, a number of new trails have  
10 opened up in recent years, including the Kim Nicol Trail  
11 on the north side of Coachella Valley. And our  
12 long-term visitor areas out in eastern Riverside  
13 apparently open for business. During this time of year  
14 that's where folks can pay a nominal fee and stay there  
15 for about four months.

16 Let's see. Moving to the off-highway vehicle  
17 Green Sticker program for fiscal 2020, Palm Springs is  
18 looking at about a million dollars in grant money for  
19 law enforcement operations, restoration, fencing, and  
20 planning for off-highway vehicle uses in the Mecacopia  
21 area. So if you recall from our trip yesterday,  
22 Cottonwood Road going to the north up in the  
23 National Park and Box Canyon Road to the south, there's  
24 a couple of blocks of public land between the freeway  
25 and the wilderness that we're exploring for some

1 potential off-highway vehicle uses.

2 One quick success story. It's outside the  
3 CDCA, but the Steele Peak project utilized off-highway  
4 vehicle grant money to fence and restore an area that  
5 had previously been heavily degraded by illegal  
6 activity. And I'm happy to report an area that used to  
7 look very, very degraded and denuded was one of the top  
8 rock stars in the Superbloom this year. So we had a  
9 wonderful wildflower display back in the spring, one  
10 photo of which garnered over 44,000 likes on the  
11 department's Instagram account.

12 Moving to law enforcement, Palms Spring South  
13 Coast has a robust law enforcement program, one of the  
14 largest and most active in the nation, with nine  
15 rangers and a coverage area that's larger than Maryland,  
16 Delaware and D.C. combined, again, with 23 million  
17 residents and international border issues to the south.

18 Okay. Moving to interns, we're happy to host a  
19 number of interns throughout the year to help us with  
20 everything from biological surveys to recreation  
21 management, trail maintenance, all those kinds of things  
22 that you need interns for. We're very proud of our  
23 interns.

24 We have a robust volunteer program by some  
25 metrics. We are happy to host more volunteer hours than

1 any other BLM California field office, and that's  
2 largely driven by the 16,000 hours, something like that,  
3 that the Friends of the Desert Mountains produce every  
4 year.

5 Moving on to National Conservation Lands,  
6 Palm Springs is home to part or all of four national  
7 monuments, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains,  
8 Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and California Coastal; all  
9 or part of 14 Wilderness Areas; two Wilderness Study  
10 Areas; three National Scenic and Historic Trails, and  
11 that'll be Juan Bautista de Anza, Old Spanish Trail, and  
12 the Pacific Crest Trail.

13 And speaking specifically of Sand to Snow  
14 National Monument, there are somewhere between right  
15 around a hundred, that we think, unbranded feral cattle  
16 in the area. We've been working with the U.S. Forest  
17 Service, the Wildlife Conservancy, and other  
18 stakeholders to fence in and remove those animals. Our  
19 plan to do so got stifled by the Valentine's Day flood  
20 that washed out the access road, so we're still waiting  
21 for that road to be returned to conditions needed to  
22 continue that operation.

23 For Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains  
24 National Monument, next year will be the 20th  
25 anniversary, and we are actively working with the

1 friends group and other stakeholders on celebrations and  
2 an upgrade to the visitor center.

3 And speaking of the friends, in addition to  
4 their volunteer hours, we also conduct a number of joint  
5 events with them: The Wildflower Festival, which was  
6 very popular this year; hikes; environmental education,  
7 one of which involves taking black lights to go look for  
8 scorpions at night. Kids love that one. Star talks and  
9 such that end up getting thousands of participants every  
10 year.

11 Let's see. Moving on. So we're on page 36 now  
12 under "Wildlife." We've been working with the  
13 United States Geological Survey to ascertain the extent  
14 to which wind power impacts avian species, so birds and  
15 bats, and we expect the data to be coming in hopefully  
16 end of this year, beginning of next year.

17 National bat week is something that we take a  
18 lot of pride in every year. The Coachella Valley is  
19 home to 20 out of the 21 species of bats that occur in  
20 the state of California, and we happen to have a bat  
21 expert on staff.

22 Moving on to water projects, out at the  
23 Dos Palmas area, Public Law 100-675 committed the  
24 Federal Government to providing habitat creation and  
25 restoration in an oasis area that runs right on top of



1 the San Andreas Fault. So in working with cities,  
2 counties, non-profit organizations, and other federal  
3 agencies, we're managing the restoration of about 352  
4 acres of that oasis and surrounding marsh.

5 Other restoration activities. We inventory a  
6 couple thousand acres a year for restoration, and we  
7 treat approximately 250 acres a year. That's largely  
8 for tamarisk removal and control of other non-native  
9 invasive plant species.

10 And the very last thing, which didn't make it  
11 into this report but I promise will be in future  
12 reports, is our partnership with the Patton Museum.  
13 That's what we all saw yesterday. We've had that  
14 partnership in place since the 1980s, and are very proud  
15 of it. That's all I have. Thank you.

16 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Thank you, Doug.

17 Vicki from El Centro.

18 MS. WOOD: Good morning. Vicki Wood, acting  
19 El Centro field manager for the rest of the day.

20 So U.S. Gypsum expansion and modernization  
21 project, the final Supplemental EIS published yesterday  
22 and in hopes of the Record of Decision to follow in  
23 January.

24 As far as recreation goes at the dunes,  
25 visitation was up at Halloween but down at Thanksgiving,

1 probably due to the weather. And we've had two damaging  
2 rain events since I was there in my six weeks of acting.  
3 Caused damage out in the dunes on Gecko Road and, of  
4 course, Wash Road, and we had crews out there trying to  
5 get that cleared so the visitors can have access to  
6 those.

7 SRP events. We are currently processing about  
8 32 SRP events with additional expected throughout the  
9 year. We've already processed 24 this year.

10 On the personnel front, the chief law  
11 enforcement officer is at FLETC right now and will be  
12 coming back late February as permanent. Chris Rice has  
13 been doing an excellent job in that acting position, and  
14 we're looking forward to having permanent leadership  
15 there in the name of -- Camillo Gonzales is his name.

16 We also got three other highly qualified people  
17 to say yes to come to El Centro. We will be having a  
18 wildlife biologist, a geologist, and a maintenance  
19 worker joining us in the next few months. That's my  
20 report.

21 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Thank you, Vicki.

22 Ed, can we hold off for just a bit because  
23 we're into a public comment period. I want to make sure  
24 we cover that then come back to your questions.

25 MEMBER STOVIN: Okay. That's fine.

1           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  So I've got two public  
2 comment cards here.

3           And Billy, you're up first for talking about  
4 permits and Rattlesnake Canyon Ranch.

5           MR. MITCHELL:  It will take a while to get  
6 there.

7           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  We'll wait.

8           MR. MITCHELL:  My name is Billy Mitchell,  
9 fourth-generation cattle rancher, currently from  
10 Rattlesnake Canyon Ranch for the last probably 25 years.

11           I'm really concerned with the board because --  
12 I mean, not the board completely, but there's nobody  
13 representing ranching, and there should be on this  
14 board.  Everything else is represented but ranching.  
15 And, Andrew, maybe you can get back with your people and  
16 find out why this appointment -- whether it's me or who  
17 else, whoever it is, it's very disturbing to me.

18           I've been around this thing since back in the  
19 '80s when we used to have four meetings.  I'm kind of  
20 hoping that -- we used to have one manager that came in  
21 and knocked it to two.  I don't think that's proper.  I  
22 think we should have four because, as you see, this is  
23 probably the lowest we've had in public comments because  
24 they don't know when it's coming.

25           This is the last one, but I think it should be

1 advertised a little better, even for the ranching  
2 industry, because I know that there's -- even though  
3 there's only six of us left out of 23 families when I  
4 was a kid, it's still important, you know, because we  
5 take care of a lot of federal land. We depend on it.  
6 It's our business.

7           And I would like to know if you could tell me  
8 how many meetings you think you're going to schedule  
9 next year. Do you have any kind of a plan of what we're  
10 going to do -- or you're going to do?

11           MANAGER ARCHULETA: Sure. Our intention is to  
12 schedule four. We don't always have control at a local  
13 level as to whether we're able to hold some of those, as  
14 well as we don't have complete control over the  
15 nominations and how quickly we fill those positions.  
16 But our goal is to have a full DAC represented. Right  
17 now, I mean, we have 15 positions, but right now we  
18 don't even have the full 15 filled. So we're going to  
19 be working pretty hard on that. I appreciate,  
20 especially about the ranch community.

21           MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, because there's nobody  
22 really qualified to even address any issue from  
23 ranching. I mean, that's not making anybody more  
24 important than anybody else, but each one of these  
25 people, which I've said on this before, has their

1 specialty and who they're representing, you know. And I  
2 think it's really important that we don't forget the  
3 ranching industry like we have in the past. I mean,  
4 I've dealt with numerous state directors, and I don't  
5 even want to go into how old I am.

6           Anyway, I do have one thing to say about  
7 Barstow resource. They've done a great job, not only  
8 the rangers, by stopping this OHV stuff. You made a  
9 very good point about that tortoise fence. We've always  
10 been concerned about that. It messed the bighorn sheep  
11 up back in the '80s, they found out, because they  
12 couldn't pass back and forth. And to me, you have  
13 animals in one area, you set boundaries, that's what's  
14 going to happen to the tortoise.

15           As far as the ranching, Katrina has done a very  
16 good job sitting on top of the problems we've had in the  
17 past. There's probably 15 years that we haven't done  
18 nothing at the county level, and I happen to be the  
19 chairman of San Bernardino County Range Improvement for  
20 about the last, what, 20 years. So this is the first  
21 time we're getting anywhere after all that time. Very  
22 disturbing for the ranchers, you know, because nothing's  
23 happening. But you do have some good ground people  
24 there.

25           As far as Carl, I think the world of him

1 because he generates some of that 8100 money that can  
2 help us out down here.

3 Do you want to say anything?

4 MRS. MITCHELL: Out of the 60 permits that you  
5 had, Katrina, is there any on Rattlesnake? The 60  
6 permits you said for next year for the OHV, is there any  
7 out of Rattlesnake?

8 MS. SYMONS: I would have to look at the  
9 calendar. As before, anytime we get issues, we always  
10 reach out and do the three Cs.

11 MR. MITCHELL: Exactly. You can't run both  
12 together. That's kind of nerve-racking for us.

13 Another point too -- I've probably run out of  
14 time -- but that airspace that you were talking about,  
15 if you're familiar with Rattlesnake Canyon, it's right  
16 around Soggy Dry Lake, and we could have an accident  
17 there and need airlift out. So I want to stay on top of  
18 that because we're the only family right there, but if  
19 they block all that off, they block the access to us  
20 off. I don't even think they realize there's a family  
21 there or ranching operation.

22 And for the last thing, on these kiosks, we  
23 need to notify the people -- you know, the kiosks are  
24 real good, but they don't mention anything about the  
25 ranching industry underneath it. So they drive up there

1 and say, "Okay. I got to stay on this road, 333." Then  
2 all of a sudden they think my cattle guards are to clean  
3 their tires off so they can go down the highway.

4 That's definitely something that's going to  
5 have to be addressed, because 20 years ago I might have  
6 three people on a weekend. Now I have three, four, or  
7 five people every day. I don't know where they work at  
8 or if they do have jobs, but it's really hard to run  
9 that operation to interchange with the amount of OHV  
10 around it.

11 And with that, thank you very much.

12 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Julie, you filled out a  
13 separate card. Do you want to make other comments, or  
14 are you good?

15 MRS. MITCHELL: That was it.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you.

17 John Stewart from California Four-Wheel Drive.

18 MR. STEWART: Good morning, DAC members.

19 John Stewart, California Four-Wheel Drive Association.

20 A lot has been covered as far as the activities that BLM  
21 Desert District is going through. A couple of items --  
22 or several items did trip a need to have a comment on.

23 Jim Bagley mentioned and expounded quite  
24 eloquently on airspace. While I understand and  
25 appreciate his concerns, I would like to add that it was

1 something not mentioned is one of the recreation  
2 activities that off-road people get into is the use of  
3 drones. Drones around restricted airspace, especially  
4 at Johnson Valley, are a noted problem.

5 Overflights of any aircraft over  
6 Wilderness Areas is limited to 500 feet and above, and  
7 yet there are a lot of Wilderness Area points or borders  
8 where recreationists do use drones. I would recommend  
9 that the BLM engage in a public safety advisory on a  
10 continuous basis through their various news outlets  
11 where they advise the recreationists that they reach  
12 that there are FAA regulations in place for the use of  
13 drones and places where it's appropriate and not  
14 appropriate and to begin some kind of work on public  
15 education campaign about that. It is a very important  
16 issue, and it is not very well advertised and addressed.

17 And along the lines of the PSA something was  
18 casually mentioned, and there is quite a bit about  
19 desert tortoise and ravens predation and different  
20 issues related. There was a big move a few years ago  
21 that created a desert tortoise awareness brochure that  
22 also brought up something about the raven predation  
23 problems on the desert tortoise.

24 Again, I would like to see the BLM resurrect  
25 that and start pushing that with more of public service



1 announcements through their outlets and making those  
2 brochures again more available to the recreation groups  
3 for handing out to the public or to the participants at  
4 the various Special Recreation Permits and events that  
5 they are permitting. It's something that, again,  
6 education and risk awareness is very necessary in order  
7 to make this happen and bring these to a successful  
8 conclusion.

9           Border space, that one district manager  
10 mentioned that there's changes coming in the border  
11 space areas. It is something that now is a touchy point  
12 because in the past DAC meeting -- this goes back  
13 several years -- the Homeland Security and Border Patrol  
14 were in attendance and made a statement that they're  
15 treating the first hundred miles of U.S. lands along the  
16 border as a quasi-militarized zone.

17           And yet this is an area which has a high impact  
18 to recreationists, whether they be rockhounds,  
19 off-road recreation, mountain bike, hikers, climbers,  
20 and just any type of use. That not only affects  
21 California, but it extends over to Arizona, New Mexico,  
22 and on into Texas. This is something that I believe  
23 that is not well-defined or well-acknowledged within the  
24 BLM as to the impact of recreation that these kind of  
25 actions have, especially when Homeland Security starts

1 closing gates on traditional routes of access throughout  
2 the region.

3 So, again, advertisements that publicly, yes,  
4 it's happening, because a lot of people don't know until  
5 they come up on the backside of a locked gate or jump  
6 a -- find out that they're now facing Border Patrol is  
7 questioning them and not sure why they're there on  
8 Public Lands and actually participating in a recreation  
9 activity.

10 DRECP, very big, big issue, and as it moves  
11 forward, it's going to have a major impact. I  
12 appreciated Jim's comments about going for an OHV grant  
13 to develop or plan for a recreation area. Then it goes  
14 back to, well, let's see, didn't Palm Springs have a  
15 6,000-plus-acre OHV area out off of Interstate 10 that  
16 was closed during WEMO decisions? You know, sometimes  
17 decisions made some time ago come back to impact you  
18 because they're now looking at reopening or going  
19 forward on an OHV area when they've already closed one.

20 There was a mention of a study of desert  
21 springs. I'm kind of curious as to who created and who  
22 funded that study. Is it a publicly available study as  
23 to looking now at the fact of going back and creating  
24 enclosures around these springs to affect habitat and  
25 the type of enclosure being done?

1           If it's to keep vehicle access away, that's  
2   great.  You know, it's something that should be  
3   necessary, should be done.  And also when you look at  
4   these desert springs that are in places where you have  
5   burros, make sure these are a burro-proof fence, because  
6   burros will really destroy a spring, much more so than  
7   inadvertent driving through it with a motor vehicle.  
8   Thank you.

9           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  And that's it for public  
10   comment cards that I've got.  Anybody else?  Going once,  
11   going twice.  It's just past noon.  It's 12:10, so I  
12   think if there are any questions --

13          MEMBER TAYLOR:  I wanted to say one thing.  I  
14   apologize.

15          ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  Sure.

16          MEMBER TAYLOR:  I just want to bring up at the  
17   end of this, go back to my one-trick pony thing,  
18   filming.  There was some casual conversations I wanted  
19   to bring up officially about filming on the  
20   Public Lands.  I think all of the district offices here  
21   can enjoy the economic impact of filming in their  
22   regions if we just got some EAs programmatic done in  
23   those areas that are already disturbed.

24                 If we can work out a plan that whenever you're  
25   working on a commercial use of mining, grazing, energy,

1 whatever it might be, to include filming into those EAs  
2 as a standard practice, then when the film industry  
3 comes to want to shoot at a solar panel plant, that  
4 process is already in and a CADx doesn't have to be  
5 done. It's already on the NEPA. So that will  
6 streamline that. That will bring more economic impact  
7 to the counties that are impacted, and I think it would  
8 benefit the communities around it.

9 The other thing I wanted to say was I was  
10 shocked that your budget is 33 million for the millions  
11 of acres that you have to manage. I just find that a  
12 travesty. And I don't know what can be done to solve  
13 that problem, but it really needs to be a solution to  
14 that because it's ridiculous that that's all you have to  
15 manage all the land that you got. It doesn't make any  
16 sense to me, and I think we have to figure out a way how  
17 get that notice to the D.C. that this needs to change  
18 for the amount of work that you have to do. It shocks  
19 me.

20 So those are the only comments I wanted to say.

21 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Mariana, you've got a  
22 quick comment?

23 If there are a few other quick comments, I  
24 think we can go maybe until 12:15.

25 MEMBER MAGUIRE: I'll keep it real short, and

1 maybe I'll bring it up again later on. To your point  
2 about one-trick pony, I have worked in Federal  
3 Government, I've worked for Congress, and I've gone  
4 through appropriations and done the appropriations  
5 process as a staff member in Congress many years in a  
6 row. And I appreciate very much your point about  
7 funding. Andrew, thank you for illuminating that for us  
8 as well.

9 I think at the last DAC meeting we mentioned  
10 this in the public. There was also some acknowledgment  
11 from the public that this is a problem. The resourcing,  
12 it comes from D.C. I want everyone here to know that  
13 this is an issue of appropriations. And so for everyone  
14 in the public, you know, please help support. We all  
15 have priorities that we want BLM to be able to  
16 accomplish, and they need the resources to do that.

17 Often it's tempting to shoot the messengers and  
18 be upset at the faces that we see, but the people that  
19 we should be really reaching out to are members of  
20 Congress to ask them to appropriate the right amount of  
21 funds so that BLM can do its job here on the ground,  
22 which would be telling them that the funds that BLM has  
23 for the Desert District are just deplorably low, and we  
24 need to make our voices unified and heard on that front.

25 I think we can all agree -- if at least on

1 nothing else, we can all agree that BLM here in the  
2 desert needs the resources to do its work. That is  
3 1,000 percent an appropriations issue, and that rests in  
4 the House of Representatives that has the power of the  
5 purse. We need to be asking them to give BLM the money.  
6 And I'm happy to help anyone who wants to lead in that  
7 effort.

8 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, Mariana. Any  
9 other comments before we break?

10 Ed?

11 MEMBER STOVIN: Thank you. Are we on?

12 Yeah. To echo Mariana, we can contact our own  
13 Congress members and ask them to appropriate more money  
14 for the Bureau of Land Management. I've been following  
15 activities in the El Centro BLM office for some time, as  
16 well as personnel, and they have some wonderful  
17 personnel. Neil and Carrie are fabulous.

18 They've had trouble attracting and keeping  
19 quality law enforcement people. And I've come to  
20 understand that, out of the five offices, only their  
21 office is not on the same pay scale as the other four,  
22 and that makes a problem. People see that there's a job  
23 opening with the BLM, so they take a job, and  
24 immediately they're looking to transfer to a  
25 higher-paying office. And that's difficult to manage an

1 office when people come and go quickly.

2 Is there anything the DAC can do to help  
3 El Centro get on the same pay scale as the other four  
4 offices?

5 MANAGER ARCHULETA: That proposal has been  
6 made, and we're thinking it's going to pass. So here in  
7 the next few months we'll be hearing about that. So  
8 that does make a big difference, and it has to do with  
9 high-cost-of-living areas, and it's not something that  
10 BLM itself sets. But just know that that proposal has  
11 been made, so we're hoping that that moves forward and  
12 that they will be on a similar scale.

13 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Okay. Great. Well, I  
14 think with that we'll break for lunch. It's 12:15 right  
15 now, so let's get back in here at 1:15.

16 (Lunch break.)

17 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Okay. We're going to go  
18 ahead and get started. Thanks, everybody. I know we're  
19 delayed a little bit in the agenda, but I think we'll  
20 make some time up now on the next few agenda items.

21 So at 1:00 we were going to discuss the  
22 Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders of interest to  
23 the DAC, and I'd just like to refresh everybody's memory  
24 that I think three years ago or two and a half years ago  
25 Secretary Zinke issued some new orders for us to

1 consider all RACs across the country, and the DAC was  
2 one of those groups that were supposed to consider those  
3 orders.

4 There were also Executive Orders we were  
5 supposed to consider, and I think, Andrew, if you and  
6 Ben would be willing to send those out back to the  
7 council so that at least we can have the list of those  
8 that we're supposed to look at or our new charter to  
9 freshen our mind.

10 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Maybe what we'll do is  
11 we'll put them on the website as well as send them to  
12 DAC members.

13 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Sounds good. Otherwise I  
14 think I can just open this up to the council members for  
15 any Executive or Secretarial Orders that anybody would  
16 like to discuss. I don't have any.

17 Okay. We have a space for public comments for  
18 Executive Orders, and, John, you're the only comment  
19 card I have. So anybody else that would like to make  
20 public comments on recent Executive Orders?

21 MR. STEWART: Good afternoon, DAC members.  
22 John Stewart, California Four-Wheel Drive Association.

23 I'm familiar with some of the Executive Orders,  
24 and as you mentioned earlier, going towards a one-year  
25 timeline to complete an EIS, I am fully in support of



1 that. Dropping the EIS down to no more than 150 pages,  
2 absolutely a must. Many of the downfalls of the EISs in  
3 the past have been the depth of analysis that has been  
4 included, and that really detracts from the meat of what  
5 is being done or said.

6 And getting it back to where the EIS is as  
7 intended, a programmatic document that will essentially  
8 look at what you want to do, provide a brief analysis of  
9 yes, there are impacts and further impacts will be  
10 studied on an as-necessary, as-needed basis, and the  
11 concept of tiering the various NEPA documents is tried  
12 and true, has worked in the past.

13 There's no reason we can't go back to that and  
14 create a document that really is a succinct definition  
15 of what is to be done, noting that there are potential  
16 impacts that will be looked at or addressed in more  
17 detail in being a better environment and limit the  
18 amount of analysis essentially composed or compressed  
19 into one document. Please do that. That's so  
20 important. Thank you.

21 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, John.

22 Any other commenters? Any other comments from  
23 the council?

24 Okay. Great. Well, we'll move on to the next  
25 item on the agenda, which is a presentation on Renewable

1 Energy and Transmission Line Development in the  
2 California Desert District.

3 And I think, Doug, you're the lead on this one.

4 MR. HERREMA: Just getting the computer dialed  
5 up for presentation. Then we'll get started.

6 (Doug Herrema gave a PowerPoint presentation titled  
7 "Renewable Energy and Transmission Line Development in  
8 the California Desert District.")

9 MR. HERREMA: I'd be happy to field any  
10 questions you might have.

11 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Anybody, any questions?  
12 Great.

13 Doug, what's been your experience on Athos and  
14 Ten West transmission using all the DRECP CMAs? Have  
15 you run into problems like with the rare plant buffer  
16 and things like that? How does it compare to something  
17 like Palen that was processed without DRECP in place?

18 MR. HERREMA: So for Palen, Crimson, and  
19 Quartzite, the applications for which predated the  
20 DRECP, so we used the NEPA from DRECP but not the Land  
21 Use Plan Amendment decisions, if the distinction makes  
22 sense. We developed a crosswalk with the CMAs and how  
23 they may apply. And so I think a couple years of that  
24 process made processing Athos and Ten West more  
25 efficient and more streamlined than they would have been

1 had we not had those experiences with the other  
2 projects.

3 But the quarter-mile buffer is definitely a  
4 point of tension but for siting. For transmission  
5 facilities it's a little different than P.V., where with  
6 P.V. you've got a huge field of stuff on the ground, and  
7 with transmission it's largely overhead with smaller  
8 towers. So that was something we had to look at.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah. I appreciate that.  
10 And I just want to take a few minutes and remind -- I  
11 think many of you in the room remember the last ten  
12 years. But starting in 2006 with the Energy Policy Act,  
13 there was this mix of incentives that showed up, and by  
14 2009 there was a solar gold rush out in the desert. At  
15 one point there was 1.6 million acres of application for  
16 solar that bisected the desert from Barstow all the way  
17 to Blythe.

18 And the reaction to that, I think in a lot of  
19 our communities, not just the environmental community,  
20 but local communities, the recreational community,  
21 rockhounds, was the genesis for what ultimately turned  
22 into the DRECP, I think, to try and zone renewable  
23 energy.

24 And I say all this not just to hear myself  
25 talk. DRECP was the largest amendment -- I understand

1 it was the largest single amendment ever made to the  
2 CDCA from 1980, and we're probably faced in the next  
3 couple of months with an amendment to DRECP. And so I  
4 just want to remind all of us and remind our friends at  
5 the BLM that this is a really sensitive subject. It's  
6 very controversial, and it should be. Any amendment  
7 should be taken with the greatest amount of care.

8 One thing that stood out about DRECP was it was  
9 eight years of controversy and a lot of -- it was a lot  
10 of, you know, slow, long public meetings. But it was a  
11 pretty robust process, when all was said and done. And  
12 so the last thing I think we want now is for a major  
13 amendment to come out to DRECP for us to get 60 days to  
14 comment on the thing for changes done.

15 Which all leads me to say, I know in certain  
16 parts of the country RACs are sort of able to get a  
17 preview of plan amendments before they hit the streets,  
18 and I'd like to request that, if there's any way that  
19 the DAC can get information about what's being  
20 considered in the DRECP amendment before it comes out, a  
21 preview of the amendment or any sort of, you know, ahead  
22 of it being published in the Federal Register Notice,  
23 that we be really closely involved and consulted in that  
24 process both before and during the public comment. So  
25 that's it.

1           Thanks, Doug. Good presentation.

2           MR. HERREMA: Thank you.

3           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Anybody else?

4           MEMBER TAYLOR: I have one question. On the  
5 incident with the cultural issue, do you have an idea of  
6 what the proposed outcome's going to be on solving that  
7 at this point, or is it just not quite there yet?

8           MR. HERREMA: I'll need to review that when I  
9 get back to the office. I was out most of this week in  
10 public meetings -- or actually travel meetings. So the  
11 letter's currently being developed, and I need to look  
12 at what those measures are exactly.

13          MEMBER TAYLOR: Thank you.

14          MEMBER MAGUIRE: I want to echo Frazier's  
15 statements about the DRECP and how much time it took and  
16 how much effort it took and how much of the community  
17 contributed to it and that at the end of the day it was  
18 not necessarily a plan that everyone saw everything that  
19 they wanted, but everyone saw something that they  
20 wanted. And ultimately it was very well balanced.

21           And it's a groundbreaking sort of  
22 first-of-its-kind undertaking that was really unique in  
23 looking at how to address conservation, other uses on  
24 the land, and renewable energy at a landscape level.  
25 So, you know, we really as a community came up with an

1       incredible plan here.

2               And any amendments should be very, very  
3       carefully thought through and reviewed and considered by  
4       BLM, by the public, and by this body because it really  
5       has -- opening that up again has an incredible potential  
6       to be not only disruptive, but undue, an enormous amount  
7       of work and balance and consensus that was ultimately  
8       created.

9               So hopefully we will see balance remain, and I  
10       want to echo as well it'd be great to see anything -- as  
11       members of the panel, great to see any amendments or  
12       proposed amendments in advance so we can really dig in  
13       and chew through them. It was a very complex plan to  
14       begin with, and so certainly any amendments or any  
15       suggestions for changes will be complex as well.

16               And just thank everyone at BLM again for  
17       putting in all of the effort over so many years around  
18       this plan. And that's all.

19               ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks.

20               I think we have time for public comment now on  
21       the agenda. So I've only got one card. So unless  
22       anybody else has questions for Doug, we can let him off  
23       the hook.

24               Doug, you're off the hook.

25               MR. HERREMA: Thank you.

1           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  And John, you're up.

2           MR. STEWART:  Good afternoon, DAC.

3           John Stewart, California Four-Wheel Drive Association.

4           Yeah, Frazier, you're correct that been around  
5           ten-plus years with DRECP and the problems that have  
6           been encouraged there.  I'm reminded of some comments  
7           I've heard over the past, even dating back to the early  
8           2000s, when the WEMO, NEMO, NECO plan started and a lot  
9           of the renewables were first being thought of.

10           Over the years it has become apparent that you  
11           will never be able to generate enough power to satisfy  
12           the power sink that is the L.A. basin area.  You will  
13           never be able to generate enough power that will satisfy  
14           the power sink of Las Vegas.  Two of the biggest  
15           consumptions of electricity and electrical power in the  
16           world exist in Las Vegas and the L.A. basin area.

17           To continue this folly of thinking that  
18           renewable energy developed on Public Lands in the desert  
19           region will satisfy that is problematic and very short  
20           sighted.  Until the communities that need electric power  
21           and the ones willing to develop it really get serious  
22           and return to the once stable source of power  
23           generation, which is nuclear power, which is a proven  
24           commodity, then I don't believe that they will ever  
25           reach a satisfied -- or satisfaction for creating power

1 and all we will see is a continued consumption of the  
2 desert for the power cells or the solar power fields and  
3 the wind power.

4 Now, I don't know if everybody picked it up,  
5 but on the presentation the solar, photovoltaic solar  
6 panels are made of cadmium telluride, carcinogenic  
7 compounds. The battery components are lithium. The  
8 amount of effort it takes to mine and process the  
9 cadmium and the telluride compounds and lithium in order  
10 to make those quantities of batteries and solar panels  
11 necessary is in itself a major environmental  
12 catastrophe.

13 Maybe not in the California Desert where you  
14 see it, but in the sources where those are mined, it's a  
15 massive effort with massive destructions of land. I  
16 mean, they are huge pits. You're talking up to a mile  
17 wide and several hundred feet deep for a lithium mine in  
18 order to generate enough. Now they're wanting to create  
19 more lithium demand for more batteries for power  
20 consumption. I believe they need to really get serious  
21 and look at alternative sources for the energy  
22 consumption demands of the U.S. Thank you.

23 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, John.

24 Does anybody else want to put in a public  
25 comment for this session?



1           Okay. Seeing none, we've got ourselves back  
2 ahead of schedule, which is good. So given that we had  
3 a late lunch, I think we could just push forward into  
4 the next section on the agenda and try and wrap the  
5 meeting up before a break.

6           So the next session on the agenda is Desert  
7 Advisory Council comments on the subgroups, the various  
8 subgroups that we've put together. So I think there's a  
9 chance for public comment, but before we get to the  
10 public comment on this, I'll turn it over to any of the  
11 folks on the council here, or Andrew, if anybody would  
12 like to comment on the subgroups.

13           MANAGER ARCHULETA: Just real quick, the  
14 subgroups are listed down on the bottom of your agenda.

15           MEMBER LOVINGOOD: I guess, unfortunately, I'm  
16 going to have to excuse myself for the start of this due  
17 to my constraints. I want to thank everybody for being  
18 here and hearing public comment. Look forward to the  
19 next meeting being scheduled. And any questions of my  
20 office, obviously just reach out. You can call Michelle  
21 and ask for my contact information. It's proper to say  
22 Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

23           (Member Lovingood left the meeting room and remained  
24 absent for the remainder of the proceedings.)

25           MEMBER MAGUIRE: I just want to say quickly,

1 with regard to the Mojave Trails National Monument  
2 Subgroup, I would love to see that get up and running  
3 quickly. We'd love to see that group be able to have  
4 input in the formation of management plan. I understand  
5 that perhaps funds are pending or not yet there, but  
6 just want to put a plug in for that particular group so  
7 that that monument can start to develop its resource  
8 management plan and have a lot of public input in that  
9 process as the designation had determined.

10           MANAGER ARCHULETA: You know, let me provide a  
11 little bit of beginning discussion there. One of the  
12 concerns that our Washington office has is whether we  
13 really have the authority to create some of these  
14 subgroups. You know, the DAC is regulated by the  
15 Federal Advisory Committee Act, and under that -- you  
16 know, that act houses how we should operate and orders  
17 us to create a charter, which we have a charter for this  
18 group, and it's available on the website.

19           But under that charter and under FACA, you  
20 know, we really are limited, as I understand it -- and  
21 please, anybody jump in here. But we are limited to  
22 committees that exist of subgroups of the larger DAC  
23 committee. And if we go out to bring members into -- or  
24 other public to create other subgroups or subcommittees,  
25 then that -- those members would have to be vetted

1 through our normal RAC process.

2 And so that's kind of the situation we're at  
3 right now. So I think -- well, I'll just leave it at  
4 that, and we can just continue the discussion.

5 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: If it's possible, I'd like  
6 to request for at least Mojave Trails, and I know other  
7 folks have interest, there was a list of people that  
8 were nominated or that applied to the subgroup for  
9 Mojave Trails, and I think there's appetite with folks  
10 like me and others to get that list of people that  
11 applied together that we might be able to do something  
12 completely outside of the DAC. And I wondered if that  
13 list of people was available and I could reach out to  
14 them directly, not as a DAC member, but just as another  
15 citizen.

16 MANAGER ARCHULETA: I don't know the answer to  
17 that, but we'll find out.

18 So, Michelle, if you'd make a note to follow up  
19 on that.

20 MEMBER BAGLEY: So the subgroups are something  
21 new, and I'm looking for guidance from other people.  
22 Remind me. I thought the Dingell Act created a  
23 subgroup. Am I wrong about that? Some of these things  
24 like Mojave National Trails, wasn't there supposed to be  
25 a citizen advisory group?

1           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  Yeah, in the original  
2  Feinstein legislation, Jim, for Mojave Trails National  
3  Monument there was specific guidance about creating a  
4  management group, a management advisory committee, but  
5  because it was not done legislatively but done by  
6  executive order, that part of the legislation didn't  
7  carry over into Mojave Trails.

8           So we thought the appropriate step to take  
9  would be to form a subgroup to advise the DAC, that it  
10 would be non-DAC.  It didn't necessarily have to be DAC  
11 members, but that it would be members of the general  
12 public that were interested in the topic that can meet  
13 independently of us and then advise the Desert Advisory  
14 Council.  So we wanted to honor the intent that was  
15 created in the legislation by having that set up to the  
16 DAC.

17           MEMBER BAGLEY:  So it's always an honorable  
18 intention when you're trying to gauge the public on  
19 public land decisions, and I think that's a good idea.  
20 But I also think that this body is probably an  
21 appropriate body to look at management plans for that  
22 national monument under the jurisdiction of the Bureau  
23 of Land Management.

24           I think every interest group that is  
25 represented on here has some interest in what happens

1 there. So we're not meeting on a regular basis, and if  
2 we had a meeting that was dedicated specifically to the  
3 national monuments and their management, that would be  
4 inappropriate for me, so I'm looking forward into the  
5 years ahead. I personally would like to have some  
6 involvement in it, and I think this is the most  
7 appropriate format to do that.

8 I don't like meetings that are supposed to be  
9 public but they're not really quite public because  
10 they're organized by people who don't necessarily have a  
11 responsibility to the public. We do. And I'm sorry  
12 that there's not a full complement of what the DAC  
13 should represent because we're conspicuously missing  
14 people and interests on this group.

15 And I'm encouraging people to apply all the  
16 time. And to get people who I know would be engaged and  
17 good members to actually apply is sometimes difficult.  
18 But that would be my preference, that the DAC as a whole  
19 sort of as an advisory group on these instead of going  
20 out to seek, necessarily, subgroups because I think  
21 everybody who wants a public interest, this is their  
22 format. This is where they should come and openly  
23 discuss with the public a broad spectrum of interests,  
24 not just a select group.

25 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: And I think it would

1 probably be good to -- I don't know this as well as  
2 others do, but there's some definition between us, I  
3 think, as the DAC forming around a certain subject where  
4 maybe it's a subset of the DAC that really rolls up our  
5 sleeves on a certain subject versus that subgroup that  
6 would kind of help advise us that were subject experts.  
7 So I think we were judging it as those two alternatives.

8           MANAGER ARCHULETA: So you're talking two  
9 different things that can both happen. So as a  
10 committee, you can address that topic, or you could  
11 create a subcommittee to lead the effort, if you will.  
12 At the same time, any of you or any group outside can  
13 form a committee, obviously, to look at any issue that  
14 we're talking about and then come here and make  
15 recommendations through the public format.

16           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Well, I think a lot of our  
17 interest, I know at least in the Mojave Trails Subgroup,  
18 was to not have a specific set of interests engaged but  
19 to have that broad set of interests and a lot of  
20 different subject experts.

21           Any other comments from the council on  
22 subgroups?

23           MEMBER STOVIN: I served on the Dunes DAC group  
24 for a number of years, and there's a lot of value in  
25 that group. An awful lot of people go to the dunes, and

1 yet there's a lot of management action taking place out  
2 there, both for conserving resources and for protecting  
3 and promoting recreation. And we could spend a whole --  
4 at least half the time of this meeting on just the  
5 dunes.

6 And it's important that that area gets looked  
7 at. There's fees collected -- I mean, millions of  
8 dollars in fees collected, and that needs to be spent  
9 properly. And there needs to be oversight, and the DAC  
10 subgroup can cover that oversight. It's important to  
11 look at -- there's emergency medical stuff going on.  
12 You know, they have rescue buggies, and they have  
13 helicopters. They have trained people. That's  
14 important that we keep an eye on that. There is ground  
15 operations. There's lots of restrooms. There's all  
16 kinds of stuff that needs to be looked at.

17 And there's law enforcement. A lot of trouble.  
18 Somebody just told me about a robbery out there  
19 recently. I don't think this group is specialized  
20 enough to examine that area. I don't think we have the  
21 time or the expertise. I know Nicole Gilles from the  
22 American Sand Association is like, "When are we going to  
23 have another Dunes meeting?"

24 I'm like, "Okay. I'll bring it to them."

25 So we need to have more meetings for the Dunes.

1 There's people that want to go. We want to hear what  
2 the BLM has to say about the management of the area, and  
3 that's important.

4 Mojave Trails. I'm also interested in that.  
5 Whether we form -- whether we're allowed to form a group  
6 or not, something is going to come together to look at  
7 that, and I'd like to be a part of that. And SRP,  
8 Special Recreation Permits. A few years ago we  
9 collected applicants. I know Jim Woods applied for it.  
10 There's racing organizations that are very concerned  
11 about getting permits for events, and they want to be a  
12 part of it. I'm interested in competition, and I'd like  
13 to look at that.

14 And, again, that's something that's a little  
15 bit too specialized for this group to spend time on. We  
16 could spend half a day just talking about SRP's.  
17 Katrina, you said you had 60 competitive events.  
18 There's a lot of events going on, and we need to make  
19 sure that they're being processed properly. We've got  
20 to protect resources. We need to protect recreation.  
21 There's a lot going on, so we should allow that group to  
22 be created and have meetings and make recommendations.

23 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, Ed.

24 And, Andrew, can you clarify what you mentioned  
25 about the subgroups, because I'm confused by that, at



1 least about what the authority is to create a subgroup  
2 or not.

3           MANAGER ARCHULETA: So as I understand it --  
4 and, you know -- so we don't have the authority to  
5 create something outside of FACA; right? And FACA has  
6 very specific requirements for any group that advises  
7 the government. So this is a FACA-sanctioned group  
8 right here. This group can create subcommittees of  
9 itself, but we cannot reach out to bring in other  
10 publics to create subgroups or subcommittees without  
11 going through the vetting process that this whole group  
12 goes through for nominations set up through the quorum.  
13 That's the concern.

14           Does that make sense? Hit me with your  
15 questions now.

16           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah.

17           MEMBER STOVIN: When I got on the Dunes group,  
18 I thought I was vetted. I mean, I made an application,  
19 and it took quite a while. And they came back and said,  
20 "Okay. You're appointed."

21           MANAGER ARCHULETA: So as I understand it, that  
22 was done at the district level for that group. And  
23 please, somebody jump in here if I'm not correct.

24           MR. BANIS: I'm trying.

25           MANAGER ARCHULETA: It wasn't vetted up through

1 the Washington office or the parks --

2 MEMBER STOVIN: So it went to the district or  
3 maybe the state, not --

4 MANAGER ARCHULETA: The district manager made  
5 that decision about selecting candidates.

6 MEMBER STOVIN: It didn't take an entire year  
7 the way the DAC seems to be taking.

8 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Exactly. However, given  
9 the situation we're under right now, the Washington  
10 office has cautioned us or basically said, "You don't  
11 have the authority to go create a group like that."

12 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Because of the history  
13 here with the subgroups, I know we're still talking as a  
14 council, but I'd like to invite Randy up.

15 MR. BANIS: Please.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: He has expertise with the  
17 subject.

18 MR. BANIS: I'm going to stay away from  
19 opinion. Let me ask first, is there anybody in the room  
20 that remembers Dan Maruska? So I'm afraid there's  
21 nobody in this room that can validate or verify what I'm  
22 saying.

23 And so I just have to ask you -- this is  
24 history. In the '90s and the early 2000s the Desert  
25 Advisory Committee used to put together TRTs, Technical

1 Review Teams. They were made up of members of the  
2 public as well as members of the DAC to work on an  
3 intensive analysis of issues through multiple meetings  
4 and would make a recommendation on that.

5 Right about 2010 the BLM was very nervous about  
6 the use of the term "Technical Review Team" because TRTs  
7 was a formal thing within the BLM's own organizational  
8 structure that is made up of staff members. It wasn't  
9 something that was an advisory committee or members of  
10 the public. And so there had to be some way to redefine  
11 that function that wasn't a TRT.

12 And also that is when FACA came right to the  
13 front and forefront of the Desert Advisory Committee,  
14 its members and everybody. The state office hired a  
15 consultant with very big monies named Dan Maruska who is  
16 an expert on these kinds of issues. And the state  
17 office hired him to develop an analysis of FACA, how the  
18 advisory council was acting, how it did its TRTs, its  
19 subcommittees and the like, and to find a way to  
20 organize the structure so that it would meet FACA.

21 There were over a year's worth of meetings with  
22 Mr. Maruska and all of the subgroups and the DAC itself.  
23 Mr. Maruska made several presentations to the DAC about  
24 where he was going and then at the end what his  
25 recommendations were. And the state office generally

1 followed those. And those recommendations were: The  
2 BLM can only accept advice through FACA through vetted  
3 by the BLM members through an advisory council. That is  
4 where the advice comes, from you to the BLM.

5 So I'm going to start with the easy one.  
6 Pardon me again. I really don't mean to go too far on  
7 this. The easy one is the subcommittee. That's easily  
8 determinable as being under FACA because a subcommittee  
9 is comprised of only DAC members.

10 We've had very few subcommittees in the past  
11 ten years. The last subcommittee that we had that  
12 really met and was very active was the DRECP  
13 Subcommittee. We chose not to do a subgroup for DRECP,  
14 and instead five members of the Desert Advisory Council  
15 who were especially interested in that DRECP and went to  
16 really bone up on it and dig deep, those are the five  
17 people that served as the subcommittee. They made a  
18 recommendation to the DAC. The DAC analyzed and acted  
19 on that recommendation because it came from within.

20 But other than that, virtually all the other  
21 subentity work has been performed by what we have  
22 renamed the TRTs to a subgroup. And the way the FACA  
23 nexus was achieved was that it was very clear that  
24 subgroups do not provide advice to the BLM. The  
25 subgroup does not take a vote to tell the BLM what to do

1 or ask the BLM. The subgroup advises the DAC.

2 Originally some of these subgroups, the really  
3 stronger subgroups -- and I'm going to tee off of what  
4 Ed has said -- were those that were at Imperial Sand  
5 Dunes and Dumont primarily because of the fee collection  
6 issues. Pardon me. Fee collection at the OHV areas was  
7 a relatively new thing around the 2008, '9, '10, '11.  
8 And at that time obviously members of the public and  
9 others had concerns about where all this money is going  
10 to go; how are we going to see how it's done?

11 And the Desert Advisory Council felt that,  
12 because it was so specific to a recreational site, that  
13 they deferred to have a subgroup that was made up of  
14 members of the public who had certain expertise, and  
15 one -- at least one member of the DAC was appointed to  
16 that subgroup to lead that subgroup. And that was the  
17 nexus.

18 There were times over the years where, yes, we  
19 had had meetings of subgroups when we did not have a DAC  
20 member who was appointed to that group, and we lost that  
21 FACA nexus in those situations. But these groups were  
22 meeting regularly and were doing good work and were  
23 providing the DAC with good advice. And so that is why,  
24 for better or for worse, for right or for wrong, the  
25 subgroups have continued to try to function during the

1 times in which it had a representative from the DAC and  
2 at times in which it may not have had a representative  
3 from the DAC.

4 So the concept of a subgroup being extra-FACA  
5 is certainly understood, and that was a big concern on  
6 the reorganization years ago. But I would implore the  
7 leadership of the BLM to perhaps see what the report was  
8 from the Maruska, how it was accepted, how they felt  
9 that nexus in the subgroups could be done, and there  
10 still could be a way to do this, perhaps, or not.

11 But I'm trying not to touch on any of the  
12 opinion or your new groups that you want to do or  
13 whatever, how that -- I'm going to leave it at that.  
14 It's your guys' things. But there is a long history,  
15 and there was a time not long ago where it was clearly  
16 part of BLM's policy that this was a very FACA-compliant  
17 way to go.

18 I miss you, Steve Razo. He'd be just about the  
19 only guy on the room that could call me on anything I  
20 maybe have embellished. But I did my best. I'm sorry.  
21 Thank you for your patience.

22 MANAGER ARCHULETA: That's really helpful. I  
23 just want you to all know I'm not opposed to the idea of  
24 subgroups at all. I think the better information we can  
25 get together, the more we can involve folks out there

1 and get this group up to speed on the issues or whatever  
2 it is we're talking about, that I'm all for that. We  
3 just need to be sure we're FACA compliant, as you  
4 implied, and realize this administration has a different  
5 view of RACs than previous administrations. So we need  
6 to keep that in mind with whatever we decide to move  
7 forward with.

8 MR. BANIS: Thank you for letting me take so  
9 much of your time.

10 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks for the history,  
11 Randy.

12 Any other comments from the council here with  
13 that in mind?

14 MEMBER STOVIN: Thank you. The DAC subgroups  
15 or the TRTs can provide advice. And maybe like the  
16 Dunes group wouldn't advise the BLM, but the Dunes group  
17 could come and advise the DAC saying, "Oh, we're having  
18 a problem with the Dunes. Here's what the problem is,  
19 and here's the solution we recommend." And then the DAC  
20 could discuss the situation, and then the DAC can make a  
21 recommendation to the BLM.

22 So I would love it if we could form these DAC  
23 subgroups with that in mind, knowing that they're not  
24 going to make recommendations to the BLM, that there's a  
25 chain of command that has to be followed. And whether

1 or not a DAC person is at the meetings, that's to be  
2 discussed. I think there should be, and I would intend  
3 to be at one.

4 We had a -- I don't know. I think I was on the  
5 Dunes Subgroup for seven years, and I also had a lot of  
6 meetings. And I remember only one meeting a DAC member  
7 was present during the meeting. It's a little bit sad,  
8 but we still carried on, and there's still oversight.  
9 We still got reports, the ground office, the emergency  
10 medical, and the law enforcement.

11 I mean, just having those reports puts the BLM  
12 on notice that they need to create these reports and  
13 that they're going to be accountable, so it's good to  
14 have a community -- people within a community to see  
15 what's going on and to hold them accountable. If they  
16 know they're going to have to report, then they're going  
17 to be doing things right or better. So I think that's  
18 important.

19 So is it possible we can form these unofficial  
20 subgroups and have meetings, have a DAC member? I think  
21 at least three of us want to go to the Mojave Trails  
22 one. I want to do the Dunes, and SRP, I could be part  
23 of that also. I don't know who else wants to be part of  
24 SRP. But the point is, the ones that are wanted we  
25 should move forward with.



1           Is that something we can do, Andrew?

2           MANAGER ARCHULETA: I'm thinking here.

3           MEMBER STOVIN: I know. We're putting you on  
4 the spot. And you're kind of new here, and you have to  
5 follow FACA. You need to do various things.

6           MANAGER ARCHULETA: So as Randy explained it  
7 and as you just explained it, I don't see any problems  
8 with that. I do think we need to be careful how those  
9 groups report to the DAC, and maybe it's through that  
10 DAC member is the best way. Not that members of the  
11 group can't come and speak as public, but in terms of  
12 representing that group, I think it would be the best if  
13 that DAC member could be that spokesperson, because then  
14 you're making recommendations or bringing the advice to  
15 your peers here, so to speak.

16           MEMBER STOVIN: So I think you would have to  
17 say, yes, this can take place, and then you would have  
18 to get BLM staff to go ahead to prepare for a meeting  
19 and be at a meeting -- right? -- because if we're going  
20 to have a Dunes meeting, we're going to need people from  
21 El Centro to go to the meeting, at least the three, the  
22 ground ops, the law enforcement, and the emergency  
23 medical. They're going to have to prepare reports,  
24 which I believe they already do anyway, but they're  
25 going to have to bring reports and spend hours. And

1 that's time they're not doing other stuff.

2 So I think it would become up to you that you  
3 would say, yes, go ahead and spend half a day and talk  
4 to these people that care about the Dunes.

5 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Most of the field managers  
6 are here, so if we as a group decide that's something  
7 we're really going to support, they would talk to their  
8 staffs about being available and making available to you  
9 all the information that you need. I don't see that as  
10 a problem. Obviously we're very protective of their  
11 time because there's so much going on, but at the same  
12 time that's a pretty valuable function for us.

13 MR. BANIS: May I beg another 30 minutes  
14 (as spoken) with respect to the application process? I  
15 forgot to touch on that.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I think if we're done with  
17 council members, we can just turn it over to public  
18 comment.

19 So John, I know you have comment.

20 MR. STEWART: John Stewart, California  
21 Four-Wheel Drive Association.

22 I think I've been around this a little bit too  
23 long, because I remember what Randy was talking about.  
24 I remember those days. And I'd also like to offer up,  
25 we have a BLM employee in this room that was around

1 quite a bit in those days and was quite involved,  
2 Mike Ahrens. Mike Ahrens was quite involved too.

3 To clear up some misconceptions that appear to  
4 be coming between an interpretation of what Randy said,  
5 the fee structure areas being Dumont Dunes and Glamis or  
6 Imperial Sand Dunes, those fees were originally brought  
7 into play prior to the special event recreation -- I  
8 can't remember the exact name of the legislation, but  
9 the one that authorized it. But that legislation led to  
10 the creation of what was termed a Recreational Resource  
11 Advisory Council, which was a nationwide point of which  
12 the nation was divided into different areas.

13 Now, subset of that particular legislation is  
14 that an area that had a fee structure could elect to  
15 have its own advisory council, not really a FACA  
16 advisory council, but have its own council to help  
17 discuss and work with the users of the area, of which  
18 that's how the Dumont Dunes and the Imperial Sand Dunes  
19 TRTs were brought up. And then they were essentially  
20 just melded into the DAC in the early days.

21 Yes, Randy is right. The TRTs were then turned  
22 around and renamed subgroups. And I forgot the  
23 gentleman's name that did the research, but yes, he's  
24 correct that it's there that only -- what's key here is  
25 that a FACA group is completely vetted through defined

1 channels by the FACA legislation itself.

2 The membership of these other subgroups did not  
3 really have a vetting process of anywhere near the depth  
4 that the FACA grouping or the DAC had, but their vetting  
5 was the fact that, number one, they were a user of the  
6 fee area, and number two, they were interested in  
7 involving and working with the manager of that fee area  
8 in order to ensure that things were done and things  
9 moved forward.

10 And I know Mike was instrumental in creating  
11 the business plan that set up the Imperial Sand Dunes  
12 fee structure in the early days. It then called for  
13 having a user advisory council within it. So -- and to  
14 move it forward, I support the concept of having these  
15 user advisory councils with the caveat that, unlike in  
16 the past, they have been pretty much closed meetings.  
17 No, they're technically a public meeting and should be  
18 noticed to the public for all to attend.

19 And if they are specialty in nature to an area,  
20 then it is up to that BLM office to host that public  
21 meeting, which it is in itself not a FACA-derived group  
22 or needs a FACA. Now, it can provide a report out of  
23 its progress or its findings to a FACA body, being the  
24 DAC.

25 So if you looked at the Mojave Trails Monument,

1 you set up a user group that is interested in moving and  
2 creating that process forward, number one, that user  
3 group becomes the nucleus of a public process open to  
4 the public, all members of the public, and maybe the  
5 core ones in there will actually be the ones who will  
6 bring any other information forward. But in itself,  
7 they do not provide direction to the BLM or the federal  
8 agency on how to implement the process. Thank you.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, John.

10 I think there's one other public comment card  
11 in, and then we'll come back to the council here.

12 Randy, did you want to make another comment?

13 MR. BANIS: Just briefly, may I?

14 The way that the DAC had set up subgroups, some  
15 of the time the DAC itself would come up with the idea  
16 when we would like to have a subgroup, and sometimes the  
17 BLM would actually come to us and say, "We think a  
18 subgroup would be helpful for us." In either case a  
19 subgroup was never initiated until it came to a full  
20 vote of the DAC. The DAC voted to create the subgroup  
21 or not to create the subgroup, because subgroups require  
22 care and feeding.

23 If the subgroup was voted to be put into place  
24 by the DAC, generally there would be a process within  
25 the BLM where a field manager would somehow get stuck

1 with it, and it was sort of up to them to start to  
2 initiate to the public affairs office a call for  
3 nominations. And it would go out in news bites and a  
4 press release that the Desert Advisory Council's looking  
5 for X number of members for such and such subgroup in  
6 these certain positions, here's your deadline, and so  
7 forth.

8           Members of the public would fill out their  
9 applications, get it to the Moreno Valley office.  
10 They'd get packaged all up, and at the deadline they go  
11 in the FedEx envelope, and they're sent to the chairman  
12 of the DAC. The chairman of the DAC would look at the  
13 applications and would nominate from those applications,  
14 nominate to the fellow DAC members at a subsequent  
15 meeting.

16           The chairman will bring out and say, "I  
17 received these 11 applications. I nominate nine out of  
18 these 11 people for these seats. Here's all the  
19 applications." The members, you would all have them.  
20 You'd have a packet. You looked through it, and you'd  
21 say yeah, say no, whatever. 99.99 percent of the time  
22 it was so moved and the DAC would vote to appoint those  
23 people.

24           Then it was up to the chairman to appoint the  
25 chair of that subgroup and to appoint the DAC member

1 that would have that FACA, would provide that FACA  
2 nexus. So that was the process, and it was done through  
3 public notice and so forth.

4 I will say, though, the practice of noticing  
5 subgroup meetings in the Federal Register has been a new  
6 practice. Subgroup meetings were previously noticed  
7 only through news releases, web pages, news bites,  
8 something of the nature. And by and large, most  
9 subgroups had their dates scheduled out for a few dates  
10 in advance and those would be in the universe in some  
11 way. But no, they were not federally register noticed  
12 until a very recent thing. Thank you. Sorry about  
13 this.

14 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, Randy. And  
15 thanks, John.

16 So if there's no other public comment, I think  
17 there's other comments or questions from the DAC here.

18 Go ahead, Jim.

19 MEMBER KENNEY: I was a member of the WEMO  
20 Subgroup that was chartered basically the way Randy  
21 talks about. We specifically excluded BLM because we  
22 wanted the users to feel they were free to say whatever  
23 they wanted about the route network that was going to be  
24 set up that eventually was the 2016 WEMO that was redone  
25 just recently, the route network.

1           And we had multiple meetings. We invited the  
2 public, in addition to those members that were actually  
3 appointed. We had several DAC members on this, and it  
4 worked very well. We had a very comprehensive report on  
5 what routes were out there, what was available, what we  
6 didn't want to use, and I think a lot of that helped  
7 when it was presented to the DAC.

8           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thanks, Jim.

9           Jim, did you have something to add? You're in  
10 the queue.

11           MEMBER BAGLEY: I don't want to be  
12 geographically limited in things that we do as the DAC  
13 itself, and I support this subgroup because I recognize  
14 that, if you have somebody, Dumont and Imperial are  
15 entirely a user group the people feel passionate about  
16 those, but I think it's germane for us to come back  
17 here. That was my main concern. I didn't want to get  
18 sidetracked.

19           Every one of these topics is something I feel  
20 would be important for us to discuss with the DAC. If  
21 there are user groups, that really can contribute  
22 something significant to bring value here in the desert.  
23 I want to be flexible, too, when things come up in the  
24 future. We are managing off-road vehicle areas, or it  
25 might be a wilderness area. You never know. There



1 might be an issue here.

2           And if there's a need to create some sort of  
3 group to come back, I would be open to that. It's about  
4 transparency. So when you ask people to go, there needs  
5 to be a process where we're fully disclosing who's in  
6 there. And there are political agendas in these groups.  
7 And I think that, if you come from a group and you have  
8 a political agenda, you need to fully disclose it. You  
9 need to say, "This is who I represent, and this is why  
10 I'm here," and it's part of the process so we can have a  
11 candid discussion.

12           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Thank you, Jim.

13           MEMBER MAGUIRE: So I'm fully sensitive to the  
14 fact that the district has to be sensitive to  
15 headquarters and the direction that it's being given and  
16 that there is already a lot of work that the field  
17 offices and the district does with too few staff and  
18 resources, and more meetings don't always involve better  
19 results or more efficiency.

20           However, given the historical context and  
21 historical precedent of the subgroups and how DAC  
22 members have sought and how the district office has  
23 worked with DAC members to seek out more advice and  
24 knowledge and information about all of the complex  
25 issues that take place throughout the desert, I do think

1 that we need to -- and it sounds like we're coming to  
2 some kind of consensus or agreement here, but do think  
3 of moving forward and particularly with your leadership  
4 now, Andrew, determining how that's going to move  
5 forward, you know, determining that relatively quickly,  
6 how we're going to move forward with the subgroups and  
7 if that is a tradition that we can continue, that would  
8 be important also because, if I remember correctly,  
9 there was an official call -- and I don't remember how  
10 long back, but it was quite some time back -- an  
11 official call for at least Mojave Trails National  
12 Monument Subgroup applicants. And I believe I remember  
13 seeing that on a website somewhere as well. Maybe  
14 others in the audience or on the panel can remind me if  
15 I'm correct or incorrect.

16 And so I know that there are some people who  
17 have had interest in that and have sent in their  
18 materials and have been asking, "Is that going to move  
19 forward? Is that on hold still?" You know, "What's  
20 going on with that?" And so some of the confusion that  
21 maybe we're feeling here today, members of the public  
22 will also feel.

23 So, again, as your transition unfolds and as  
24 the DAC returns to its regular order in determining how  
25 that's going to move forward and just having clarity for

1 ourselves and for the public so that they do know what  
2 to expect, and if there is a change, you know, making  
3 that clear, making it clear why, and we can direct our  
4 questions to higher people if necessary, because there  
5 are people who are expecting to see some of those things  
6 move forward that have been on hold and then now maybe  
7 the policy needs to change, or hopefully it can continue  
8 and what that looks like. Let's just get some clarity  
9 on it.

10 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Given that our RAC agendas  
11 are much more scrutinized now than they used to be, I  
12 think what would be helpful is for us to kind of capture  
13 the idea of a subgroup in just a simple paper so we can  
14 run it up the flagpole, so to speak, and get the idea  
15 vetted before it shows up in a meeting agenda.

16 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I think that's a good  
17 follow-up item for us, and I'd be happy to work on that.  
18 And I'll coordinate with others to get a simple paper  
19 written up like that, Andrew.

20 So with no other discussion on that topic, I  
21 know we need to go through the list of subgroups that we  
22 have and make a determination about which ones we want  
23 to keep and hopefully start setting meetings. So a  
24 couple of the next steps here are capture kind of what  
25 the meat of this discussion has been about subgroups so

1 that you can feel comfortable going ahead with those.

2 And then I think, as Randy outlined,  
3 identifying kind of which field office may be the lead  
4 on the subgroup -- on each one of the subgroups, then we  
5 would start working with the field office managers as  
6 DAC members to get those subgroups going again.

7 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Just real quick, I know,  
8 Randy, based on what you said, you've been through this  
9 before, and I hate to reinvent the wheel and go through  
10 it again, but I think just given where we're at  
11 nationally, we need to do that.

12 MR. BANIS: Very well. Thank you.

13 MEMBER TAYLOR: Point of order is that I don't  
14 think, since we don't have a quorum, we can't vote on  
15 adding or subtracting subgroups at this point. You have  
16 to have a quorum before we can do that.

17 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Yeah, that's right. I'm  
18 with you, Dan.

19 So that's future business, which is a great  
20 segue for our next agenda item. If everybody is good  
21 with moving on, the final item on the agenda today is a  
22 discussion around items to consider at future meetings.  
23 I'm happy to take a bulleted list of items that we  
24 discussed, like I did last time for us. I'll send it  
25 out to the group afterwards and share them with you,

1 Andrew. I'd like to open it up for items we should  
2 include next time around.

3 MEMBER STOVIN: Certainly what DAC subgroups  
4 are appropriate to be created or to be sustained.

5 MEMBER BAGLEY: We talked about this a little  
6 before. I'd like to get back to the four meetings as  
7 much as possible. I know it's demanding on staff time,  
8 but I think it's an essential role we play. All of us  
9 are very busy, and the farther in advance we can publish  
10 those theoretical dates and get them on our calendar,  
11 it's better for the DAC members, but it's also for the  
12 public, because they can agendize their own schedules.

13 I'd personally like to travel to each one of  
14 the district offices. I'd like to be somewhere where  
15 there's an issue that is really before the public.  
16 That's when I'd like to have the flexibility of being  
17 there. But I'd also like to meet at every one of the  
18 areas that we manage that we're looking at items coming  
19 for before us.

20 And the field trips, I think it's so valuable  
21 for DAC members. A lot of DAC members may have never  
22 been to some of these areas. We're going out looking at  
23 things. And also we allow the public to come along with  
24 us too, and I think that's just really -- it really  
25 fulfills the mission of what we're supposed to do.

1           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  What do you think, Jim?  I  
2 mean, would it be something that we would just request  
3 to BLM that we just cycle through the field offices?

4           MEMBER BAGLEY:  Yeah.  I think that the BLM  
5 staff, because you know what's coming up in the future.  
6 So I would look ahead at how the planning process, the  
7 records of decision, things that are coming up that are  
8 going to affect the public.  And you can see ahead here.  
9 As a DAC member this is a multiple-year term, so when I  
10 look at my tenure on this committee, I'm hoping that  
11 we're going to be everywhere:  We're going to be in  
12 Ridgecrest, we're going to be in El Centro, we're going  
13 to be out in Needles.

14           And I want field trips, and I want discussions.  
15 And it doesn't mean that we can't be other places, but I  
16 also need it on my schedule.  I'm just -- we're all  
17 really busy folks, and it really helps the farther in  
18 advance I can plan and say, "Hey, I got a travel day  
19 here and two days here, then maybe a travel date back."  
20 It's important for us.

21           And then I would like the flexibility where, if  
22 we meet and we say, "Hey, something has erupted in the  
23 California Desert," then that should be where we go next  
24 time.

25           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  Andrew or Ben, what's the

1 next earliest date? I know that there's a process. So  
2 what's the next earliest date we can meet?

3 MR. GRUBER: Sam and I were just talking about  
4 that. Seventy-five days is the absolute minimum what  
5 the Washington office requires in advance. And that is  
6 once it clears the state office. That's to publish the  
7 Federal Register Notice, so we have to work back from  
8 there.

9 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Sometime in March would be  
10 the earliest?

11 MR. GRUBER: Just for this meeting there had to  
12 be a waiver to the 30-day-in-advance requirement because  
13 the notice didn't get cleared through the whole process.  
14 So it was published 15 days in advance.

15 MEMBER TAYLOR: I'd like to propose that -- can  
16 we -- since it was a 75-day notice, why can't we take  
17 the 2020, pick three more dates or four dates already  
18 and go through the whole year and say, "These are the  
19 dates we're going do it." You know, the location can  
20 vary, but the dates -- correct me if I'm wrong, but can  
21 we do something like that and just say, "We're doing  
22 March. We're doing August," and just propose those now  
23 to D.C. so that we have the time to make that work?

24 MANAGER ARCHULETA: I'll just say that in  
25 Colorado we got away with that sometimes, proposing the

1 whole year and doing it that way, but not always. But  
2 we can pick those dates. We should probably settle on  
3 some locations as well, and then we can move forward  
4 with that.

5 MEMBER TAYLOR: That might help for our  
6 schedules. I agree with Jim. It's a challenge.

7 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I think March is not yet  
8 too hot in El Centro.

9 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Just kind of, as I  
10 understand it, kind of the normal rotation, El Centro  
11 would be kind of coming up next, and I know some of the  
12 discussion was to visit one of the rec sites, if I'm not  
13 mistaken, in El Centro.

14 MEMBER MAGUIRE: One of my soapboxes is always  
15 to just remind, too, that everyone is so busy at the  
16 field offices, and despite the best efforts -- and I  
17 know even for this meeting, efforts were put in place to  
18 try to get everything out in a timely manner and that  
19 things happened that made that difficult, so just  
20 reminding everyone to be understanding and flexible of  
21 that.

22 I do agree with you, Jim, that more field trips  
23 would be really, really beneficial and helpful, and so  
24 I'd like to propose, at the risk of putting more on  
25 field offices' plates, but perhaps there could be



1 consideration for more field trips throughout the year  
2 without necessarily having meetings throughout the year.

3 But it seems like a field trip, while it is a  
4 lot to plan, is maybe a little bit lighter lift than a  
5 whole formal meeting, and that would give people who are  
6 available and are interested in those field trips, in  
7 getting a little bit more in depth with the different  
8 district offices and issues going on, maybe a chance to  
9 do that.

10 Certainly I think we could all reach out to the  
11 field offices and kind of arrange our own visits, but  
12 maybe if there was an opportunity for all of us to have  
13 those together, that would be useful.

14 MANAGER ARCHULETA: So we budget for four  
15 meetings a year for two days like this one. So to add a  
16 couple of other field trips, I don't know that we can  
17 fund the travel for additional field trip days.

18 MEMBER MAGUIRE: Right.

19 MANAGER ARCHULETA: If you were interested in  
20 doing that, we can set the days up.

21 MEMBER MAGUIRE: Understood. Thank you. So it  
22 sounds like that it could be an option in some form.

23 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Yeah.

24 MEMBER MAGUIRE: Then one last thing I would  
25 like to put in a plug for. I think there was a lot of

1 interest when you mentioned the 33 million that you get  
2 out of the appropriations for BLM. It would be  
3 interesting to have an understanding -- a better  
4 understanding, maybe go a little bit more in depth in  
5 regular agenda for these meetings, about the  
6 appropriations that BLM gets and the budget and how the  
7 state office or how national divvies that up and just  
8 for our members and for the public just to get a little  
9 bit better understanding of how the funds funnel  
10 through.

11 And maybe there are different times of the year  
12 where this is more appropriate. Like if we have a  
13 meeting in March, that's when congressional staff are  
14 entertaining appropriations requests. Maybe that's a  
15 good time to frame what the appropriations are. Later  
16 in the year as it's being considered, maybe that's  
17 another opportunity or, again, earlier in the year, just  
18 overview of the budget and what that means to BLM.

19 But clearly there was interest, and I think  
20 more of the public will be interested as well to just  
21 understand what that looks like and then what you have  
22 to think about as these decisions are being made.

23 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: I'm going to take this  
24 really nice calendar that we got today, and I just  
25 penciled out that, if we had four meetings next year, it

1 would be approximately the last two weekends in March,  
2 the last two weekends in June. I'd like to leave a  
3 little bit of scheduling flexibility so that the  
4 district office and the field offices could look and see  
5 if they have some hard dates at the end of March they  
6 absolutely can't set a meeting for.

7 But I'd suggest that we as a council ask Andrew  
8 to set meeting dates at the end of March, end of June,  
9 end of September and beginning of December for 2020 and  
10 get back to us at your earliest convenience.

11 Does that sound all right?

12 MEMBER TAYLOR: I'm okay with that.

13 MEMBER STOVIN: Yeah. Well said. Thank you.

14 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Good. I think that  
15 resolves the scheduling thing. Does that sound all  
16 right to you, Andrew?

17 MANAGER ARCHULETA: Yeah. I think that would  
18 be great.

19 ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Good. And are there other  
20 items we want to discuss for future meetings? I'll  
21 collect the list that we had from last time and carry  
22 that forward, along with the items that we just listed.  
23 Anybody else? Okay. Well, I think that brings us to  
24 the end of our agenda, unless I missed something, which  
25 I'm not above. If it's all right with you, we can

1 adjourn the meeting.

2           MANAGER ARCHULETA: I just want to say thanks  
3 to everybody for the great comments and great  
4 discussion. Bear with me as I get my feet under myself  
5 and learn the desert, but I thoroughly have enjoyed the  
6 conversations and enjoyed dinner and the field trip.  
7 That was great. So really encourage your fellow members  
8 to come to the field trips, because I think they're  
9 really important to be able to see what we're talking  
10 about.

11           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Go ahead, Jim.

12           MEMBER KENNEY: I would like to think that we  
13 would get a card and send it to Ed for all of his  
14 contributions to this body.

15           ACTING CHAIR HANEY: Can you get us a card,  
16 Jim?

17           MEMBER KENNEY: Sure.

18           MEMBER BAGLEY: I'd just like to encourage  
19 that, and if the chair would sign on behalf of all the  
20 DAC members. Ed Waldheim has really been a contributor  
21 to the Public Lands issues, especially through Bureau of  
22 Land Management for decades. I'm really sad to hear  
23 about Ed. So if we could as a DAC have the chairman and  
24 possibly district manager sign on our behalf a heartfelt  
25 message, it would be great.

1           ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  I'd be pleased to do that.  
2           On second thought, I'm happy to get the card if I'm  
3           going to sign it on our group's behalf.  If folks want  
4           to send me messages by e-mail to include in a card, I  
5           can print those out and include them in a card.

6           MEMBER MAGUIRE:  I would recommend maybe send  
7           an e-mail out to all DAC members.  There are a few that  
8           are not present today.  Just let them know, and then we  
9           can reply with our messages.

10          ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  Yeah, that sounds good.

11          THE REPORTER:  And I'll take whatever anybody  
12          has said in the record about him and e-mail that.

13          ACTING CHAIR HANEY:  Thank you very much.

14          Okay.  Well, welcome again, Andrew, and thank  
15          you everybody on the council.  I don't know if I'll be  
16          in on the next meeting or not.  I think my time may have  
17          run out for the three years, so it's really been a  
18          pleasure to get to know all of you and to have these  
19          discussions.  And it's been a highlight, and I'll  
20          hopefully be continuing to join you on the table.  But  
21          maybe I'll be out there next time.

22          So with that, I will adjourn the meeting.

23   (Applause.)

24   (The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I, Diane Carver Mann, CSR No. 6008, in and for the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing pages were taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place stated herein and represent a true and correct transcript of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not interested in the event of the action.

Witness my hand this 26th day of December, 2019.



Certified Shorthand  
Reporter in and for the  
State of California

[1 - 90s]

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[estimate - federal]

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[heritage - important]

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[mountain - north]

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[north - opportunity]

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[political - program]

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[programmatic - question]

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[recognize - reports]

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[repower - role]

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[stipulations - symons]

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[symons - things]

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