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

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015

FILE NO. 50313  
REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CLR, CSR NO. 6008

1 MEETING OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF  
2 LAND MANAGEMENT CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT ADVISORY  
3 COUNCIL AT 1200 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, CONFERENCE ROOM D,  
4 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, COMMENCING AT 8:37 A.M. ON  
5 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015, BEFORE DIANE CARVER MANN,  
6 CSR NO. 6008.

7

8 APPEARANCES

9

| 10 MEMBERS PRESENT:        | REPRESENTING:   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 11 APRIL SALL, CHAIR       | PUBLIC AT LARGE   |
| 12 RANDY BANIS, VICE-CHAIR | PUBLIC AT LARGE   |
| 13 SETH SHTEIR             | ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  |
| 14 LESLIE BARRETT          | RENEWABLE RESOURCES   |
| 15 MARK ALGAZY             | PUBLIC AT LARGE   |
| 16 PAUL R. O'BOYLE         | TRANSPORTATION/RIGHTS-OF-WAY  |
| 17 DON HOUSTON             | NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES  |
| 18 AL MUTH                 | WILDLIFE  |
| 19 RAY CASTILLO            | ELECTED OFFICIAL  |
| 20 TERI RAML               | DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL<br>(DISTRICT MANAGER, CALIFORNIA<br>21 DESERT DISTRICT) |

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1 APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)

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3 BLM STAFF PRESENT:

4 STEPHEN RAZO, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, CDD

5 CHARLES YUDSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CDD

6 JENNIFER WOHLGEMUTH, DISTRICT MANAGER STAFF ASSISTANT

7 JOHN KALISH, PALM SPRINGS SOUTH COAST FIELD MANAGER

8 TOM ZALE, EL CENTRO FIELD MANAGER

9 CARL SYMONS, RIDGECREST FIELD MANAGER

10 JEFF CHILDERS, BARSTOW ASSISTANT FIELD MANAGER

11 GREG MILLER, DEPUTY DISTRICT MANAGER FOR RESOURCES

12 VICKI WOOD, PALM SPRINGS ACTING ASSOCIATE FIELD MANAGER

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21 Hauser Beds and Survey Done on Rockhounds from  
22 Shirley Leeson

23 2 - San Diego Mineral and Gem Society letter dated  
24 February 21, 2015

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1 RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015

2 8:37 A.M.

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

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6

7 CHAIR SALL: Call to order at 8:37-ish. Good  
8 morning. Thank you all for joining us. My name is  
9 April Sall. I'm chair of the DAC, and I'd like to go  
10 ahead and do introductions, and then we'll get started  
11 with our climate change focus meeting.

12 If folks could please check out the agenda, the  
13 public comment periods and some of the normal order of  
14 how we do reports is all going to be flipped today  
15 because of the guest speakers that we have. So just  
16 check out the agenda, and we'll be doing public comment  
17 a little bit later. And restrooms, I understand, are  
18 out the door to the right and then to the left.

19 DIRECTOR RAML: You're right. Sorry. Left and  
20 left.

21 CHAIR SALL: We're good enough. If everybody  
22 could please make sure cell phones are silenced, we'll  
23 do introductions then get into guest speakers, if the  
24 DAC could go around and introduce.

25 MEMBER ALGAZY: Are you starting with the

1 Pledge of Allegiance?

2 CHAIR SALL: Do we usually do pledge first?

3 Yeah, I guess so. We can do that. All right. Mark,  
4 why don't you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

6 MEMBER ALGAZY: Good morning. My name is  
7 Mark Algazy, and I represent the public at large.

8 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Good morning. Randy Banis,  
9 representative of public at large.

10 MEMBER BARRETT: Good morning. Leslie Barrett  
11 representing renewables.

12 CHAIR SALL: April Sall, chair of the DAC.

13 MEMBER MUTH: Al Muth representing wildlife.

14 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Paul O'Boyle representing the  
15 rights-of-way.

16 MEMBER HOUSTON: And Don Houston representing  
17 nonrenewable resources.

18 MEMBER SHTEIR: Seth Shteir representing  
19 environment.

20 DIRECTOR RAML: I'm Teri Raml. I'm the  
21 Designated Federal Official for this meeting. I would  
22 like the BLM staff to introduce themselves. I was going  
23 to start with Greg Miller. There's Greg Miller. He's  
24 the Deputy District Manager for Resources. Okay. Jeff?

25 MR. CHILDERS: I'm Jeff Childers, Assistant

1 Field Manager in Barstow. I'm here for Katrina.

2 MR. KALISH: John Kalish, Field Manager out of  
3 Palm Springs.

4 MS. MORRILL: Sorry. Miriam Morrill, BLM  
5 California State Office in Sacramento, Climate  
6 Adaptation Planner.

7 MS. WOOD: Vicki Wood, Acting Associate Field  
8 Manager, Palm Springs.

9 MR. ZALE: Tom Zale, Field Manager, El Centro.

10 MR. SYMONS: Carl Symons, Field Manager,  
11 Ridgecrest.

12 MS. WOHLGEMUTH: Jennifer Wohlgemuth, Staff  
13 Assistant to the District Manager and to the DAC.

14 MR. YUDSON: Charles Yudson, Public Affairs in  
15 the district.

16 MR. RAZO: Steve Razo, External Affairs  
17 Director for the district.

18 DIRECTOR RAML: Let me add Mike Ahrens, the  
19 Field Manager from Needles, is not going to be with us  
20 this meeting. Needles is celebrating Route 66, and  
21 we're having a Discover the Desert event today, so  
22 hopefully it will be a wonderful event. Then, as Jeff  
23 said, he's here. He's the Assistant Field Manager for  
24 Barstow. Katrina is coming back from Colorado, where  
25 she's been all week on a law enforcement review. So

1 with that, you've got the BLM staff.

2 CHAIR SALL: Great.

3 DIRECTOR RAML: Do you want me to go?

4 CHAIR SALL: Sure.

5 DIRECTOR RAML: I'll start. We've been  
6 planning this climate change session for a little while,  
7 and I'm so happy that we're going to have it. And I  
8 really want to thank Al and April for helping line up  
9 the speakers. I'm very pleased to have Miriam Morrill  
10 here from our state office. Her title is "Climate  
11 Adaptation Planner," so she'll tell us a little bit  
12 about her job and about how the bureau's climate change  
13 program is going to work.

14 And for the people kind of out there in the  
15 audience, I gave the DAC some key questions just to  
16 consider and maybe be prepare at some point to talk with  
17 us about. And the first one is, what observations do  
18 the DAC members have about climate adaptation in the  
19 management of the California Desert District? And the  
20 second question is, would the DAC like additional  
21 information about climate change, and are there areas of  
22 inquiry that the DAC would like to explore? So is this  
23 the beginning of a conversation, or is this kind of a  
24 one-topic sort of meeting?

25 Then the last one is, what are the key messages

1 the public should receive about the impacts of climate  
2 change in the California desert? So in some ways that's  
3 the sort of framework for the DAC to at least provide  
4 information back to the bureau. So with that, I think,  
5 Miriam, take it away.

6 CHAIR SALL: Actually I would just like to  
7 announce we had a quick reversal in some of our speakers  
8 because one of our speakers has some weather to travel  
9 through, and so we are going to move Dr. Jeffrey Lovich  
10 up to be first; correct?

11 DR. LOVICH: Yep.

12 CHAIR SALL: All right. So please welcome him,  
13 and we will get started. Thank you.

14 DR. LOVICH: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen,  
15 and thank you for accommodating the switch in the  
16 program. I live in Flagstaff, Arizona, and we're  
17 supposed to get two feet of snow in the next several  
18 days. So it's pretty bad right now, I understand, so  
19 I've got to head back up as soon as I'm finished.

20 So I've been doing research on desert tortoises  
21 now for over 20 years, most of it in John Kalish's  
22 backyard in Palm Springs. And some of the research that  
23 I've done has focused on the effects of climate and  
24 weather on the tortoise. And that's what I want to  
25 share with you today.

1           So in this overview I'm going to give a brief  
2 history of climate change, because climate change is  
3 actually not something new. Climate change occurs  
4 naturally, and there have been various cycles in the  
5 history of the earth where the climate has in fact  
6 changed. So we'll talk about that to place things in  
7 the deep ecological context, because before you  
8 understand the future, you have to understand the past.  
9 And my colleague Dr. Barry Sinervo will talk about that  
10 in more detail.

11           Then I'm going to summarize the scientific  
12 literature on desert tortoises and the effects of  
13 weather and climate on their biology based on kind of a  
14 status of knowledge review, if you will.

15           (Dr. Lovich gave a presentation.)

16           MEMBER SHTEIR: I had a quick question. Can I  
17 ask a quick question?

18           DR. LOVICH: Who?

19           MEMBER SHTEIR: Right here. Sorry. Hey, I  
20 notice that in 2005 I think that was one of the wettest  
21 years on record in the Mojave, and I noticed the  
22 abundance was very low.

23           DR. LOVICH: Yeah, and that's a really good  
24 point. I'll back up. One of the difficulties of doing  
25 surveys for tortoises is their detectability -- and we



1           And then the second thing. We offered in one  
2 of our reclamations to leave a lake that can be  
3 naturally filled and stuff for dry areas and things like  
4 that. And they said, no, that cannot be done because  
5 it's not natural. And so I'm just bringing those up to  
6 see what you had.

7           DR. LOVICH: Well, I'm not an ornithologist, so  
8 that's why I steered clear of ravens. But other than  
9 that, I'm not sure how climate change might affect them.  
10 They may benefit from it; they may not. There will be  
11 winners and losers.

12           One of the things that Cameron Barrows' paper  
13 pointed out I didn't share with you is that the  
14 chuckwalla had the opposite response of the desert  
15 tortoise. They liked it hot. And under his  
16 warming-drying climate scenario, chuckwalla distribution  
17 actually increased in Joshua Tree National Park. So  
18 again there will be winners and losers. Dr. Sinervo  
19 will talk a little bit about that. He's actually an  
20 expert on that topic. But again I don't know that much  
21 about ravens.

22           MR. MARTORI: Thank you.

23           DR. LOVICH: Good to see you again, Tom. It's  
24 been a long time. I used to work for BLM back in the  
25 old days, so this is kind of old-home week for me.

1 Gentleman?

2 MEMBER SHTEIR: I had two questions, and you  
3 can pick either one if there's not time.

4 DR. LOVICH: All right.

5 MEMBER SHTEIR: One is that, aside from trends  
6 towards warming and drying, isn't it so there will be  
7 increasing variability of precipitation?

8 DR. LOVICH: That's generally what the  
9 circulation models globally predict. And that's why the  
10 public seems to get confused about climate change. They  
11 think that global warming means it's always going to be  
12 getting hotter and hotter and hotter, you know. Like  
13 we've seen back in the east this year, because of shift  
14 in the jet stream, it's extremely cold. It was  
15 extremely cold last year, too, but globally surface  
16 temperatures around the world were the hottest ever in  
17 2014.

18 So the variability, I think, is a key issue to  
19 emphasize when you talk to lay people about climate  
20 change, because they think it always means it's going up  
21 if you say, "global warming."

22 MEMBER SHTEIR: The second one was -- this is  
23 just a thought, you know -- is there any evidence or any  
24 thought that hotter temperatures or changes in climate  
25 will affect the rate to which a desert tortoise matures

1 and is actually able to reproduce?

2 DR. LOVICH: Well, there is definitely  
3 geographic variation in tortoise maturity schedules.  
4 Typically a tortoise matures at about 15 to 20 years at  
5 a body size of about 180 millimeters, straight line  
6 carapace length. A colleague of mine, Dave Germano of  
7 Cal State University, Bakersfield, published a paper  
8 years ago comparing growth rates in tortoises in the  
9 West Mojave, the East Mojave, the Colorado Desert, the  
10 Sonoran Desert of Arizona, and he found dramatic  
11 differences.

12 Of course some of the differences with the  
13 other species of tortoises in Arizona are caused by  
14 rainfall, too, which tends to be not concentrated in the  
15 winter as it is in much of the Mojave. They get summer  
16 rains as well. But, yeah, there's big differences.

17 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you.

18 DR. LOVICH: Yes?

19 MEMBER HOUSTON: Jeff, you said the desert  
20 tortoise is not well-adapted to the desert but yet it  
21 can go two years without a drink of water. From my  
22 point of view, that's a very strong desert-adapted  
23 species. Are you comparing it to other species that can  
24 go longer without?

25 DR. LOVICH: Kangaroo rats can go longer. I

1 don't think they ever have to drink, do they, Barry?

2 DR. SINERVO: No, they don't have to drink.

3 DR. LOVICH: Yeah. That's a pretty  
4 well-adapted creature. It gets all water from food it  
5 eats.

6 CHAIR SALL: Randy has a question.

7 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Establishing long-term  
8 survey sites, such as the Barrows plot, I'm sure, as we  
9 can see, produces an immense amount of valuable data.  
10 Would it also be wise to begin establishing long-term  
11 survey plots on the edges of the population distribution  
12 to see if theories of movement -- population movement is  
13 occurring?

14 I'm just wondering if traditional research  
15 tends to go to the core of where the animals are so that  
16 you can develop more statistics for a wider range of  
17 analysis and a wider range of questions. But I think it  
18 would be helpful to have things like on the edge,  
19 long-term studies to see if that movement is happening  
20 to cooler areas, higher elevation, places that are  
21 wetter.

22 DR. LOVICH: That's a really good point. And  
23 I'm just as guilty as all other scientists. I go to  
24 where the animals are or whatever the study organism is  
25 where I can get the most bang for my buck. And so

1 that's been a criticism of some of the permanent study  
2 plots that BLM established in the '70s. They didn't go  
3 out and randomly set those on the landscape where  
4 tortoises were and where tortoises weren't. They put  
5 them where tortoises were. And so there's still  
6 valuable data to be collected from those. But the idea  
7 of a more randomized approach, I think, is statistically  
8 more rigorous and potentially more valuable but also  
9 more expensive to collect data on nothing.

10 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Thank you.

11 DR. SINERVO: Barry Sinervo. There is a very  
12 efficient way to do that with dogs for conservation  
13 science. So detecting something that's very difficult  
14 to detect, like a desert tortoise, you can put dogs out  
15 in the environment and detect their scat and things, so  
16 you can actually get very nice data using animals like  
17 that.

18 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Pardon me. That is true.  
19 When we lose our tortoises in the backyard, we say,  
20 "Find it," to our Weims, and our Weims will find them  
21 just like that.

22 MEMBER ALGAZY: I was wondering on the ability  
23 to figure out how long tortoises have been around and  
24 date that, and there must be not just carbon data going  
25 on but maybe genetic markers to figure out which ones

1 from what time and if there's enough genetic markers to  
2 determine if current tortoises have enough of the same  
3 genetics as the ancient tortoises did to survive the  
4 55-centigrade time period.

5 DR. LOVICH: Very interesting question. I  
6 suspect maybe an isotope analysis or something like that  
7 could address that. I'd be happy to talk to you about  
8 funding opportunities.

9 CHAIR SALL: Jeff, I've got a question. So  
10 fragmentation and connectivity is obviously a big  
11 challenge with a lot of species in the desert tortoise  
12 because of their mobility challenges, maybe more so.  
13 What are your thoughts on how BLM and the agency can  
14 address connectivity in terms of the existing roads and  
15 how we actually provide structures or road-maintenance  
16 changes that will help connectivity?

17 DR. LOVICH: Well, some of you are familiar  
18 with the work of one of my colleagues in USGS in  
19 San Diego, Amy Vandergast. She published a paper a  
20 couple of years ago that actually looked at areas of the  
21 Mojave based on an analysis of multiple species from  
22 insects all the way to tortoises, looking at things like  
23 genetic connectivity, levels of genetic heterozygosity,  
24 which are desirable compared to homozygosities.

25 And she actually plotted that out on landscape

1 maps showing where the real opportunities to support  
2 these genetic linkages and corridors then superimposed  
3 energy development on top of that and found there were  
4 in fact choices being made that might actually fragment  
5 some of those important corridors and such. I think  
6 that type of modeling is particularly good and could be  
7 expanded upon for tortoises, I'm sure.

8           MEMBER BARRETT: Hi, Jeff. Thank you. A  
9 couple of questions with respect to the desert. And no  
10 two deserts are alike, and so some of these deserts that  
11 the desert tortoise currently inhabit essentially are  
12 warmer than others. How has your studies indicated that  
13 in the hotter deserts, desert tortoise have survived?  
14 Better, worse or different? I mean, essentially, if  
15 we've got two different deserts, and those that survive  
16 in the hotter deserts may be the ones that ultimately  
17 survive as the cooler deserts get hotter.

18           DR. LOVICH: Ultimately we have more than two  
19 deserts. Maybe you're speaking of California but  
20 potentially five or six in North America -- actually six  
21 now. I don't know if you remember. The San Joaquin  
22 Valley was officially declared a desert. Did you know  
23 that? And there were tortoises there. In the past  
24 there were tortoises in Hemet, in the recent past as  
25 well. So we know that the distribution of these animals

1 has ebbed and flowed over time, but the tortoises that  
2 live in the two deserts you're talking about, the Mojave  
3 and the Sonoran, have evolved very different  
4 life-history traits.

5           So for example, over in my turf in Arizona the  
6 tortoise lays one clutch per year. Here in California  
7 they lay up to three clutches a year, and that has  
8 important demographic consequences that have to be  
9 overcome. But things are very different over there  
10 because the precipitation, like I said, is biphasic.  
11 You get winter rain and summer rain. So comparing  
12 deserts based on heat alone might not be a good way to  
13 do it.

14           I will add one more thing. Dave Morafka, now  
15 deceased, a great herpetologist, a good friend of mine,  
16 he came up with a theory years ago that I think was  
17 brilliant to explain tortoise distribution. So there  
18 are large parts of the desert that we would go out to  
19 and say, "This looks like great tortoise habitat," but  
20 there are no tortoises. Then we go to other areas, like  
21 Palm Springs. It does not look like tortoise habitat,  
22 but there's tortoises there.

23           Clearly the tortoises don't read the same books  
24 that we write, but nevertheless he suggested that,  
25 because of the spatial and temporal variability of

1 rainfall -- so one valley might receive rain five years  
2 in a row in the upper part of the valley and no rain for  
3 five years in the lower part. Tortoises in the lower  
4 part over time are going to disappear because they can't  
5 survive under those conditions, whereas the ones above  
6 will prosper.

7           It takes years for tortoises to recolonize  
8 those areas because they move so slowly, they tend to be  
9 homebodies. They have established territories, if you  
10 will, so that's created a patchwork of tortoise  
11 distribution that reflects past climatic events, past  
12 extinction events that were all driven by natural  
13 processes.

14           But now that you put roads in the middle and  
15 cities and aqueducts and wind farms and solar farms,  
16 those tortoises don't have those same opportunities. So  
17 that's where it's going to be a challenge, and it might  
18 require -- might -- active intervention by people where  
19 we actually move tortoises back and forth at some rate  
20 to maintain genetic health and vigor in the population  
21 because they can't don't themselves any longer. I think  
22 Dr. Sinervo will talk in more detail on that.

23           MEMBER BARRETT: I have one additional  
24 question. I apologize. I'm actually going to turn your  
25 question back on yourself. Given your extensive studies

1 in Palm Springs and the relative success, I think, of  
2 the desert populations in the areas that you have  
3 studied relatively, what do you put down as the  
4 management actions that you have seen to have the most  
5 beneficial impact on desert tortoise through your study  
6 period?

7 DR. LOVICH: Well, I think protection is  
8 probably a very important consideration. So for  
9 example, in my studies in Palm Springs they're conducted  
10 in an operating wind energy facility, but that's BLM  
11 land. Because the lease is for a very expensive  
12 infrastructure and there's risks of public in there,  
13 public access is now restricted. And, you know, in some  
14 measure that may contribute to the ability of our  
15 population to have demonstrated stability over time.

16 One thing I'm concerned about, though, is, I  
17 have yet to see significant turnover of the adult  
18 fraction of the population. And so we know they lay  
19 eggs. We know they produce hatchlings. We know their  
20 hatchlings have good survivorship for up to six months  
21 based on the empirical data we've collected. But we've  
22 still yet to see a change in the ranks.

23 Every year we go out and catch the same  
24 tortoises, so there could be some recruitment issues.  
25 But those are systemic. I've heard from some colleagues

1 they're concerned range-wide about the ability of the  
2 tortoise population to recruit. And one of the dangers  
3 of being complacent about turtle conservation is because  
4 many species, like the desert tortoise, are capable of  
5 living a long time, certainly longer than a researcher's  
6 career. I go out there every year, and I see tortoises.  
7 And the assumption for the average observer would be,  
8 they're doing fine. I see them every year. But if I  
9 lived long enough or had a career long enough where  
10 there was no recruitment in the population and one day I  
11 go out there, and I say, "Where are all the tortoises?"  
12 and they would all disappear in a very short timeframe  
13 if there was nothing coming behind them.

14           And this has been demonstrated very, very  
15 eloquently by the sea turtle community. You could stand  
16 on a beach in Costa Rica, and sea turtles come up every  
17 year. You live to be 80 years. The sea turtles are  
18 always coming up. But every year of your life people  
19 have been collecting all the eggs out of the sand to eat  
20 them. All of sudden there's no more turtles. What  
21 happened? Well, there was no recruitment.

22           MEMBER BARRETT: But you would suggest perhaps,  
23 even though it's a very short study period relatively in  
24 the turtles' lives or many lives, that access is  
25 potentially a factor in the survivability, because we as

1 a group here and many of the folks in the audience here  
2 are dealing with issues of access in the desert as to  
3 how best to protect the unique fragile resources in the  
4 desert. And it would seem that, at least from your  
5 limited study, limited period of time, that access has  
6 been one of those factors.

7 DR. LOVICH: Yeah. A long record of having  
8 published that, that is one of the contributing factors  
9 to the stability of the population I've studied for over  
10 20 years.

11 MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you.

12 DR. LOVICH: The level of access, the degree of  
13 access, those things, you know, are all debatable. But  
14 in this case public access is greatly restricted, except  
15 for hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail.

16 MEMBER O'BOYLE: I have a question. A lot of  
17 what we deal with is renewable projects. And the big  
18 thing driving that, of course, is climate change, we're  
19 saying. We need to do something about renewables. So  
20 we have to come up with renewables as opposed to using  
21 fossil fuels. That's what's driving these large solar  
22 projects, et cetera.

23 There are people on this DAC that believe --  
24 and I've said this before -- that global warming is a  
25 hoax; it's Y2K; I mean, it's just not really happening.

1 And if you look at it relative to the normal flux of  
2 weather or climate, you know, we've only been keeping  
3 track of weather for a couple hundred years, maybe 150,  
4 200 years. So when these people talk in geologic terms  
5 saying the sampling you have is so small that no one can  
6 really make that assumption that, yes, the world is  
7 actually warming, that's what I hear from people.

8           And so I just would like to get your take on  
9 that. You know, what type of evidence, proof or  
10 whatever to convince people that this is actually  
11 happening, because I think that's a fundamental  
12 question.

13           DR. LOVICH: Actually the instrumented climatic  
14 record goes back a couple hundred years; right? But  
15 there are other proxies for climate that are very good.  
16 So, for example, we know that the observatories on  
17 Mauna Kea in Hawaii are the ones that started tracking  
18 CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere in 1960s. And they  
19 did this because of the effect of CO2 on optical clarity  
20 of their ability to probe deep space from high  
21 elevations in Hawaii. That record is unassailable when  
22 it shows it's going up.

23           But it doesn't stop in 1964, because scientists  
24 have also taken ice cores in Antarctica, where they know  
25 the chronology of the snow depths and the lines in the

1 ice, where they can actually go back thousands and  
2 thousands and tens of thousands of years, and they can  
3 actually take those cores under controlled conditions  
4 and extract the bubbles of air that are trapped in that  
5 ice. And they've been able to measure the CO2 back --  
6 what? -- 20-, 30,000 years?

7 DR. SINERVO: Yes. And what you're talking  
8 about was also beautifully calibrated by the same CO2  
9 measurements in the Antarctica. They have had a  
10 reporting station in Antarctica. So there's a beautiful  
11 correlation between the reporting station in Antarctica  
12 and the actual bubbles that accumulated CO2 during the  
13 period of reporting, so you get a very nice correlation.

14 DR. LOVICH: So, yeah, and then there's tree  
15 rings that go back a couple thousand years, maybe, you  
16 know, where you can look at fire cycles, drought cycles.  
17 People like Tom Swetnam at University of Arizona that  
18 has a tree ring lab, they've got beautiful climate  
19 reconstructions going back thousands of years, as far as  
20 the tree rings allow.

21 MEMBER O'BOYLE: I guess my question for you  
22 would be, following up on that, we can agree there's  
23 climate change going on and there's human activity  
24 involved with it. We've had survey field trips where we  
25 went where we actually went where there was a man-made

1 water hole, and the mole, I think it was called -- a  
2 vole -- that created a habitat for it. So everything  
3 man does has an impact on the environment.

4           So I guess the question I have for you is,  
5 you're talking about these solar farms being  
6 double-edged swords creating obstacles to access for the  
7 tortoises, but they're also creating protection because  
8 no one can go out there now because it's all fenced off  
9 because it's a solar farm. So it's kind of a  
10 double-edged sword. What type of things would you  
11 recommend that we can implement or suggest to implement  
12 by the BLM to assist in the preservation of those  
13 resources?

14           DR. LOVICH: Well, this is beyond my realm as a  
15 scientist, way above my pay grade, I might add. But you  
16 have to do a cost-benefit analysis. So, for example,  
17 there are published papers -- I speak as a scientist, so  
18 that's the information I share with this group -- that  
19 show that, for a particular renewable energy facility to  
20 become carbon neutral might take a decade or longer  
21 because of the huge amount of investment of energy to  
22 mine the iron, mine the steel, process fiberglass,  
23 et cetera, refine it, mold it, make it into the parts,  
24 transport to the site, maintain it, et cetera. That all  
25 has a cost associated with it.

1           So there are things called life-cycle analyses  
2 in the energy world. And I'm not an engineer either,  
3 but I know that that literature is robust and there's  
4 really good studies out there that allow you to do a  
5 cost-benefit analysis in terms of, you know, is this  
6 really going to do what we want it to do? And that's  
7 the kind of approach that I think would be warranted to  
8 respond to your question.

9           CHAIR SALL: We have a question from the  
10 audience. Gerry?

11           MR. HILLIER: Yeah, Jeff, just a quick question  
12 then a comment. On the Joshua Tree plot was disease at  
13 all a factor amongst the tortoises, or was the  
14 population essentially either disease free -- or disease  
15 symptomatic free, I guess, probably would be the more  
16 correct way to say it.

17           DR. LOVICH: Well, Jerry Freilich, who really  
18 pioneered the intensity of studies on that site in the  
19 '90s, he's a good friend of mine. We both went to  
20 University of Oregon, and he co-authored the paper with  
21 me. And I asked him -- I said, "Did you see disease  
22 back then?"

23           He said, "No. We never saw tortoises with  
24 snotty noses. We didn't see shell disease."

25           MR. HILLIER: The disease didn't show up until

1 '87, '88.

2 DR. LOVICH: He was working in the '90s.

3 GERRY HILLIER: Yeah.

4 DR. LOVICH: But then I was onsite in '97 and  
5 '98. I didn't see evidence of disease. Then we did  
6 find one snotty-nosed tortoise blowing bubbles out of  
7 its nose when we did our surveys in 2012, but that was  
8 the most extreme case of clinical symptoms I've seen on  
9 the plot since '97. So it seems like the disease had a  
10 very limited effect, if any.

11 MR. HILLIER: That would not have been a factor  
12 in the carcasses.

13 DR. LOVICH: We concluded based on that kind of  
14 casual observations. We didn't do live surveys or  
15 anything like that.

16 GERRY HILLIER: No. I was just interested in  
17 the symptomatic visibility. I'll talk to you about the  
18 Woodbury and Hardy plot. I have an anecdotal story that  
19 one of the oldtimers told me.

20 DR. LOVICH: Okay. Good.

21 CHAIR SALL: Last question right here. Then we  
22 are taking a break.

23 MR. SMITH: Just thoughts running through my  
24 mind here. From what you said, it sounds to me like the  
25 jungle -- the tropical desert tortoise has adapted very

1 well over the aeons historically without human  
2 intervention. When we interfered with the sea turtle  
3 management, we almost screwed up the male-female ratios.

4           What kind of studies are being done to  
5 determine the detrimental impacts continual human  
6 interference in the natural cycles, environmental  
7 cycles, because if you dismiss the damage that can be  
8 done by continual human interference in the natural  
9 cycles, we could be going down a road that we can never  
10 reverse.

11           DR. LOVICH: So you're talking --

12           MR. SMITH: What kind of studies are being done  
13 to determine the damaging effects by human intervention  
14 in natural cycles?

15           DR. LOVICH: That's good question. Nothing  
16 jumps to mind immediately, but I know back in the '90s  
17 there were a series of essays published in  
18 Conservation Biology that talked about a phenomenon that  
19 I think we're all familiar with the author called  
20 techno-arrogance. The idea was that science can solve  
21 any problem. Science has put us on the moon. They gave  
22 us plastics. It gave us aspirin. It gave us  
23 penicillin. You know, it will certainly cure AIDS. And  
24 maybe that's true.

25           But the idea is that at some point human

1 manipulation of a system might cross a boundary that's  
2 very difficult to get back from. Genetically modified  
3 organisms are an issue of hot concern these days  
4 regarding that. But that's all I can say because that's  
5 not an area of research I'm familiar with. I know that  
6 people have talked about it, philosophy in science, but  
7 I'm not aware of any research to address that.

8 MR. SMITH: I think it needs to probably go  
9 beyond philosophical and maybe do some hard science on  
10 that.

11 CHAIR SALL: We can talk a little more here at  
12 the break, but thank you very much, Jeff, for coming  
13 down. We really appreciate the presentation.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIR SALL: A ten-minute break, and then come  
16 back to Miriam. Thank you.

17 (Morning recess was taken.)

18 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Okay. We have  
19 apparently had another agenda change, and we're moving  
20 up Dr. Barry Sinervo to give his talk next, and then we  
21 will probably have another quick break.

22 All right. With that, I will introduce  
23 Dr. Sinervo. Thank you.

24 \\

25 \\

1 (Dr. Barry Sinervo gave a presentation entitled  
2 "Demographic and Physiologic Models of Climate Change  
3 from 65 Million Years Ago to Future Projections Under  
4 the Impacts of Solar Development.")

5 (Applause.)

6 MEMBER SHTEIR: You talk a lot about the desert  
7 tortoise. Are there species of Northern American lizard  
8 that might be able to deal with change in hours of  
9 restriction by migrating themselves, or are there  
10 certain species that might be better to compensate for  
11 that?

12 DR. SINERVO: None that we know about right now  
13 in the corridors we've cut up. Ray Huey, who wrote an  
14 opinion piece, commented on that. He said those  
15 corridors are essentially now slammed shut. That's  
16 true. If you look at the vast majority of those  
17 corridors, we've essentially eliminated them. Putting  
18 solar installations and packing one side of the Ivanpah  
19 really essentially eliminates that process for lots of  
20 things.

21 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thanks.

22 MEMBER ALGAZY: Barry, I'm not sure if I  
23 understood one of the slides properly. It seemed like  
24 you were saying there was a national demand for two  
25 terabytes?

1 DR. SINERVO: Terawatts. That's computed by  
2 physicists.

3 MEMBER ALGAZY: But the entire national demand  
4 was being placed in the Mojave in order to create a --

5 DR. SINERVO: Well, this is the magical  
6 solution; right? It's not going to happen, but --

7 MEMBER ALGAZY: That was the basis for your  
8 model?

9 DR. SINERVO: Yeah. That's a calculation. You  
10 could do that in many ways; right? You could put a  
11 couple of terawatts in, or you could put in a little  
12 phase -- phased way, gigawatts. Any of these solar  
13 farms increases the local heat load. That's all. And  
14 the more you put in, the bigger the heat load that  
15 bleeds out. That's the essence of what happens. So as  
16 you expand solar farms, you get more of a bleed-out  
17 effect, but also the loss of habitat around the solar  
18 farms is not even calculated in this.

19 MEMBER ALGAZY: I just wanted to know if I  
20 understood the model correctly.

21 DR. SINERVO: Yes, that's the essence.

22 MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you. I'm going to try  
23 and relate two parts of your presentation together and  
24 see if I can understand a little bit more. And you  
25 mentioned, of course, that many of your models on

1 lizards and even desert tortoise relate to climate  
2 change. But you also mentioned in passing a very  
3 important point, and that was the methane release from  
4 the oceans and, of course, many ways the permafrost  
5 we've talked about before and in Siberia and so forth.  
6 Have any of your models considered where that trigger  
7 point might be reached that would realize that  
8 significant increase in methane production and then  
9 relate that back into your models again?

10 DR. SINERVO: No. I'm not a climate scientist,  
11 but what I do is, I use those products, so that's an  
12 inherently dangerous thing that is very difficult to  
13 predict because we only have the one event that we see  
14 showing up in the registry of the earth's history.

15 MEMBER BARRETT: So it's fair to say, then,  
16 that none of your models anticipate that trigger point  
17 being reached whereby these --

18 DR. SINERVO: No. Those are not my models. My  
19 models are just the marching of climate change that's  
20 happening now, just the things that you and I experience  
21 in our year-to-year existence in changes.

22 MEMBER BARRETT: Gotcha. So if such a trigger  
23 were to happen, potentially the results would even be  
24 worse?

25 DR. SINERVO: Catastrophic, it would be fair to

1 say, Leslie.

2 MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you.

3 CHAIR SALL: Barry, I have a quick question.  
4 So in terms of -- you know, the DAC is charged with  
5 trying to give advice to the BLM. We're all at this  
6 sort of challenging state of trying to work through the  
7 Draft DRECP, and comments were just submitted. So in  
8 terms of siting specifications as it relates to  
9 Public Lands and to BLM lands, are there any additional,  
10 you know, quick comments of just sort of a few sentences  
11 you would suggest we think about in terms of this  
12 junction of where we're at right now?

13 DR. SINERVO: Yeah. That's a great question.  
14 These refugia we've begun to identify -- and they're  
15 fairly robust now. Based on the data that we've  
16 analyzed for all of these different climate surfaces,  
17 they always show up. Those should be a high priority  
18 area if we want to preserve the desert tortoise. In  
19 that unlikely event that we might actually be able to  
20 avert climate change by limiting greenhouse gas  
21 production, they will still all be there in 2050, and  
22 2050 levels are the critical turning point that we can  
23 affect now. Any decisions that we have now in the next  
24 ten years will get us to that potential place, according  
25 to the climate scientists. But we have to act now.

1 CHAIR SALL: Thank you.

2 MEMBER ALGAZY: A follow-up to April's question  
3 would be the line between just preserving the status quo  
4 as opposed to preserving opportunities. And I think  
5 that was very well-illustrated with the Soda Mountain  
6 project and the fact that there is no current population  
7 on the north side of the highway. But there's an  
8 excellent opportunity that a lot of people want to  
9 preserve.

10 DR. SINERVO: That's an excellent point. At  
11 the scale that you're talking about, Mark, my models are  
12 at a high -- you know, not a high resolution. They're  
13 meant to be looking across the whole solar development  
14 area. In theory it's possible to get much more accurate  
15 models down to a kilometer resolution. Those models  
16 just take an inordinate amount of time to run, so it's  
17 possible to even be able to talk about specific sites  
18 and the likelihood of movements to specific sites on a  
19 very specific basis with these kinds of projections, so  
20 that's, in theory, possible.

21 Realize that my goal was a very broad brush --  
22 right? -- where I couldn't compute all these things  
23 across the North American landscape. So I've kept it at  
24 a certain resolution, but we can go down and talk about  
25 even specific sites.

1           CHAIR SALL:  So, Barry, real quick, similarly  
2  kind of a follow-up on Mark's, where we have core  
3  populations of desert tortoise -- and we have some  
4  studies, the USGS one being one of the most recent  
5  looking at desert tortoise connectivity corridors -- do  
6  you see there being opportunities to collaborate with  
7  additional connectivity studies that we could just do  
8  sort of an assessment for Public Lands to basically  
9  bring all of the connectivity models somewhat together  
10 to help us focus on those really core connectivity  
11 areas?

12           And Mark mentions the Soda Mountains area.  
13 That's one region, and there are others, as you know,  
14 further to the sort of south and southwest in that  
15 region of the Ord Mountains where connectivity has been  
16 identified as a really potentially important area that  
17 conflicts on the DRECP.

18           DR. SINERVO:  Yes.  I just spent the afternoon  
19 yesterday with Brad Schaefer figuring out a way to merge  
20 the genetic models that he's been developing with the  
21 data, of course.  He has an amazing dataset that his  
22 student Evan has assembled, and that kind of gives you  
23 insight into the paleo connectivity that goes -- you  
24 know, these genes are moving back and forth during the  
25 Pleistocene and even earlier timeframes, when you look



1 (Dr. John Randall gave a presentation entitled "Managing  
2 and Monitoring Plants Under Climate Change:  
3 A First Sketch.")

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIR SALL: Thank you, John. I have a quick  
6 question. So, you know, given where we're at in the  
7 sort of the Draft DRECP process and thinking about some  
8 of these recommendations, you know, we have questions  
9 and challenges and concerns about funding and  
10 implementation and monitoring and the extent that that's  
11 going to all be possible and feasible. And so in my  
12 mind the first step is to kind of, as you laid out,  
13 protect what we know is already viable. And we can talk  
14 about the science of that sort of at a later time and  
15 hoping that that can be funded.

16 But it seems that the placement of projects or  
17 development areas in these sort of core plant  
18 populations and especially where we have areas that have  
19 really ancient plants and old histories and, as was  
20 pointed out earlier, the mesquite, with 300-foot-deep  
21 roots, that blading and grading and installing projects  
22 where we have really old plant populations is a whole  
23 nother aspect that hasn't really been talked about as a  
24 measurement in terms of how to decide siting.

25 And so do you have any thoughts or comments or

1 things that maybe could be advice that we can kind of  
2 interpret and pass on?

3 DR. RANDALL: Limited. So I think you've kind  
4 of hit it already. We ought not to damage plant  
5 populations that are exceptional in the kind of ways  
6 that you've described. That includes populations that  
7 all evidence indicates are very old and have persisted  
8 through climate changes already or that are very robust  
9 and doing well. And that includes populations of some  
10 of the common stuff, like creosote.

11 I think we ought to avoid -- we ought to be  
12 looking more carefully for sites that are -- that models  
13 will tell us are likely to support a lot of species in a  
14 small area now because they're so diverse  
15 topographically and geologically and aspect-wise, so the  
16 physical characteristics are very varied because those  
17 are small areas that are likely to support a given  
18 species through time, as well as a lot of species at a  
19 single point in time.

20 So I think that we ought to be kind of looking  
21 for places where we can protect life just like we might  
22 if we were looking for a settlement site for human  
23 beings. If we were kind of first pioneers, where would  
24 we want to live? Knowing that things were going to  
25 change, where would we want to put ourselves?

1           MEMBER MUTH: I would just like to follow up  
2 with something John said about creosote, common plant,  
3 geez, it's from the Pecos River to Palm Springs, but I  
4 frequently tell people when I give my orientations to my  
5 reserve at Deep Canyon, if these were not creosote, we  
6 wouldn't be having this discussion. This is an old  
7 growth forest. Those things are older than Sequoias.  
8 Why can't we respect them for what they are, you know?  
9 And when you talk about ancient plants, the common stuff  
10 is pretty darn spectacular at times.

11           DR. RANDALL: I totally agree. I'm a plant  
12 nerd.

13           CHAIR SALL: So just one more follow-up related  
14 to that, I guess. So in DRECP, sort of the metric for  
15 looking at some of the conservation proposals is related  
16 to, you know, named species and habitat primarily for  
17 wildlife. So I'm not aware of any discussion, you know,  
18 that's happened on how we identify sort of ancient plant  
19 species and recommend some preservation for that, other  
20 than some very small, isolated populations.

21           So is there any recommendations or data or  
22 research you could point us to in thinking about that  
23 conversation?

24           DR. RANDALL: Unfortunately, no. I think what  
25 you're seeking is, does anybody have kind of a layer

1 that would tell us where some of these older populations  
2 are? I don't know that. My first reaction would be to  
3 go to the Native Plant Society in California and ask  
4 those folks if they could hook you up either with data  
5 they've got or with somebody that's looking into this.  
6 But I unfortunately don't know myself.

7 CHAIR SALL: Okay. Thank you. Mark?

8 MEMBER ALGAZY: My question is not necessarily  
9 a BLM-oriented question. I'm just taking advantage of  
10 sitting at the table. I know there's an inherent  
11 tension between the interest in saving plant species and  
12 then the interests that the Sierra Club are willing to  
13 sue over the introduction of a non-native species to a  
14 new area. And are you finding any traction using an  
15 incremental approach of trying to do other things to try  
16 and prove that you've taken all reasonable steps before  
17 you resort to assisted migration?

18 DR. RANDALL: A little, is the short answer to  
19 that. We're in really early days within the  
20 Nature Conservancy and with the folks that we work with  
21 in thinking through these things. So those workshops  
22 were kind of part of that early thinking in trying to  
23 pull together a formalized structure for thinking about  
24 when and why and how we'll be planning things out beyond  
25 our current range.

1           What we're actually doing as a total baby step  
2 is looking at reintroductions of plants that have been  
3 extirpated from the Channel Islands. We've got really  
4 great records there of native species that were driven  
5 extinct or that we believe are extinct. We haven't been  
6 able to find them for decades. So we're going through a  
7 process of deciding what is the information that we  
8 would need to decide whether or not to reintroduce them  
9 and how would we do it. And, you know, that's a total  
10 baby step in that these are things that used to grow  
11 there. We know that.

12           There shouldn't be kind of emotional reaction  
13 of, "Don't do it. It's humans -- it's playing God." I  
14 suppose it is playing God by bringing them back. I'm  
15 using that this term in quotes, but it's less  
16 emotionally rife, but it involves a lot of the same  
17 elements.

18           So I'll give you a simple example. We know  
19 that black oak was on Santa Cruz Island. We've got  
20 records just four decades ago that it was there. It's a  
21 species that's really obvious. The acorns don't live  
22 for a long time, so we don't suspect there's a seed  
23 bank, because one objection would be how do you know  
24 it's really gone? Well, black oak is not likely to be  
25 in the seed bank. The acorns don't live very long.

1           And so it should be a simple question, but now  
2 it starts to turn out that, well, there are some hybrids  
3 out there that might have black oak in them, and, gosh,  
4 black oak was really the best acorn for eating. The  
5 Chumash didn't just eat seafood. And in fact we know a  
6 lot more just from recent studies about how much plant  
7 material they ate, and maybe they brought black oak  
8 over. And, gosh, now is it okay to bring it? So even  
9 this baby step gets pretty complicated.

10           We think we can still work it through, and  
11 we've got a decision treaty we're constructing right now  
12 about how -- whether to introduce or not and then where  
13 to gather the stock from and where to place it. So  
14 we're formalizing this process, and we're going to do it  
15 with the 12 species of plants that we know were  
16 extirpated through Santa Cruz, and we've kind of run  
17 them through, and we'll do it one at a time. And we  
18 hope that process will be transferable in part to  
19 questions about, should we translocate things beyond  
20 their current range? Do we know they're really gone?  
21 Do we know they can survive? Where should we get  
22 genetic material from? How will they affect the area  
23 they're introduced into?

24           MEMBER ALGAZY: I see it as a different but  
25 related intersection between science and politics.

1 DR. RANDALL: Yeah. And, you know, that  
2 involves values, whether we should plant things out or  
3 not. Many of us feel like these plants are -- were --  
4 are worthy of attention and protection in and of  
5 themselves, and others don't share that sentiment. So  
6 it's a question about values and how do we spend our  
7 resources.

8 CHAIR SALL: Don.

9 MEMBER HOUSTON: I have a complicated question,  
10 so I forgive you if you don't have a good answer, but it  
11 is a concern of mine. There is an evolving public  
12 policy response to global climate change, and it's on a  
13 global, national and on a state and even a local level.  
14 I know the City of San Diego is crafting a Climate  
15 Action Plan that proposes a hundred percent renewable  
16 for the City of San Diego.

17 So, you know, by definition public policy  
18 includes political considerations, and often in that  
19 process good science gets lost. So what organizations  
20 are looking at decisions that are being made both in  
21 developing public policy to assure that the science  
22 doesn't get lost?

23 DR. RANDALL: Wow. I actually don't know. I  
24 mean, I know something about the policy world. I know  
25 that at least some research labs within several of the

1 University of California campuses are very keen on this  
2 kind of question. You know, as Barry kind of  
3 demonstrated, his interest in getting information into  
4 the decision sphere, decision-making sphere, USGS  
5 clearly has that role. The Nature Conservancy has  
6 science staff. Our California program alone has a  
7 science staff of about 20, most of us with Ph.D.'s,  
8 could do some current research. And we do policies, so  
9 we try and bring that science to bear on the policy.  
10 For example, a lot of the conservancy's comments on the  
11 DRECP draft were generated from data and assessments  
12 that were made in my shop.

13           So I know that these three institutions at the  
14 very least have people that are really concerned with  
15 getting data into the decision -- the machinery of  
16 decision-making. We know that there are other  
17 considerations that go in besides data, that there are  
18 human values, that there are money considerations. But  
19 we want to make sure that sort of the data about the  
20 questions that are being asked are placed in there.

21           So, I mean, I can't give you a better answer  
22 than that. I'd say we're lucky to be in California.  
23 The University of California is a pretty amazing system,  
24 having seen some detail about the University of  
25 Colorado, another good system, not as good as ours. It

1 just isn't. USGS does a pretty amazing job, and there  
2 are other entities out there as well. Yeah, I can't  
3 give you a better answer than that.

4 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.

5 MEMBER BARRETT: John, sorry. And this  
6 question may also be for Barry as well. And it relates  
7 to April's point on the DRECP. And so much of -- and by  
8 the way, I did read your comments to the DRECP. Thank  
9 you. And so much what we're trying to do in the DRECP  
10 is to protect existing ecosystems.

11 If there's a point I've gotten from both your  
12 presentations it's that perhaps we should also be  
13 considering future ecosystems from the perspective that  
14 migration is almost going to have to happen, or if it  
15 doesn't happen, we're in real trouble. And how much of  
16 protecting future ecosystems, future areas where, you  
17 know, some of these animals and plants may ultimately  
18 have to move to survive has gone into your reviews from  
19 the Nature Conservancy or any other comments?

20 DR. RANDALL: So one of the things we looked at  
21 was the issue of connectivity, and we're actually  
22 pleased to see quite a bit of the design looked -- if it  
23 is carried out, looked like it would link the major  
24 protected blocks together, at least so some of the major  
25 corridors would be protected as well as they are today.

1           You know, we know there's already breaks for  
2 the interstates, some of the other major roads, some of  
3 the other infrastructure. It's not like we're on a  
4 clean slate. Even in this the least threat would  
5 involve habitats, ecoregions in the lower 48 states. So  
6 we thought that that was one of the strengths of much of  
7 the area, not perfect but one of the strengths.

8           The other thing that I would look at -- and  
9 I'll turn it over to Barry -- I guess I would do two  
10 things. I would do a finer-scale analysis of those  
11 linkages to make sure they really do exist or could  
12 exist with some restoration rather than the kind of  
13 broad-scale analysis that we were able to do and I think  
14 the DRECP team was able to do.

15           The other thing I would look for would be these  
16 kind of projected refugia areas that are likely to  
17 harbor particularly species that we care about, like the  
18 desert tortoise, but also likely to harbor large number  
19 of species because they're so diverse themselves.

20           DR. SINERVO: This kind of addresses the  
21 question you had, Don, too, and directly related to  
22 yours, that University of California really didn't have  
23 a good clearinghouse for all of this information to  
24 address those kinds of questions. Everybody was doing  
25 things piecemeal. We put in a proposal to the

1 University of California for a multi-campus research  
2 programming initiative, which allows us to create a  
3 network, and so that's being funded by Janet Napolitano  
4 right now, so they're coming online. So I'm the  
5 director of that Institute for the Ecological and  
6 Evolutionary Climate Impacts.

7           And one of the tasks that we laid out was  
8 exactly to identify at an ecosystem scale the places  
9 where we really need to set up protections. And though  
10 the climate institute is focused on the Natural Reserve  
11 System, which is these -- like Al runs the Deep Canyon.  
12 It's a network of 40 sites across California.

13           But we have all the partners. We're building  
14 partnerships with folks all the time -- the National  
15 Parks, of course, that are already bundled in some of  
16 those partnerships but then also the California State  
17 Park system. So our hope is to begin those types of  
18 assessments so we can actually project the models like I  
19 showed you today but not just for tortoises but the  
20 native plants and diverse ecosystems.

21           I was just in discussions with somebody about  
22 the bristlecone pines and the limber pines up on the  
23 White Mountain and how we can start instrumenting those  
24 to understand where those things are. So that  
25 information should be coming online in the next four

1 years to allow us to make those kinds of determinations.

2 MEMBER BARRETT: So your feeling presently,  
3 though, is that the DRECP may not thoroughly protect  
4 those future ecosystems, or at least your studies aren't  
5 to the point by which you could even request such?

6 DR. SINERVO: That was the gist of my comment  
7 letter. Now we have these models, and I think it could  
8 be done better, the protection of those refugia --  
9 climate refugia that were pretty easy for me to identify  
10 once I had a fairly decent working model for the  
11 tortoises of areas we needed to protect. And so there's  
12 no conflict because, once we end up with the no-conflict  
13 solution, we're in a wonderful solution from the point  
14 of view of managing resources.

15 MEMBER BARRETT: Great. That seems to be very  
16 important. Thank you.

17 CHAIR SALL: Barry, quick follow-up. One of  
18 the projects I'm aware of that's starting to just kind  
19 of come online is the Joshua Tree National Park. And  
20 University of Riverside has a little correlation to it,  
21 but they're working on some climate change citizen  
22 science projects. And that seems like a really great  
23 opportunity to incorporate across sort of the ranges and  
24 even the edges of some of these reserve plots and create  
25 some intersection of more science to incorporate into

1 the models and sort of show some of those population  
2 modeling.

3 Do you have any, you know, thoughts or aspect  
4 that might encourage some citizen science commingling of  
5 the project that you're proposing for the multisets?

6 DR. SINERVO: That's a really great question,  
7 April. There's a research for Dr. Susan Mazer at the  
8 University of California Santa Barbara, who developed a  
9 citizen science program with the National Parks, and  
10 it's called the California Phenology Park Network, CPN.  
11 And it's a smaller part of a larger network, which is  
12 the National Phenology Network, which studies  
13 specifically the changes that are occurring in plants in  
14 the flowering times and the critical lifecycle events  
15 that they have.

16 And along those lines, hers is kind of a model  
17 system that we're trying to develop. I was just in  
18 discussions this week with Jim Weigan and Aimee Roberson  
19 of the DLCC, the Desert Landscape Conservation  
20 Cooperative, about developing very similar participants  
21 for reptiles and amphibians.

22 CHAIR SALL: Great.

23 DR. SINERVO: And I'm going to be talking to  
24 Nadav Nur of Point Blue about the avian surveys that  
25 they've been intimately involved with. Of course birds

1 have also had a rich history of citizen science  
2 involvement in the surveys, but then mammals and  
3 bringing it on up to invertebrates as well.

4 CHAIR SALL: Great. Thank you.

5 MEMBER MUTH: Just a follow-up to Leslie's  
6 commentary about protecting the future ecosystems. The  
7 fact is we don't know what those future ecosystems will  
8 look like. There are multiple stable states. You take  
9 all the species, you put them into a pair of dice and  
10 throw them, and they're going to come up different just  
11 about every time.

12 So what we're talking about, in my opinion,  
13 with corridors and those sorts of things is, we're not  
14 foreclosing options of future stable ecosystems. So  
15 that's more than you wanted to know, isn't it?

16 MEMBER BARRETT: No, no. Thank you.

17 MEMBER ALGAZY: Just a comment.

18 CHAIR SALL: Mark?

19 MEMBER ALGAZY: I think as an end result of all  
20 of the presentations is just a comment that it  
21 underscores the dynamic tension that science will always  
22 be evolving. Science will always be giving us better  
23 information, but the BLM can't wait forever to make  
24 decisions. They only have responsibility to have the  
25 best available science.

1 CHAIR SALL: Agreed. Any other questions or  
2 comments for our presenters from the DAC or the public?

3 MEMBER HOUSTON: Good presentations.

4 CHAIR SALL: Yes. Thank you all for making  
5 your presentations. This really, I think, was a really  
6 appropriate time to have some of these discussions. And  
7 thank you to Al for helping to organize the presenters.

8 And we are going to take our lunch break, and  
9 when we come back, we are going to appropriately have  
10 sort of a wrap-up opportunity for Miriam to talk about,  
11 from the bureau's perspective, how climate change is  
12 being addressed and hear more about the landscape  
13 programs. And I think that will be a great way to end  
14 this discussion.

15 So we're going to break for lunch, and we will  
16 be back -- let me double-check here -- at 1:30; is that  
17 correct? Okay. So we're going to come back at 1:25 so  
18 that we can start at 1:30 promptly. And there are many  
19 options around the University Village right close by, so  
20 hopefully everyone can get back on time so we can stay  
21 on schedule. Thank you.

22 (A lunch recess was taken.)

23 CHAIR SALL: Okay all right. Thank you,  
24 everyone. Good afternoon. Welcome back from lunch. We  
25 are calling back to order here at 1:30, and I would like

1 to welcome Miriam, finally, up to give our last  
2 presentation on the focus topic of climate change.

3 MS. MORRILL: Hopefully everybody could hear me  
4 just with my voice. I'll hold this here, but I flail  
5 sometimes. So for those you have that did not meet me  
6 earlier when we did a little introduction of BLM  
7 employees, my name is Miriam Morrill, and I work for the  
8 BLM California state office in a new position. My title  
9 is called a climate adaptation planner, and we just kind  
10 of made that up. We don't really know what the position  
11 is supposed to be. It's new. And we have a national  
12 climate change coordinator, but really this is a new  
13 position. And they just hired somebody in Nevada to  
14 work full time doing climate as well.

15 But we're kind of trying to figure this out, so  
16 you're going to see a lot of my discussion is going to  
17 be question based because we're in a process of moving  
18 forward. There's a lot of information and a lot of  
19 science. And so my job is going to try to figure it out  
20 as we go, but it's big scale.

21 And I'm really glad I came after the science  
22 group because there's a lot of information on what we're  
23 going to do, my position being adaptation planner, for  
24 BLM to adapt. We're an organization in this big beast  
25 that has to move along. It moves along very slowly, a



1 statewide policy going to be and how we adapt as an  
2 organization -- and I'm talking about adapt us, not  
3 necessarily the species. The things we're working with,  
4 that is a moving part. But so is this larger scale and  
5 how we adapt.

6           But BLM has this mission of what we're built  
7 around, which is multiple use and sustained yield. And  
8 that's really important. And I know it might sound sort  
9 of old school to some people, but it actually has a lot  
10 of relevance. And you'll see that I think there's going  
11 to be advantages to BLM with this as our mission.  
12 There's some key points in here that are really going to  
13 help us. I think you'll see that.

14           So I'm not going to go into a whole lot here.  
15 Greenhouse gases. I'm not the scientist in this area,  
16 but what I do want to talk about are some of the things  
17 influencing BLM as we're moving forward. And I'm sure  
18 you've seen in a lot of our documents in our NEPA  
19 process that's in my title, the planner, that is really  
20 where we're going to adapt in how we what we put into  
21 our NEPA documents, our decision documents. It's a slow  
22 pace, but that is where we're touching the ground and  
23 making changes. So for us a lot of where we're focusing  
24 our adaptation is through our planning process.

25           And we've been including a lot on -- I'm going

1 to us GHG's, since everybody hopefully knows what that  
2 is, when I'm referring to greenhouse gases as one of the  
3 things we're evaluating. And for us we're not setting  
4 regulations, and we're not doing a lot of studies on  
5 that. It's big scale. But what we're looking at is  
6 based on the state targets and reductions to reduce our  
7 carbon footprint and the emissions we put in. We do  
8 look at that in what we're doing in documents and  
9 projects and actions, so that's something we will  
10 continue to look at. But we will be following the lead  
11 of what the state is doing related to greenhouse gases,  
12 so we're not really a leader there as much as including  
13 that in our planning.

14           And I have a note on the bottom of our slide,  
15 "There is no CEQ," which is the Council on Environmental  
16 Quality, and they're the ones that give us our NEPA  
17 guidance, the feds. And so just recently -- I'm  
18 thinking it's just a few months ago -- they came out  
19 with some draft policy related to how the federal  
20 agencies are supposed to deal with climate change and  
21 greenhouse gas emissions in our NEPA documents.

22           And we had guidance before about doing the  
23 greenhouse gases but not a lot of direction on how  
24 climate change, the big scale, what is it doing to the  
25 lands, and how does that differentiate the alternatives

1 of our projects? And so we need to take into account  
2 more of that on how we're designing our projects. And  
3 so definitely we're going to be working through what the  
4 guidance is.

5           And BLM has climate change information in our  
6 manual, and there's some departmental and national  
7 direction on climate change, but our agency at a  
8 national scale has just had some draft policy over the  
9 past year. And hopefully, once the CEQ policy is  
10 finalized, then we can finalize ours. But we do know  
11 the direction that it is going and what we want to do  
12 there, and that's out there for people to comment on  
13 right now.

14           So the part that seems really important that  
15 we're really trying to move forward on is related to how  
16 climate change is affecting the landscape. And you  
17 heard in the presentations before the details and the  
18 examples of what that means, and at a state level, at my  
19 kind of bureaucratic level, how do we narrow some of  
20 these discussions, and how do we think about that in our  
21 planning?

22           We would have just tremendously huge documents  
23 if we went down each individual thing, and so there's  
24 going to be a lot of that information. But for  
25 myself -- and if we're trying to prioritize and how

1 we're going to go about this throughout the state and  
2 working with our partners, really looking at a lot of  
3 the ecosystem functions and services. And so for me --  
4 and working nationally and trying to prioritize and get  
5 funding. We're competing with everybody on this species  
6 or that species or this plant, and so we have to almost  
7 do a little bit of a triage.

8           And it's not that we want to throw anything  
9 away, but if we can lump things to where we're looking  
10 at it from this ecosystem services. So you you'll  
11 probably see a little bit more of that type of  
12 discussion as we move forward in our discussion  
13 documents, the ecosystem functions and services. And  
14 that's very important, and there's a lot of work that's  
15 been done. And I'll go through a few slides that will  
16 show you some of the organization that looks at some of  
17 these large-scale efforts.

18           And also this is something hopefully that,  
19 through working with groups, we can get a little more  
20 information. But in one thing looking at our effects  
21 analysis on these larger disturbance agents and looking  
22 at things, the hydrologic cycle, the drought, bigger  
23 things.

24           And I should note that my position in climate  
25 isn't just going to be climate change. As all these

1 talks have looked at, there's a cumulative amount of  
2 things going on out there. So for me it's not just  
3 specific to that. There's a change going on. And we  
4 include climate change in there, but we include a lot of  
5 other things. So I'm kind of looking at this larger  
6 programmatic level and how do we lump or split this  
7 analysis? And the hydrologic change is a big one.  
8 There's so many things going on, and what are these  
9 interrelated things to that? So these big landscape  
10 defining and changes sort of disturbance regimes.

11           And the other big one is, so what do we do in  
12 relation to some of these areas? For us in our  
13 planning, we're having these short-term adaptation, and  
14 we're having long-term adaptation discussions. An  
15 example of kind of just in the immediate one, what do we  
16 do -- and you heard discussions from the previous talks  
17 that species that are almost extinct; now what do we do?  
18 We can't necessarily just wait until we have more  
19 information, so we're trying these short-term things for  
20 working with these species and the adaptation, the  
21 Amargosa Vole. And I could be mispronouncing that.

22           DIRECTOR RAML: Got it.

23           MS. MORRILL: Because of the extended drought,  
24 the marshy habitat that this critter lives in, it's  
25 really damaged, really degraded. And the species -- I

1 believe they did a captive breeding program where they  
2 had to pull some of the population out to try to keep it  
3 at certain levels plus do some habitat enhancements and  
4 also relocate some of them. So it's kind of moving it  
5 around like chess pieces, like quickly how are we going  
6 to keep this species hanging on? But that's really a  
7 short-term triage.

8           And we had great discussions earlier about the  
9 long-term things we should be looking at, the corridors  
10 and how permeable is the landscape for these species to  
11 continue to move on? And those are going to be some of  
12 the long-term things we need to look at. So I'm just  
13 kind of reinforcing what was already presented based on  
14 the science, but this is something we definitely are  
15 looking at, this larger climate change management angle.

16           Fire regime. That is a huge change agent and a  
17 big priority for BLM at a national scale and driving a  
18 lot of our funding and a lot of our focus and efforts.  
19 There is a new policy, a new memo, that just came out.  
20 I think it's finalized, and I don't remember the full  
21 title. But it's basically fire prevention in the  
22 greater sage grouse habitat area, that because of the  
23 hundreds of thousands of acres that have burned for that  
24 species, even though in the past we were thinking in a  
25 lot of these landscapes we wanted a lot of wildfire, now

1 because of the need, that particular species, having  
2 this larger, older vegetation, if that is gone, then you  
3 have invasive species coming in, the habitat values are  
4 being lost at just these really huge levels. And it's  
5 going to be hard to keep up with.

6           So at a large scale, developing policies and  
7 memos like this new one that just came out, looking at  
8 fire prevention, fire operations related to species  
9 conservation and climate change.

10           And then, you know, another short-term  
11 immediate thing that we look at as an organization is  
12 our fire operations. Those have actually changed. I  
13 was around doing firefighting -- oh, I don't want to say  
14 how long ago, but how we do business is, we don't always  
15 put firefighters out on the line anymore. It can be too  
16 intense. And we have serious duration, where it's how  
17 many people you can put out there for how long.

18           So in climate change for us in our adaptation,  
19 a lot of it is also going to be in disaster response.  
20 And there are lots of different teams that have been out  
21 there doing a lot of different things related to  
22 disaster response, but it hasn't necessarily looked and  
23 tied in with this larger issue of climate change. We'll  
24 talk about it, but are we bringing it together into  
25 something more cohesive. That's something we need to

1 work on and hopefully synthesize all this information of  
2 all these efforts and start leveraging things as what  
3 more positions like mine will do. It's kind of tying  
4 this all together.

5           And if we're not looking at some of the -- it's  
6 not just the wildfire and things that we do after the  
7 fact. There are the big landscape issues and  
8 vegetation. And I'm really glad we had that talk  
9 earlier -- I think all of our science folks left --  
10 about plants and seed banking. Something that they just  
11 recently came out with, BLM has at a national level a  
12 seed-banking strategy related to climate change, and so  
13 that is going to be rolling out. And that specifically  
14 addresses what he was talking about earlier on saving  
15 these different plants and the seeds so that there are  
16 opportunities that, as the landscape is changing, we  
17 have banked up. We need and a lot of immediate  
18 short-term efforts of replanting. And how do we do that  
19 with workforce and funding issues?

20           So a lot of multiple layers of how we  
21 strategize and how we build this in at a state level.  
22 I'm looking at how can I best be this kind of in-between  
23 layer -- I hate saying "bureaucrat," but from the field,  
24 identifying and working with what the needs are and the  
25 priorities are and then promoting that up to the higher

1 levels and how, like the little baby bird, we're all  
2 crying for more funding. And that's something I have to  
3 do, is work with the national folks and try and get more  
4 funding down.

5           But the more we can work with groups like the  
6 DAC and our other partners -- and that's, I think, what  
7 I wanted to touch on about having some of our multiple  
8 use and having these multiple values and interests.  
9 That gives us a lot of advantage in who we work with and  
10 who we leverage, because one pattern or one direction we  
11 go may lose priority at a national scale, but maybe we  
12 could leverage something else.

13           And fire is a good example that, in working  
14 with our fire program and trying to figure out how we do  
15 climate-related projects -- and some of these adaptation  
16 projects, they have certain funding that can work for  
17 what we want to do, and there might be different ways of  
18 leveraging and expanding this. So kind of trying to  
19 pull that together and see how we leverage different  
20 programs and priorities is an area that I am having to  
21 spend a lot of time in.

22           Sea-level rise. I don't know if you guys think  
23 about it too much over here in the desert area. We  
24 actually -- I don't know if everybody knows BLM has  
25 about 20,000 offshore rocks and islands that we manage

1 here in California, and so sea-level rise is a big deal,  
2 and we do have coastal properties. We have trails on  
3 the King Range in some areas that are at a high risk to  
4 some of these climate changes. So working with partners  
5 on developing these vulnerability assessments and  
6 adaptation strategies.

7           Our California Coastal National Monument, which  
8 is what all those rocks and islands are called together,  
9 that manager, he recently joined up with NOAA's Gulf of  
10 the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. They've just  
11 expanded some of their preserve area, and this  
12 vulnerability assessment adaptation strategy for climate  
13 change is going to be a good chunk of the California  
14 coast. And so we now have a BLM rep, and our ecologist,  
15 James Weigand, is also going to be working with that  
16 group and myself, but it's great to get some  
17 ground-level interaction and having them involved in  
18 these large-scale changes.

19           You know, some of the things I saw about  
20 sea-level rise is, over the past hundred years  
21 apparently it's risen about seven to eight inches along  
22 the coast. And, just like we were talking about the  
23 temperature change, it didn't seem like much when you  
24 look at it, but all of those interrelated impacts are  
25 pretty significant. So just thinking here with

1 sea-level rise, that balance between the fresh water  
2 coming in and then the salt water coming back, there's a  
3 lot of concern about what that's going to do for ground  
4 water and water supplies or a lot of infraspecies. So  
5 there are some big deals here.

6 Another huge priority for BLM nationally and in  
7 the state is how we protect our historical cultural  
8 resources and learning what the impacts are with the  
9 different -- if you think about it, increase in  
10 temperatures, changes in precipitation, those are  
11 certainly going to affect things like petroglyphs and  
12 those resources.

13 I was listening to our archeologist talk about  
14 the impacts of potentially more winds and sand and what  
15 that will do. And so as an agency how do we figure out  
16 what are the priority things to protect?

17 In climate change we're looking a lot at some  
18 of these natural plants and animals, but we have a lot  
19 of other values or multiple use and these other things  
20 that we have to protect that are part of our  
21 responsibility. So we do include this in what we're  
22 looking at for climate change and adaptation.

23 And part of that is not just those physical  
24 things on the ground by the way of life. And we have  
25 tribal partners and tribal trusts that we really have to

1 think about. You'll see there are quite of few  
2 workshops and a lot of research out there, especially  
3 further north in Alaska. A lot of the groups there are  
4 doing what they call T-E-K, TEK, workshops. It's  
5 looking at tribal ecological knowledge. But what are  
6 the values for those indigenous and tribal folks for  
7 Public Lands, and how do we protect and maintain those?  
8 So building those partnerships are very important to us.

9           And I'm pretty sure there's funding that's  
10 going to come through BIA -- I believe, the Bureau of  
11 Indian Affairs -- at a national scale looking for  
12 research and partners related to tribal cultural  
13 resources and climate change. So you'll be seeing more  
14 and more of those partnerships, and hopefully there will  
15 be some of those things happening at the local level.

16           And as we build this network, for myself, I  
17 hope to work with BLM local field office and whatever  
18 partnerships that they want me to work directly with or  
19 how I can better support information needs. A big part  
20 of what I do is going to be information management and  
21 finding the best way of what to do get out, how to  
22 synthesize this information, how to make it user  
23 friendly, how to get it out there. So whether I'm  
24 working with field offices, or it could be a tribal  
25 group or however, working through those partnerships.

1           And also we have our different land users, our  
2 recreation users, and what are going to be the  
3 short-term and long-term effects and adaptation  
4 strategies that we do looking at -- similar to fire, we  
5 have disaster response and these things that happen just  
6 based on conditions, and we may not be familiar with  
7 that. The time of year where you may have flash floods  
8 or different things occurring, are these users aware of  
9 these potential changes in temperature and these risks,  
10 and how do we build that into the short-term strategies?

11           And then also considering long-term strategies  
12 of, will that change on the landscape where these users  
13 are going to be and so thinking about are the different  
14 areas opening up versus closing, or are there seasonal  
15 restrictions? So there are going to be interesting  
16 things looking at recreation of other land users.

17           And population and demographic changes. I  
18 mean, that's happening on its own without climate  
19 change. And these are audiences and users that we need  
20 to work with and communicate about climate change. But  
21 there's also interesting research out there that people  
22 are going to be moving because of these climate changes  
23 and thinking of the strategies that we're talking about  
24 about blocking out or protecting different landscapes  
25 for conservation.

1           Well, imagine if -- and I just heard yesterday  
2 about the Napa wine country pretty soon is no longer  
3 going to be able to sustain wine production. That's  
4 going to move further north. And so the people that do  
5 that for their living and are living around those areas,  
6 where are they going to move? Are they going to be  
7 taking that somewhere else? Is that going to be a  
8 competition for conservation resources? So it is  
9 important to look at some of these demographic changes  
10 that may move because our agricultural belts are  
11 changing as well along with those other  
12 Conservation Lands. So we're balancing as Public Land  
13 managers these mixed conservation multiple-use values.

14           And if anything I could say during this  
15 presentation that I think is so important and special  
16 for BLM is the fact that we have this ability, and we  
17 have a program specific to it. We have this Lands and  
18 Realty Program, which allows us to acquire and dispose  
19 of lands. So what a unique ability that is for us. And  
20 this is different from Forest Service or Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service, where they have to have  
22 congressionally mandated boundary changes and all this  
23 process they have to go through.

24           We do -- I mean, if we want a designation such  
25 as a monument, that comes you through a congressional

1 designation. But we have the ability to purchase  
2 different pieces of land that don't have to be right in  
3 a particular boundary. So what a unique opportunity  
4 that is on a strategic level, when we're talking about  
5 this looking ahead on where do we want to enhance  
6 corridors or think ahead for things to move through. So  
7 that's a unique, special role for BLM.

8           And even further back, you guys here in the  
9 desert area, you have the California Desert Protection  
10 Act. And that really did kind of set a new precedence  
11 for BLM that at one point we had just the five  
12 Wilderness Areas, about 14,000 acres. And with that  
13 Desert Protection Act, it brought it to 69 new  
14 Wilderness Areas and about 6.9 million acres.

15           So what a unique role that I think BLM has here  
16 in conservation efforts towards climate change. So  
17 that's something, if anything, you could take away. I  
18 really feel like we can leverage that. I know other  
19 people at the state office -- Tom Pogacnick, my  
20 supervisor, feels that way, that that lands program is  
21 going to be crucial in how we address climate change.

22           And here's something everybody is familiar  
23 with. And I don't want to go down too much into a  
24 conversation about DRECP, but we have part of this  
25 larger landscape planning and strategies that we have to

1 do. I mean, there's been policy coming out for a few  
2 years now on regional mitigation. And these are the  
3 things that we're doing, trying to kind of move along  
4 and adapt on which lands we conserve, which lands we  
5 strive to put renewable resources, because -- not  
6 renewable resources -- the renewable energy. That is  
7 part of our role in climate change is reducing the GHG  
8 emissions. And so we are trying to find that balance.

9           And there are impacts from doing these  
10 renewable energy projects, but there's benefits for the  
11 greenhouse gases. And we're looking at this combination  
12 of how do we balance the landscape versus the emissions  
13 and just all these other things. So it is a direction  
14 that nationally I see BLM going and working with  
15 partners, and I think that's a unique opportunity.

16           I know a lot of people are asking about lessons  
17 learned from the DRECP as a process and how it's  
18 working. I think around the world people are looking at  
19 these sorts of strategies, and so that is something I  
20 see as a really valuable role for this group, is pulling  
21 together some of those lessons learned and how can that  
22 be -- they're good and bad, and how do we use that as a  
23 future process and model that -- because it really is  
24 about process.

25           Of all of the things I've done -- I've worked

1 as a field biologist, and I've worked in public affairs  
2 and fire management, and I've worked in -- some of the  
3 really fun things I've got to do is, I went to Australia  
4 and worked with the Victoria government there on a lot  
5 of their landscape planning and community engagement  
6 because the fire behavior there is changing so much, and  
7 so how do they address these multiple scales and  
8 multiple issues?

9           And then I've also taken it to a different  
10 direction in Micronesia working with villagers where  
11 they never in their history had wildfire issues, and now  
12 they do. And they have a lot of traditional uses of  
13 fire, and they want to be able to maintain these. So  
14 they're trying to come together as a group.

15           And what I'm getting at here is that during  
16 that process I've recognized that it's not always the  
17 product. It's the process, that developing this  
18 strategic adaptive collaborative process is really  
19 important here. With all of these uncertainties in  
20 looking towards the future, what we do, I believe, is a  
21 lot more about building a sustainable process in coming  
22 together, because documents and policies can sit, and  
23 they don't always fit everybody the same way.

24           You look at the intent of what a lot of that  
25 is, but there's a lot to take away from the process you

1 guys had here going through DRECP. The document is very  
2 interesting and relevant to climate change and climate  
3 adaptation, but the process is of high interest.

4           In a lot of cases throughout California and for  
5 BLM, we don't always have the giant landscapes like down  
6 here in the desert, where we're able to do those larger  
7 mitigation kind of strategies. But we do have some  
8 extremely unique habitat and ecosystems that the BLM  
9 manages that California has, and it's been interesting.  
10 You think it would benefit, but it's been a disadvantage  
11 for funding and support for California because we have a  
12 lot of small, very unique ecosystems. But because they  
13 are so small, when people are looking at the modeling  
14 and kind of that triage priority, they're picking giant  
15 landscapes like the Great Basin and putting a lot of  
16 effort there because it's a lot of bang for the buck.  
17 But when you have really unique habitats and the values  
18 there you want to protect, how do we go about that?

19           And so this here is in the Headwaters Forest  
20 Reserve that BLM manages up in Northern California. And  
21 looking at this in the planning, a lot of statewide  
22 efforts have gone more into carbon sequestration, and so  
23 a lot of the forest lands -- BLM doesn't have a  
24 tremendous amount, but what we do have, are we rolling  
25 those into our management plans as values and things

1 that we want to protect, not just the habitat but the  
2 carbon sequestration opportunities?

3           So that's something. How we roll in some of  
4 these bigger priority issues and these things that are  
5 complex, I think, can rank some of our projects higher  
6 when we show a connection to these larger-scale issues.  
7 So tying in those larger climate change lessons learned  
8 and values, I think, gets us a little more priority.

9           And I definitely don't want to go into all of  
10 this list of policy. What I wanted to just sort of  
11 mention here is that, since about 2009, 2010, it's  
12 really when a lot of the stronger direction and guidance  
13 and policy was starting to come out for Department of  
14 Interior and BLM. We have climate, like a climate  
15 section in our manual, and there has been some draft --  
16 there's been some climate change policy mostly focused  
17 on greenhouse gases. And there's a draft policy memo  
18 that is coming out soon, hopefully finalized after that  
19 CEQ policy.

20           But it's all really new, and how we approach  
21 this and what we do, the direction, I think the DAC  
22 members at least had -- there's the one sheet that I'm  
23 looking at is an organization for BLM of, how are we  
24 going to try and move ahead in looking at the different  
25 areas of organizational change? And getting input from

1 people will be interesting. This is just modeling this  
2 checklist.

3           The Forest Service, for their organization to  
4 move forward dealing with climate change, developed a  
5 checklist very similar to this, and I just sort of  
6 modeled that to see if that might help us develop some  
7 of our statewide policy and the different directions we  
8 go. So we are getting there, and even though it might  
9 feel like we're kind of being propelled out into space  
10 and not have a lot of direction, that's an opportunity,  
11 too, that we have a chance to work adaptively. And  
12 we're not necessarily restricted by really specific  
13 policy.

14           This map shows our Rapid Eco-regional  
15 Assessments. And this was something I think my previous  
16 slide showed. It was around 2010 that these were  
17 developed, and these were looking at those giant, big  
18 ecoregional areas, that kind of big for the bang,  
19 big-buck -- boy, I'm just rambling -- these big areas  
20 that we can focus on climate change and those impacts  
21 and what we can do.

22           And it's not quite the same as a vulnerability  
23 assessment, but it was quick, down and dirty, get a  
24 baseline. And it's really the synthesized  
25 climate-change-related information for that big

1 ecoregion for BLM and offers that foundation to really  
2 build out the climate change efforts. But you can see  
3 that in California we just have about four of those, and  
4 they're not really well filling in with it. There's a  
5 fairly big one for the Mojave Basin and range there.

6           So you can see that one effort we really need  
7 to do is come up with more of a baseline throughout the  
8 state, and then how we prioritize amongst those is going  
9 to be a big challenge. But we have a big job to do  
10 right now on getting that baseline information. And  
11 there's a lot of science and information out there, but  
12 how we synthesize it is going to be crucial, because  
13 it's easy to become overwhelmed with all of the  
14 information and what that information is telling us.

15           The other large ecoregional landscape effort --  
16 and I would think most people here have heard of the  
17 LCC's, the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and  
18 that's not just a BLM, it's mixed-agency private, large  
19 ecoregional groups set up that have been split out and  
20 deal very much with climate change. And they're this  
21 larger group. I guess in a way they're sort of trying  
22 to do what we're doing at the state level for BLM, is  
23 looking at the science and the information and how it  
24 gets down to the land managers and the partners and how  
25 do they synthesize that?

1           But then also those LCC's prioritize research  
2 funding. And so what they hear from the field, what's  
3 fed up as in, "We need this research or this  
4 information," and feeding that up to that group  
5 prioritizes which funding, which research happens. So  
6 there's an interesting exchange that happens between the  
7 LCC's and the projects.

8           And they actually have a tremendous amount of  
9 workshops and training, a lot of Webinars that come up.  
10 And you can keep an eye on those. You can probably find  
11 a different one every day. And all of these LCC's  
12 around the country are just putting out mass amounts of  
13 information, a nice, well done, portioned-out pieces on  
14 climate change and adaptation and everything from  
15 communication with the public about climate change to  
16 fisheries, just every angle. So there's a lot of  
17 science, a lot of information out there, and you can  
18 find that on the LCC website. So a great resource, but  
19 how we best leverage and integrate is important.

20           There's only so many people to get around. For  
21 me, there are four different LCC's, and if there are  
22 monthly meetings with each of those groups, how do we  
23 get the best use and time with these organizations? But  
24 that is an area that BLM is interfaced with. And our  
25 ecologist, James Weigand, he is involved in a lot of

1 other subcommittees. They have a science committee, a  
2 steering committee and different groups. And hopefully  
3 I can get more involved with the steering committees.

4           And I'm kind of rolling down here towards the  
5 end of my presentation. And another really big  
6 advantage and, I think, something really important, as  
7 Seth and I were talking a little while ago about just --  
8 you see a change in a lot of the news stories about more  
9 and more people are becoming aware of and recognizing  
10 climate change. And on the same hand a lot of people, a  
11 lot of reports are saying that people don't want to or  
12 are having difficulty understanding the science, that  
13 it's not connecting people. But at the ground level is  
14 really where people connect to environmental changes and  
15 climate change.

16           And I think BLM has a huge role with our Hands  
17 on the Land program, so it's educational programs where  
18 we're getting children and our next generations involved  
19 and getting them connected to the landscape and then  
20 bringing that -- bringing home that message of climate  
21 change, and the more we can bring more people out and  
22 those case studies a little closer to the ground where  
23 people connect and it makes sense.

24           So I think that's a really great place for BLM  
25 and what we could do. And obviously there's never



1           MR. MANN: So, Randy, is that you in that  
2 picture?

3           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I wasn't driving. It's  
4 Jim Kenney's Jeep. He would have been proud to see  
5 that.

6           DIRECTOR RAML: Gerry asked me to go through  
7 the questions again I had put on that sheet of paper.  
8 The questions were, what observations do DAC members  
9 have about climate adaptation in the management of the  
10 California Desert District? Would the DAC like  
11 additional information about climate change? And are  
12 there areas of inquiry that the DAC would like to  
13 explore? And the last one was, what are the key  
14 messages the public should receive about the impacts of  
15 climate change in the California desert?

16          CHAIR SALL: Great. Thank you. Well, we're  
17 going to have some DAC discussion on this. And I just  
18 wanted to take a quick moment here to say that, after  
19 the DAC questions and discussion on this topic, we're  
20 going to have public comments. So if folks would like  
21 to comment, please get your speaker cards. There's some  
22 up here. And I don't know if there's any other stacks  
23 around, but please get those submitted, and we will move  
24 into public comment afterwards.

25          Okay. Seth, want to kick us off?

1           MEMBER SHTEIR:  Sure.  Well, thanks for that  
2 presentation, and it got me thinking about a bunch of  
3 different aspects.  First thing I thought about is  
4 citizen science, but that strikes me as a particularly  
5 positive way of engaging the public on a subject that  
6 can have a lot of bad news associated with it, and it  
7 can be overwhelming and confusing.  And I think that  
8 sort of hands-on approach, where you're going out and  
9 gathering data and being part of a scientific study and  
10 contributing is a very positive aspect.

11           But I think, in another sense, the actual  
12 science -- what I'd like to see is something they've  
13 done at Mojave National Preserve, and that is maybe  
14 citizen science or just scientific monitoring of seeps  
15 and springs and surface water sources throughout the  
16 California Desert District.

17           CHAIR SALL:  Don?

18           MEMBER HOUSTON:  Well, I've got three  
19 priorities when it comes to climate change and its  
20 impacts on the desert.  Number one is the desert  
21 tortoise.  And we've seen the presentation on that, and  
22 frankly it's just kind of scary, the potential to  
23 essentially wipe out the desert tortoise in the Mojave.  
24 So I think that's going to be, you know, a number one  
25 priority.

1           Number two and number three are kind of linked,  
2 and they are climate change and its effect on the  
3 ability for invasive species to be real successful in  
4 the desert, and then how does that affect the fire  
5 regime in the desert? So those are my three climate  
6 change issues.

7           CHAIR SALL: Anything you want to say?

8           MEMBER O'BOYLE: One issue that I'm interested  
9 in is fire. And we've talked about its being like a  
10 natural burn, allowing that to take place. I'd like to  
11 know a little bit more about that and how that plays  
12 into the whole long-term policy and global warming as  
13 well. So that's all.

14          MEMBER MUTH: I'll say what he said (pointing  
15 to Don Houston), pretty much the same concerns.

16          CHAIR SALL: I agree with several statements  
17 that have been made, and I do see the opportunity as we  
18 talk about working with volunteers and working with the  
19 public to enhance the citizen science opportunities.  
20 And as I mentioned earlier, one of the models at Joshua  
21 Tree National Park and U.C. Riverside Cooperative  
22 Extension has been working on are some plots located not  
23 only in the park but on other neighboring Conservation  
24 Lands.

25          And the plots are being set up with a standard

1 protocol, but they will be read primarily by volunteers  
2 and part of the citizen science and outreach program.  
3 And the Wildlands Conservancy were also integrating  
4 outdoor education and children's learning with it and  
5 having high school students do some of the data,  
6 monitoring and reading some of those plots on some of  
7 the areas that we've set up plots for Conservancy Lands.

8           So I think it's a great opportunity to involve  
9 youth and, as was mentioned, kind of bring more  
10 information to different sort of demographics about the  
11 challenges and opportunities from a land management  
12 standpoint of climate change on our environment and how  
13 we can integrate some of the science and university  
14 research with citizen science. And so I think that's a  
15 great opportunity for BLM, and it also is consistent  
16 with the youth initiatives and America's Get Kids  
17 Outdoors programs, and so I think that's a great  
18 opportunity.

19           Also, from a science perspective, in  
20 particular, I'm interested in connectivity both for  
21 plants and for animal movement, and so where we can  
22 continue to enhance information and sort of collaborate  
23 on existing studies of connectivity and where that  
24 overlap on Public Lands creates higher priority for  
25 management prescriptions, I think that that is a big,

1 important opportunity in addition to protecting our core  
2 populations.

3           MEMBER CASTILLO: Well, I certainly want to  
4 thank all the presenters this morning today. It's been  
5 a very educational day for me. As you know, I'm on the  
6 board of supervisors for the County of Imperial, and  
7 over the last four years we've approved quite a few of  
8 renewable energy projects in the Imperial Valley. And  
9 this is my first term. I'm just starting my second  
10 term, and I have so much to learn. But, anyway, I'm  
11 getting there.

12           State of California initially started out with  
13 33-percent renewable energy portfolio standard, or they  
14 call it 33-RPS standard, and we pretty much met that  
15 goal. Recently there was an assembly bill introduced  
16 increasing the RPS standard to 50 percent. And so I  
17 say, okay. We're done with round one of renewable  
18 energy development, and here comes round two.

19           I think the DRECP just arrived in the nick of  
20 time to help us decide where we site these new projects  
21 from here on out for round two to meet that 50-percent  
22 RPS standard, and certainly the information presented  
23 today kind of helps me and guides me. And I'll share  
24 this with my fellow board members.

25           In the past four years Imperial Valley has

1 approved about 20,000 acres of ag lands to be converted  
2 to solar. And some people have mentioned that it's  
3 solar farming, we're not growing crops, we're growing  
4 energy. But for some people it's 20,000 acres too much  
5 because they didn't want to see it on the ag lands.  
6 They wanted to see it in the desert. In this case the  
7 preference was federal lands.

8 But we tried it. The very first project that  
9 was approved wound up in court and litigation, and it  
10 killed it. So the DRECP, I think, is going to help the  
11 permitting from here on for some of those lands.

12 Our board has really had a hard time in  
13 dealing -- well, the farming community is very upset,  
14 for one, and they want no more ag lands converted to  
15 solar. So I was glad to hear -- we met last week with  
16 the BLM director, and he pointed out that the DRECP  
17 highlights a little over a hundred thousand acres of  
18 Federal Lands in Imperial Valley that could be converted  
19 to solar. And so it's about time that we take it off  
20 ag lands and put it out where it belongs in the desert.

21 My choice of preference, of course, would be  
22 the Salton Sea area. It is a dying sea anyway, and  
23 maybe renewable energy in that area can help sustain it,  
24 and with a solar development would come mitigation for  
25 the drying up of the sea. So I mean, there's a lot that

1 we can do.

2           And listening to all the discussions about  
3 climate change, I think it's so important. In  
4 Imperial Valley, Salton Sea is a rich geothermal  
5 resource that could produce electricity for the next  
6 hundred years. And the wattage coming out of there  
7 could produce -- up to about a thousand kilowatts of  
8 power could be produced by geothermal energy, which is a  
9 24-hour energy source 24/7, and it's utility scale. So  
10 we'll see where we go from there.

11           But climate change is real, it's happening.  
12 And lifelong resident of Imperial Valley, I see it down  
13 there in the valley. It seems like we have -- a winter  
14 for us is only like a two- or three-week period, and the  
15 rest is spring and then about six months of summer.  
16 But -- so climate change is happening.

17           I can think back to my youth as a very young  
18 man, and I see it. It's just the summers are longer,  
19 the winters are shorter, and even the winters are very  
20 mild compared to what they used to be. And then, of  
21 course, reading how it's affecting other states and even  
22 Alaska. So I'm really concerned, and so I want to do my  
23 part to reduce the effects on climate change, and so  
24 whatever we can do, and I think this information really  
25 helps.

1           The DRECP. Some of my fellow board members  
2 were kind of concerned because it identified a lot of ag  
3 lands in Imperial Valley as potential renewable energy,  
4 but, as it was pointed out to us, that the board  
5 ultimately can make the decision on land use, so that  
6 was just suggesting. We don't necessarily have to go  
7 along with that suggestion, which we probably won't.

8           And our option, I think, is looking to the  
9 Federal Lands in the desert. And there's a lot of lands  
10 out there that are somewhat semi-disturbed, and I think  
11 we need to look to those lands to develop renewable  
12 energy. Some you just need to leave alone. It's  
13 untouched and hasn't been touched for thousands of  
14 years. The Native Americans have identified quite a few  
15 of those sites with different -- I mean, it's sacred  
16 sites, and they wouldn't want disturbed, and it will  
17 probably never occur.

18           But anyway, there's so much to this, and I just  
19 want to thank all of you for all the information.

20           MEMBER BARRETT: And thank you. And needless  
21 to say, I appreciate the comments from all speakers and  
22 those this morning who left and Miriam, as well, and  
23 thank you for that.

24           And I'm focusing perhaps on what April brought  
25 up. I think education is really important. And the

1 development of solar or wind projects in the desert is  
2 not because there's a specific desire to impact the  
3 desert in any particular way, but in reality it's -- I  
4 suppose in many ways it's coming from climate change.  
5 And the education of folks who don't live in the desert  
6 is critically important. I think BLM are making great  
7 strides in that, as are so many other different entities  
8 and organizations, because it's important to present to  
9 the public at large, especially those that don't live in  
10 the desert, how fragile the desert is and how in many  
11 ways it's being stretched in so many ways already  
12 because of climate change, and then to add an additional  
13 impact like solar development or other types of  
14 development into the desert.

15           And, you know, Ray talks about agriculture,  
16 what a unique resource Imperial County is for  
17 agriculture. Then you put the stressors of saying,  
18 "Okay. Now we have to deal with climate change and  
19 renewable energy as well."

20           And what about issues of water? You know,  
21 water is such a limited supply, and climate change is  
22 changing the whole dynamics of how our state deals with  
23 water. And the Colorado is at historic lows. Northern  
24 California can't be depended upon for water resources.  
25 So everything is changing dramatically.

1           And in the past -- and, you know, BLM has had  
2 so much to deal with, and now even so much more is being  
3 imposed upon them. So the best decisions that the  
4 public can make with the limited resources that we have  
5 in the state can only be made through education. And so  
6 I encourage the BLM to continue to outreach to the  
7 future generations of our state that we have limited  
8 resources and we are doing our best to try and mitigate  
9 the impacts to some extent and manage the resources that  
10 we have available. Thank you.

11           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Thanks, Al and BLM and  
12 others, for putting together a program today that was  
13 very -- much of it was close to over my head, and that  
14 that wasn't was over my head. But I greatly enjoyed it.  
15 It was challenging, and I have a lot of work cut out for  
16 me to understand more.

17           I miss Dinah. I think she would have -- I  
18 think we would have enjoyed seeing her see this  
19 presentation today. And I think we would have had some  
20 very challenging questions and some spirited discussions  
21 that would have been helpful to everybody that was here.  
22 I'm not going to try to carry her torch; that's for  
23 sure.

24           I think, though, that the question with key  
25 messages to the public -- I think that the sea change in

1 terms of the public's acceptance of climate change being  
2 a reality, I think that has occurred. I think the next  
3 step is getting people to better understand humans' role  
4 in that, in where that goes. I think that's going to be  
5 important for the public to understand.

6 I think that one of the biggest challenges  
7 going forward with regard to our reaction to all of this  
8 change is to -- how do I say this? -- remember in  
9 Jurassic Park when Jeff Goldblum was in the laboratory  
10 and they said, "The dinosaurs are all females. They  
11 can't reproduce." And what did he say? He said, "Life  
12 will find a way."

13 I tend to believe that nature and the world is  
14 based on chaos. I think it tends toward chaos. I think  
15 it's man that wants to make order of it all and have it  
16 all in its place. And going forward it's going to be a  
17 challenge for us to save the things that we see that  
18 have order and have a place, to continue to find homes  
19 for those things in light of the tendency of life to go  
20 toward chaos.

21 There will be change. There will be changes in  
22 biology and in the various species. It may not be  
23 change that we feel is conducive to maintaining what we  
24 see as our way of life and the values that humans have,  
25 but there will be new things happening that we have to

1 keep our eyes out and embrace what could come around the  
2 corner to take advantage of what we can.

3           But I do agree with everyone. And I don't  
4 think it's just because of sentimentality, but I do  
5 believe that many of the things that we find special  
6 about the desert, I do share concerns that those changes  
7 could by and large be unfortunate for all of us. And so  
8 without rambling further, I have a lot to chew on with  
9 regard to everything that I've heard today and can't  
10 thank you all enough for putting this program together.

11           We tried to do this in December of 2013, and we  
12 couldn't do it. We had it set for December, 2014, but  
13 we wanted to rely on Al's offer of his help, and so I'm  
14 glad that we put it off until this time. And thanks for  
15 securing an academic environment to have a conversation  
16 on an issue that's probably the most academic issue that  
17 we've ever had come before us. And so I appreciate all  
18 of that. And thank you.

19           MEMBER ALGAZY: Well, I've just been kind of  
20 digesting everything and forming some ideas on the fly  
21 as we've been going along here, absorbing information  
22 and processing as quickly as I can and always with an  
23 eye on the horizon for what the goal has been asked for  
24 of the DAC. And listening through all the presentations  
25 this morning, I realize there's just a great wealth of

1 data that's being generated, that's been generated in  
2 the recent past and is in the near horizon, and yet we  
3 know there are decisions that are being made today that  
4 have huge data gaps in them.

5           One of the frustrations a lot of us have had  
6 looking at the DRECP is the huge data gap on very  
7 limited groundwater resources, a very specific example  
8 of a huge data gap. And so we have less trust in the  
9 ultimate work product of the decisions that are made  
10 because of the data gaps. We also realize that, because  
11 of a lack of centralized organization for collecting  
12 this data, there's a lot of duplication going on. Every  
13 time a new plan comes out, researchers are going out and  
14 collecting data to support the new plan.

15           And I'm thinking that, just brainstorming here,  
16 an answer might be to start thinking about some sort of  
17 centralized data-gathering system at the state level  
18 that puts this information not only in the hands of the  
19 bureau staff that are in charge of putting these  
20 different plans together but also within reach of the  
21 public so that the public has an opportunity to see what  
22 science the bureau is working with and not working with.

23           And when the public sees that there are data  
24 gaps, they should have an opportunity to present  
25 information to the bureau in a way that it can be vetted

1 but at the same time be available for public review even  
2 before it's fully vetted or accepted by the bureau.

3           So I'm suggesting that maybe they should have a  
4 central data system that's tiered with an initial level  
5 of data that can be presented to the bureau by the  
6 public for review but that anybody in the public can see  
7 it without the bureau necessarily saying we accept this  
8 data or are going to rely on it, but then there would be  
9 a second tier of data above that that's data that's  
10 already been acknowledged by the bureau and used in  
11 plans before.

12           But then as an attorney I realize there is one  
13 more tier above the data that's used by the bureau, and  
14 that's the data that's been accepted by a court in the  
15 process of a lawsuit, because courts don't always agree  
16 on the data that the bureaus use. So I think the  
17 highest level of vetted data is data that's been agreed  
18 for use by a court of law.

19           So that's just my brainstorming in response to  
20 the question asked by Teri about areas of inquiry. I  
21 think that the bureau could investigate having some sort  
22 of a database that is available with different tiers of  
23 data.

24           DIRECTOR RAML: Wikipedia.

25           CHAIR SALL: Thank you. DAC members, any

1 additional comments? Don?

2 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. My first comment really  
3 spoke to -- I'm looking at this document here, which is,  
4 I think, what Teri wanted us to respond to. My first  
5 comment about the tortoise and invasive weeds and fire  
6 was really to number one.

7 Number two, would the DAC like additional  
8 information about climate change? I go back to  
9 Dr. Sinervo's presentation when he responded to my  
10 question about public policy and he said there was this  
11 network of UC campuses. And I would like to know, you  
12 know, what are the sources of public policy and data  
13 information that we can easily tap into via the internet  
14 and, when we're faced with a climate change question, to  
15 rely on those sources of information to respond to a  
16 public policy issue? So what's out there, and what can  
17 we use? That would be the additional information that I  
18 would like.

19 And what are the key messages the public should  
20 receive about impacts of climate change? Well, I think  
21 the public is pretty much convinced that climate change  
22 is real, at least in California. Other areas of the  
23 country, maybe not so much. And so then it comes to,  
24 what is our response to climate change?

25 And I think there's two prongs to our response.

1 Number one, how can we reduce CO2 emissions? And  
2 renewable energy is one response. There's carbon  
3 sequestration. There's multiple responses. And then  
4 the second part of that is, we may have already passed  
5 the tipping point. And so, you know, catastrophic  
6 changes may be in our future regardless of how we deal  
7 with CO2 emissions. So how do we accommodate those  
8 significant changes by the migration of species and  
9 things like that?

10           So that's what I think the public needs to  
11 know, is that we need to respond in both ways to climate  
12 change. That's it for me.

13           MEMBER SHTEIR: I think one other thing we can  
14 do is increasing the resiliency of landscapes through  
15 restoration, restoring riparian areas and other habitats  
16 and making them more durable. But I think one other  
17 message I think that is related to this is that the  
18 health of Public Lands that BLM manages is related to  
19 public health and related to the recreational tourism  
20 economy and related to communities, and I think this  
21 issue really underscores that.

22           MEMBER CASTILLO: I just have one comment. In  
23 regards to the Salton Sea, there was a water transfer  
24 that was negotiated -- they call it QSA; it's a  
25 Qualification Settlement Agreement -- in 2003. Then in

1 2017 that water transfer second phase kicks in where  
2 additional water is going to be sold to metropolitan  
3 San Diego, and as a result the Salton Sea is drying up.  
4 And the Salton Sea has been there for thousands of  
5 years, and it's a byway flyway for birds heading south  
6 in the wintertime, and then in the spring they head back  
7 north, and it's a feeding ground for them. I mean, it's  
8 a fueling station, if you will.

9           And so it's so important that we maintain that  
10 sea. The dilemma here is that the water transfer did  
11 not allocate any money to mitigate the Salton Sea  
12 reduction, and the only way that we're going to be able  
13 to get this done is with the help of all of  
14 Southern California, not just Imperial Valley but all of  
15 Southern California, all the water beneficiaries or the  
16 people that benefited from the water transfer. And  
17 there is a couple of ways to do it.

18           Salton Sea, by the way, good part of the land  
19 is owned by the federal government and another large  
20 portion by the Imperial Irrigation District. And so the  
21 responsibility on mitigation is going to be on those two  
22 agencies mainly. But I think we can all help. And  
23 Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors came up  
24 with the idea of we can develop geothermal energy in the  
25 Salton Sea and use the royalties or profits from that

1 power generation to pay for mitigation of drying up the  
2 sea.

3 I think it's a doable thing. It would provide  
4 the money, and then, of course, with the money will come  
5 the resources. But the key is getting the coast to be  
6 willing to buy that power, which I understand is a  
7 little bit more expensive than solar photovoltaic and  
8 even natural gas. But I think therein lies the  
9 solution. So we'll see what happens.

10 CHAIR SALL: Leslie.

11 MEMBER BARRETT: Sorry. To follow on Ray's  
12 point, from somebody who worked on Quantitative  
13 Assessment Agreement for Metropolitan Water District all  
14 those years ago, and it's not only the loss of water to  
15 the Salton Sea, but it's the increase in salinity in  
16 Salton Sea because of less water around so forth going  
17 in there. And it's such a critical resource to the  
18 valley, Coachella Valley, as a whole.

19 And perhaps at a future DAC meeting we can, you  
20 know, perhaps structure the meeting around water issues  
21 and specifically some of the Salton Sea issues,  
22 specifically some of the issues related to energy  
23 development and its use of water in the desert  
24 groundwater basins and the impact of groundwater basins.  
25 And perhaps that would be an excellent subject for all

1 of us to discuss in more detail. Thank you.

2 MEMBER ALGAZY: You might have a list of  
3 speakers.

4 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I'm sorry. Just briefly a  
5 point I forgot to touch on, citizen science versus crowd  
6 sourcing. I'm a hundred percent in favor of citizen  
7 science, but that's going to come with guidance and  
8 tutorials and to ensure that we are collecting data. I  
9 don't want to see it as simple as, here,  
10 download-this-app-and-go-at-it kind of a thing. That's  
11 more the crowd sourcing and more opinion and less  
12 trustworthy, as far as I'm concerned. So again, a  
13 hundred percent in favor of citizen science with the  
14 proper guidance from those who can provide it. Thanks.

15 CHAIR SALL: All right. Well, thank you. And  
16 I would again like to thank our speakers, and I think it  
17 was a really great discussion. And thank you, Al and  
18 everyone at BLM who helped us to coordinate this  
19 meeting. I think it's really important topic. And,  
20 Teri, I appreciate your questions.

21 One other thought that, you know, came to me  
22 that I didn't articulate the first go-around about that  
23 is that, you know, part of what we've been hearing all  
24 day is about the unique species in the desert. And  
25 everything in the desert is slower, and it's on a slower

1 timeline. And I think that it's important that that's  
2 really captured in any public messaging specifically to  
3 climate change in the desert, because everything is on a  
4 more ancient time scale in a lot of ways, and we have  
5 ancient plants, and we have cryptobiotic soil crusts,  
6 and we have tortoises that move very slow and are very  
7 old. And making these fairly permanent land-use  
8 decisions have significant impacts that will also have a  
9 slower recovery.

10           And so it doesn't mean that we aren't obviously  
11 making land management decisions every day. And as a  
12 land manager myself, we are always struggling with this  
13 method of active management and passive management and  
14 how much to intervene in some of the ecological  
15 processes and, when we find invasive species, the levels  
16 of eradication that we go through. And so it's a  
17 constant balance. But I think it's really important to  
18 talk about some of that struggle.

19           In literature and when we talk about the word  
20 "stewardship," it's a really complex concept, you know,  
21 and it gets thrown around a lot, but to think about all  
22 the aspects of land management that the bureau and all  
23 land-managing entities and agencies do when it comes to  
24 land stewardship, and what does that mean?

25           And also, of course, the aspect, as I mentioned

1 earlier, in regards to education and youth engagement,  
2 and in that regards recruiting more employees for the  
3 BLM and making sure that we have young people going into  
4 working for the agencies and continuing the role of land  
5 stewardship on our Public Lands. So I will end there.

6 But we're going to start with our public  
7 comments, and then we're going to take another break and  
8 finish up our last few agenda items at that point. So  
9 unfortunately we have two different formats of speaker  
10 cards, so they may have gotten a little mixed up. But  
11 if I call your name for the item of public comment that  
12 is not related here to the focus topic of climate  
13 change, then you can just raise your hand, and I'll add  
14 you to the other pile of public comments that's at a  
15 later point.

16 So the first name that I have is going to be  
17 Andy Silva.

18 MS. WOHLGEMUTH: April, the timer is not  
19 working.

20 CHAIR SALL: I will figure out a timer. I'm  
21 going to have Andy Silva first, and he's going to be  
22 followed by Gerry Hillier. And we have a timer. We  
23 will get a larger one going, probably, with all the  
24 iPads.

25 MEMBER MUTH: Want to give him three minutes?

1 CHAIR SALL: Three minutes. All right, Andy.  
2 Are you ready?

3 MR. SILVA: I can do that. They talked only  
4 about the difficulty of siting renewable energy projects  
5 and the impacts they have. Yesterday was the deadline  
6 to introduce bills in the state legislature. We are  
7 sponsoring a bill that would exempt from the Surface  
8 Mining Reclamation Act and any renewable energy projects  
9 on mining operations. They wouldn't be exempt from CEQA  
10 or NEPA if they applied. It just means if you want to  
11 put solar panels or turbines on your mining site, it  
12 won't reopen SMARA. You won't have to go through that  
13 permitting process again. So that bill is in the hopper  
14 now.

15 Sticking with siting, we recently approved a  
16 project on the Victorville landfill. There's an area of  
17 the landfill that's not going to be developed for 30 or  
18 40 years, so we finally, after five years of trying,  
19 have a developer who's going to put panels out by the  
20 Victorville landfill. So the land is not disturbed yet,  
21 but it's going to be eventually. So that's another good  
22 siting solution.

23 Most of the San Bernardino County residents in  
24 here are aware that on this Thursday, March 5th we're  
25 going to have a public listening session on our

1 renewable energy general plan amendment. We've got a  
2 \$700,000 grant from the California Energy Commission to  
3 come up with policies and such for siting renewable  
4 energy projects that we, the county, have jurisdiction  
5 over in unincorporated areas.

6 As everyone here knows, it's aside from the  
7 mega projects. The little 20 acre, two megawatt,  
8 hundred acre, five-megawatt or whatever on projects have  
9 been just as controversial as the big ones, so we're  
10 trying to come up with policies and procedures for that.

11 You may be aware, sticking with legislation,  
12 just to transition, Senator Pavley introduced SB32. I  
13 don't think that numbering was a mistake or a  
14 coincidence, but it would call for an 80-percent  
15 reduction below 1990 levels of GHG emissions by 2015.  
16 And Senate President Pro Tem de Leon has introduced  
17 legislation that will codify the government's process to  
18 cut by 50 percent, 50 percent, RPS and all of that good  
19 stuff. So that should do it for now.

20 CHAIR SALL: Thank you, Andy.

21 MEMBER HOUSTON: I have a question. Andy, you  
22 describe a number of renewable energy projects in  
23 San Bernardino County. Does the county permit those  
24 projects via conditional use permit?

25 MR. SILVA: Generally, yeah, there's always a

1 planning commission hearing to approve those.

2           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: April, thanks. I just  
3 wanted to tag on something interesting. Lancaster,  
4 California, near my town, is on target to be a net-zero  
5 city. And Lancaster, California is introducing a  
6 residential and business power program to compete with  
7 Southern California Edison, and they're going to offer  
8 that power at about three-percent lower cost than what  
9 Edison is providing. And if you want to pay a little  
10 bit more each month, they will provide you 100-percent  
11 renewable power to your business and your house. So I'd  
12 like to congratulate the City of Lancaster for all the  
13 progress they've made in trying to -- they want to  
14 become the solar capital of California or of the  
15 country. There's other places competing for that, but  
16 Lancaster is doing great on that.

17           MEMBER HOUSTON: Randy, is Lancaster  
18 accomplishing that net zero through a regulatory  
19 process? And if they are, what is it? Is it community  
20 choice aggregation? Is it land use designation? How  
21 are they doing that?

22           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: They're doing it through --  
23 they've done it through a combination of aggressive  
24 siting. All of their parking structures and the  
25 buildings that they have control over are all producing.

1 They've been very aggressive in permitting projects on  
2 private property to the west and to the east, and I  
3 believe that the -- they do call it a community  
4 aggregate program, is what they're calling that resale  
5 program. So it is through their actions through their  
6 policies and programs of how they've been encouraging  
7 it.

8 I'd like to maybe bring more information  
9 perhaps at the next meeting and answer these questions  
10 in more detail. It's just something that hit the  
11 newspapers the other day, and I just wanted to share  
12 that. I'll found out more, Don. Thank you.

13 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Gerry?

14 MR. HILLIER: Good afternoon, madam chairman  
15 and the rest of the DAC. Climate change is a diverse  
16 topic, and there are still remaining opinions. I wish  
17 Dinah were here myself. She and I attended a conference  
18 last summer that offered some counterpoint science, and  
19 so I'm sure that she would have some opinions to offer.  
20 But that's neither here nor there, and actually whatever  
21 debate is beyond the scope here because it's clear from  
22 the directives and the policies of the department over  
23 the last six years that a management regime is clearly  
24 moving forward to accept and adopt.

25 There are a number of things, though, that are

1 of concern to our organization, and I'm here, really,  
2 with both hats, the Federal Lands advisor to  
3 San Bernardino County as a consultant and the executive  
4 director of Quadstate Local Governments Authority, which  
5 is nine counties in the Mojave and Sonoran Desert. So  
6 we extend into Arizona Nevada and Utah.

7           But at any rate, one of the things that has  
8 concerned us and which we're raising is that, as all of  
9 this monitoring goes forward, we really encourage the  
10 agency to collectively assure that the protocols are  
11 consistent of how monitoring is done so that data that  
12 the El Centro Field Office collects is consistent and  
13 can be -- I can't think of the word. It's not  
14 collaborated but coordinated -- and is consistent with  
15 what Needles is doing and what is happening in  
16 Clark County across the state line in Nevada there,  
17 where you've got identical ecosystems, except you've got  
18 a state line running through it. And I see an awful lot  
19 of people going off in a lot of different directions  
20 doing monitoring, and I urge that there be a definite  
21 effort consistency.

22           Second I wish that we could have had somebody  
23 from the Desert LCC here. I had furnished the name of  
24 Genevieve Johnson, who is the coordinator for the  
25 Desert LCC. They do have a rather interesting program.

1 It does not include local government of the steering  
2 committees, although we tried to get on it, but the  
3 Desert LCC uniquely amongst all 22 has got a local  
4 government work group, which does encompass us.

5           One of the issues, though, that we've raised  
6 fairly consistently is that many of these landscape  
7 proposals -- you hear the term "landscape" consistently  
8 both from BLM and Forest Service and other agencies.  
9 And it's clear that it's a watchword in federal  
10 government planning these days. And it generally  
11 translates to without regard to jurisdictional  
12 boundaries and without regard to property boundaries.

13           CHAIR SALL: That's one version of our timer.  
14 We've got two going. Yours will be bigger, Randy. It's  
15 okay.

16           MEMBER MUTH: You've heard that one before,  
17 Gerry.

18           MR. HILLIER: If it quacks like a duck. Can I  
19 have about 30 seconds to wrap up?

20           CHAIR SALL: Yes.

21           MR. HILLIER: At any rate, we are concerned  
22 that private property has been -- isn't being included  
23 in these, and there needs to be mechanisms to make sure  
24 that the private property owners are incorporated into  
25 these dialogues and not excluded. And people, I can

1 tell you, are searching for ways to do this. They  
2 haven't figured it out.

3           One final point. The desert tortoise -- I wish  
4 that Dr. Lowe 30 years ago from University of Arizona --  
5 he died 28 years ago or so. I first heard him at a  
6 Desert Tortoise Council meeting in Victorville, and he  
7 talked about the ebb and flow of the ecotone for the  
8 desert tortoise and how historically it had flowed. And  
9 even though he was a devout biologist, he almost said  
10 that it was futile to try to do anything with the Mojave  
11 part of the population because it was going to shrink,  
12 and then it was going to expand, and then it was going  
13 to shrink, and then it would expand and all as a  
14 perfectly natural process.

15           And I recounted that recently. And there was a  
16 biologist from Nevada Wildlife who remembered the  
17 conference, so I didn't make it up. And I wish that  
18 Dr. Lowe was still with us and had written some of that  
19 down because none of it -- it seems to be only in our  
20 heads. But it is important.

21           And related to that, somebody mentioned the  
22 USGS plots that had been located back in the '70s. Our  
23 organization recently tried to secure that data. We  
24 filed a FOIA, and the bill that we got was for thousands  
25 of dollars to get that data. And any help that BLM or

1 others can be to help us retrieve that data of 30 years  
2 of desert tortoise populations would be very, very  
3 valuable not only to you but us and others dealing with  
4 this. And thank you for letting me run on.

5 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Next I have Joe.

6 MEMBER HOUSTON: April, I've got a comment.  
7 Gerry, I'm really glad you brought it up. I don't have  
8 a question for you. I just have a comment. I'm really  
9 glad you brought up the consistency issue because  
10 anytime there's new regulation or requirements  
11 promulgated -- I'm speaking for the regulated community  
12 now -- we experience a lot of inconsistency in  
13 interpretation and implementation from one field office  
14 to another. So I hope the bureau would provide adequate  
15 staff either at the district or state level to reconcile  
16 those inconsistencies because it causes the regulated  
17 community just a whole lot of problems.

18 CHAIR SALL: I think we'll be talking a little  
19 bit more about that in our next focus topic.

20 I have Joe Martori followed by Bill Jensen.

21 MR. MARTORI: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank  
22 you. First off I just want to say I'm new at this. And  
23 second off, minerals and mining, we just plain love the  
24 desert, and we love the lands. I just want to get that  
25 right out there.

1           But I did hear a lot on multiple uses, land  
2 conservation, energy, science, monitoring of animals and  
3 plants. And minerals and mining are not present or  
4 represented for consultation on any of this that I saw.  
5 I know you had a representative before, and I'm not sure  
6 if that was a large mining concern representative or the  
7 ones that all of us that don't make a billion dollars a  
8 year or even a few million dollars a year.

9           But I really think -- and if you can help me on  
10 that -- that we should have some kind of representation  
11 before any decisions, consultations or anything is made  
12 at that point on those levels, because minerals and  
13 mining -- just, for example, for us, we monitor our  
14 tortoises. We know where they're moving. We know when  
15 they move during the day. We know what they eat. We  
16 know when they don't come out of their holes, various  
17 things that might be helpful on the ground level that  
18 scientists don't have in our area that they have in  
19 other areas. So that's just one thing.

20           We might have other help and remedies on  
21 socioeconomic, you know, Ninth Circuit Court rulings and  
22 stuff on a lot of this also. You brought up that you  
23 wanted real documentation evidence. Well, there's a lot  
24 of court precedence on a lot of the things minerals and  
25 mines have to do with, not including the 1872 Mining Law

1 that gives us the right to become and are federal Public  
2 Lands stakeholders. And we were excluded on just about  
3 everything as far as I can see for decisions on WEMO,  
4 DRECP so far, you know, various other things.

5 Let's see. And then so that's all I wanted to  
6 say is mining needs a voice, and we just want to know  
7 when that would come about here. And I know  
8 Congressman Cook sent in a letter also to that effect to  
9 all the committees and all the agencies on behalf of  
10 that. And that's it. Thank you.

11 MEMBER MUTH: There's an enormous attempt to  
12 engage the public in just about everything the bureau  
13 and the other agencies do. And usually one of the  
14 professional associations will respond on behalf of all  
15 their members. Is there something different about  
16 mining and minerals that you don't have an organization  
17 that represents you on these grander-scale policy  
18 issues? Or just what can the bureau do to get you  
19 involved at an early stage of these things?

20 MR. MARTORI: Just ask us. We did form the  
21 California Desert District Mining Coalition. I've been  
22 attending as many meetings as I can. You guys have an  
23 insane amount of meetings to get to. Supermen and women  
24 to do that. That's very hard for me to do. We just  
25 brought together all the mining districts, organized all

1 the mining districts in the United States under MMAC,  
2 Minerals and Mining Advisory Council, so now we will  
3 have one voice to work with you and answer things. Full  
4 legal behind this. We'll have full documentation and  
5 everything, just as Randy says, not just we want that,  
6 and we like that. So we understand that. So Minerals  
7 and Mining Advisory Council. Thank you.

8 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I concur. There really is  
9 no larger organization that really represents the mining  
10 industry at this point. Some time ago it broke apart,  
11 and each of the larger, bigger commercial mines tend to  
12 have their own people that get involved. And what's  
13 happened is, the smaller mining interests have not had  
14 representation on that level. So Joe and others have  
15 worked together to start to create that voice, and I  
16 think that, you know, we'll continue to encourage Joe to  
17 reach out to the district and the state to make sure  
18 they become a stakeholder in all the rest of the  
19 processes going forward. So that was a good question,  
20 Al. I'm glad you asked that.

21 CHAIR SALL: Great. Thank you. Bill Jensen  
22 followed by Jane Hunt.

23 MR. JENSEN: That isn't what I was going to  
24 come up here and talk about. But since you mentioned  
25 it -- no. I'm being serious for a moment. When you

1 find mining threatened by unintended consequences, it's  
2 when you see it rise back, and as it rises back, a fresh  
3 breed of new people reads the law. And suddenly you  
4 find out it says in the law very specifically, because  
5 of guys like George Washington and guys like  
6 Abraham Lincoln, who needed cannonballs and lead, that  
7 mining has some deep-rooted laws and, therefore, a  
8 federal stakeholder like BLM to be at the table whenever  
9 somebody tampers with constitutional law that's set up,  
10 because mining is almost sovereign in its laws. If you  
11 want a good read, read the 1872 Mining Law, and it will  
12 suddenly turn your head, because you'll see it buried in  
13 the national defense also.

14           But what I came up to talk about was -- and I  
15 wanted to add to what Randy said with regard to chaos.  
16 I'd like to add to chaos by saying there's a word called  
17 "entropy" in astrophysics. And it affects -- from the  
18 moment that the teacup falls from this podium and  
19 crushes to glass, it becomes powder at some point again  
20 and returns to the elements, so ashes to ashes. So  
21 entropy takes place from the minute a star is born and  
22 earth happens. People are born to die. And therefore  
23 it is organized chaos in some fashion, but is all in a  
24 point of decay constantly.

25           And that controlled chaos leads me to say in

1 all peaceful terms that some control is not okay. Take  
2 the desert tortoise, for example. I lived in the desert  
3 my whole life. I'm a former mayor of the City of  
4 Hesperia, an elected official. I'm a Disaster Response  
5 Force NCO retired from the United States Air Force,  
6 nuclear, chemical and biological defensive warfare.

7           So I watched the turtles growing up in the  
8 desert. And when somebody says they want to introduce a  
9 new species, try to be careful, because the guy who  
10 introduced a spider to eat the moth suddenly found that  
11 the spiders were out of control, and so they brought in  
12 birds to eat the moth and the spider, and now the birds  
13 are suddenly eating the turtles.

14           The ravens in the desert have wiped out,  
15 decimated, the turtle. When we say, "We don't want any  
16 turtles to get run over. We're going to put up fences  
17 everywhere," as we put up the fences, we have destroyed  
18 the turtles' ability to camouflage themselves from air  
19 from the birds. Now they sit and stalk the bright  
20 orange turtle fences and wait for the turtles to come up  
21 to the fence where they can clearly be seen -- so can  
22 the lizards and any other life that approaches that  
23 orange fence -- and you suddenly find that they are  
24 being wiped out at a whole different type of scale. And  
25 the birds aren't working nearly as hard, so they're

1 breeding better because they don't have to hunt as hard.  
2 So be careful about introducing species, especially  
3 where reptiles are concerned and you take these old,  
4 ancient dinosaurs called birds and turn them loose.

5           Going into the energy side, while blocking the  
6 private sector from building solar wind farms, consider  
7 this: the unintended consequence. Spain, Portugal have  
8 some of the largest solar fields out in our area in the  
9 high desert. And those solar fields are taking that  
10 revenue, and they're sending it back overseas when you  
11 pay your utility bill monthly. That utility bill that  
12 you're paying would be better served for the billions of  
13 dollars government dumps into these solar fields to put  
14 it on the roof of your house, where the end user is.

15           The problem that Portugal and Spain are having  
16 right now is, there are no transmission lines. I know  
17 because I've shown these guys the property out there.  
18 "That's not a problem, Bill. Italy is the largest  
19 manufacturer of transmission line for 500kV line."  
20 There.

21           And if I could, I'd like to ask for 30 seconds  
22 to wrap up. Did I hear a bell?

23           CHAIR SALL: You heard a bell about 30 seconds  
24 ago, so if you could just wrap it up.

25           MR. JENSEN: Okay. To be fair and balanced

1 when we talk about climate change and everything that we  
2 are going to sacrifice economically, ecologically and  
3 otherwise, to suddenly try to lead with a torch and be  
4 the point on the spear, one volcano like Mt. Pinatubo  
5 will wipe out every effort you could make for a thousand  
6 years in a single blast. The economic destruction that  
7 we can cause in the meantime is ten times harder.

8           The sun goes through an 11-year cooling and  
9 heating cycle, and it just ended a year ago on the  
10 heating cycle, and it's starting to cool. The earth's  
11 axis wobbles even by a degree, and you suddenly have  
12 global climate change because you have change in the  
13 oceans' currents that deliver water and evaporation.

14           National security is based on mining and the  
15 mining law, and that is proven besides George Washington  
16 and Abraham Lincoln but with World War I and II, which  
17 peppers the desert with mines, so mining needs to be  
18 considered. We'll bring more of that back up later.  
19 Thank you very much for your time.

20           CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Jane Hunt is our last  
21 public comment on this topic, and then we're going to  
22 take a short break.

23           MS. HUNT: Boy, I don't know how to follow  
24 that, and I'm thoroughly depressed again. I try to not  
25 to get depressed over this. I'm 66 years old, and I was

1 born and raised in Southern California, and it's kind of  
2 freaking me out about what's going on. I'm glad you  
3 held this, because it's really important. I tried to  
4 get a lot of my friends to come, and I'm sorry I missed  
5 the speakers. I really wanted to hear the speakers,  
6 but, oh, well.

7           Mine are more of comments pertaining to  
8 the -- let's see -- the renewable energy part of -- I  
9 know San Bernardino County -- what was it? A couple of  
10 years ago the state filed when we did our county general  
11 plan update back in '06, I think it was. I can't  
12 remember when, but the state sued our local government,  
13 and an environmental group sued them too. I think it  
14 was Center for Biological Diversity because they didn't  
15 include in the general plan update about climate change,  
16 you know, that climate change and CO2's. But it still  
17 continues on.

18           It's not left up to -- actually the people  
19 responsible for all this that's in charge of it is that  
20 the land use has got to change. The people in charge of  
21 land use, like the county or city, you know, planning  
22 commissions and the people that are in charge of  
23 approving these developments, they say -- like we're  
24 fighting a development right now along Lytle Creek Wash,  
25 and it's like over 3,000 homes. And they don't pay any

1 attention to the county general plans. Or, you know,  
2 they say we're complying with it, yet they build all  
3 these homes close together, and they're thinking that's  
4 solving the problem.

5 I said, "No, it's not." It's the water usage  
6 too. Right now we've been in compliance. I live in the  
7 community of Muscoy, San Bernardino City water. We're  
8 under stage-two watch since September. That means we  
9 can water our yards on odd and even-numbered days, and  
10 we're soon to go into stage three because people see,  
11 oh, we have just had this rain. They say we're out of  
12 the gutter. I say, "No, it's not. It's going to get  
13 worse."

14 My problem with all of that is this is caused  
15 by climate change, too, is that people in power that  
16 approved all of these developments and everything -- I  
17 said, "You're asking 8,000 more people to move into  
18 housing. Where is the water going to come from?"

19 And they say -- you know, it's like they're  
20 oblivious to it, and they think somewhere in the future.  
21 So that's where it really comes down to is getting these  
22 people that are in county or city -- you know, the land  
23 use is what's at stake here, and they've got to make  
24 decisions on that.

25 I know this meeting is totally about the

1 desert, but I live below the Cajon Pass. And right now  
2 our sage habitat is in jeopardy. It's one of the  
3 ecosystems that I think should be -- and the chaparral  
4 in the mountains, the transition areas. I mean, we get  
5 the winds from the Cajon Pass from the desert. And as  
6 far as I'm concerned, also there's -- another issue of  
7 contention is, I hate to see them build all these large  
8 renewable energy out in the desert, because I love the  
9 desert. I haven't lived out there, but I enjoy going  
10 out there seeing the wide open spaces. And when you see  
11 all these wind turbines, and it's just insane.

12 My idea was, why don't they have it in local --  
13 like our community, in every city they should have their  
14 own local solar and our wind energy places. That way we  
15 wouldn't have to put stress on the desert. Thank you.

16 CHAIR SALL: Yep. We'll be talking more about  
17 that soon. All right. Al?

18 MEMBER MUTH: Back to the chaos issue, the  
19 second law of thermodynamics: the entropy of the  
20 universe increases.

21 CHAIR SALL: All right. Well, thank you.  
22 We're going to take a ten-minute break.

23 DIRECTOR RAML: Also Steve's got a big poster,  
24 I think. Is that right? So at the last meeting we  
25 talked about the Desert Training Center. And Greg

1 brought a poster that our archeologists prepared.  
2 They're going to take it to the archeologists'  
3 conference or something. But it's about the Desert  
4 Training Center and its remote sensing. So we'll unroll  
5 that, and I encourage you to look at it. And if you  
6 have any questions, talk to Greg in the back.

7 CHAIR SALL: So let's take a break. And  
8 actually it will be about 12 minutes, so we'll come back  
9 at 3:20 and resume our subcommittee and different  
10 reports and subgroup reports.

11 (Afternoon break was taken.)

12 CHAIR SALL: All right. If everyone could take  
13 their seats. All right. Thank you. I'm going to move  
14 this closer. Great. So as many of you know, the DAC  
15 created a subcommittee to work through and address some  
16 comments on the DRECP process, and over the past almost  
17 nine months now, eight months or so, we have been first  
18 anticipating the Draft DRECP and working through the  
19 summer on some consensus topics, and then we submitted  
20 at the December meeting, December 6, 2014, our initial  
21 set of comments on the Draft DRECP DEIS, the Draft  
22 Environmental Impact Statement.

23 And at the meeting there was a motion to have  
24 the subcommittee continue working on the Draft DRECP and  
25 submit additional comments. And that was our charge.

1 And we had a workshop with the subcommittee members,  
2 thanks to Al hosting again. And we were able to come up  
3 with additional topics for consensus, and we'd like to  
4 present sort of the list today with hopes that, with a  
5 little bit more addition and cleanup in terms of grammar  
6 and typos and that sort of thing, that they will be  
7 ready for final submission and adoption by the DAC.

8           One of the things that was really easy for us  
9 to begin our discussion with yesterday, I would say, is  
10 that the concern about the lack of funding and how the  
11 bureau is going to shoulder this monstrous amount of  
12 responsibility that is coming from the DRECP. And  
13 there's a lot of great science, and the intent of  
14 landscape level planning is commendable, and we all  
15 support and appreciate the work BLM has been doing.

16           But without assurances for further funding,  
17 it's very unclear how any aspect of the plan and a lot  
18 of the comments that you will see with more specificity  
19 in this list are going to be implemented. So that was a  
20 good jumping-off and starting point for us in terms of  
21 our consensus.

22           And as all of us here as DAC members trying to  
23 give helpful advice to the BLM, we have some more  
24 specifics that we'll nail down, but that was really a  
25 key component, and we had everyone basically chip in and

1 give their advice.

2           And we have created this list that Steve is  
3 going to help me scroll through. And unfortunately I am  
4 not in a very good position to see it. But I have a  
5 copy in front of me, so we'll just try and stay on the  
6 same page that way.

7           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I'm sorry to interrupt.  
8 Could I mention that these were consensus unanimous  
9 points. That's what I wanted everybody to keep in mind.

10           CHAIR SALL: Okay. So with our broad  
11 representation both on the DAC and the subcommittee,  
12 that's an important point. Thank you for reiterating  
13 that, Randy. And we really focused our comments with  
14 three ideas in mind here, and you'll see them listed at  
15 the top of A, B, and C. And Don, our practitioner of  
16 NEPA CEQA on a regular basis, helped us to stay on track  
17 with keeping these in mind.

18           MEMBER HOUSTON: I wanted to clarify one thing  
19 that Randy said. It was unanimous. It was a consensus  
20 but of the subcommittee.

21           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Correct.

22           MEMBER HOUSTON: There are members here sitting  
23 here at the DAC that were not part of the subcommittee,  
24 so we would hope that we would achieve consensus at the  
25 DAC level for the next step.

1 CHAIR SALL: Right. I thought I mentioned  
2 that. I apologize.

3 So we were looking at the plan's ability to  
4 reasonably achieve DRECP goals and objectives, the  
5 adequacy of the environmental impact analysis, for  
6 example, biological goals and objectives, adaptive  
7 management, cumulative impacts analysis was a hot topic  
8 discussion, and the adequacy of proposed mitigation  
9 measures.

10 So the first comment there is going to have  
11 some context further on. And the first comment is in  
12 regards to the designation of DFAs being premature  
13 because of the county engagement. And we've heard that  
14 in some of our public comment today, and we really feel  
15 that it's critical that the BLM and the agencies line up  
16 with the planning county efforts, because from the  
17 beginning, DRECP was intended to be the plan that  
18 integrated public and private lands with the concept of  
19 renewable energy development.

20 And as you all know, in order to do that, it's  
21 really critical that the private land authoritative land  
22 planning use -- i.e., the counties -- be at the table  
23 and continue to have engagement and not only  
24 coordination but that their local county planning  
25 efforts are actually integrated into the plan.

1           So one of the timing issues that we feel is a  
2 big concern is that several of the counties within the  
3 DRECP planning area have received California Energy  
4 Commission grants to do local-level planning, and those  
5 planning efforts are slightly behind the draft release  
6 of the DRECP. And so most of these comments speak to  
7 that concept.

8           And the acreages, as mentioned there,  
9 basically -- and the Renewable Energy Action Team is  
10 REAT. I apologize. We didn't break out all the  
11 acronyms here. But obviously the acreage on private  
12 lands affects how much acreage for development is  
13 proposed on Public Lands. And in discussing what was  
14 described there as acreage multipliers, basically how  
15 much acreage for various technologies, there was sort of  
16 a buffer acreage added on top in the Draft DRECP for the  
17 estimate of how many acres would be impacted by the  
18 development. And based on the 20,000-megawatt planning  
19 goal, we feel that this should be revisited once county  
20 data can be incorporated.

21           So there's a little more context, considering  
22 other planning efforts that are statewide that will help  
23 us reach renewable energy targets and our renewable  
24 energy portfolio standards for the State of California,  
25 including the Central Valley Plan, California Energy

1 Efficiency Strategic Plan, the EPA's Repower America and  
2 Distributed Generation. So all of that was basically  
3 context under this first point.

4 MEMBER HOUSTON: Can I simplify?

5 CHAIR SALL: Yes.

6 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. Without an agreement  
7 that the DFA designations on private lands and the  
8 county land use designations reach some sort of  
9 consistency, it puts the 20,000-megawatt goal of the  
10 DRECP in jeopardy. That's the first criteria, that  
11 without the county buying in, the goal of energy  
12 development on private lands is in jeopardy. We don't  
13 see how it can regionally be achieved without county  
14 buy-in. That is criteria consideration number one, so  
15 that's how I see this issue.

16 CHAIR SALL: So I was going to propose that we  
17 go through the whole document and then have some  
18 discussion, especially for our members that were not on  
19 the subcommittee. And I asked that the two members read  
20 this document before. So if it's helpful, I can read  
21 through the whole thing, but I was hoping we could just  
22 kind of skip through and not go verbatim.

23 Our point No. 2 is a short one. The current  
24 DRECP and future documents we feel should be subject to  
25 an additional independent science panel review. And

1 Point 3, DRECP outreach for the Draft DRECP process was  
2 commendable. We had a lot of improvement, and there was  
3 a good faith effort to hold meetings within the actual  
4 DRECP planning area and the boundary and to provide  
5 public -- at the public meetings and during public  
6 comment provide court reporters, and that was really  
7 much appreciated.

8           However early efforts in outreach, we feel,  
9 were insufficient in engaging the public earlier on,  
10 especially in the desert communities and related the  
11 funding, the issue in the executive summary where BLM's  
12 multiple use classifications would be replaced without  
13 sufficient public disclosure comment period and review.  
14 There's a statement in the executive summary that we  
15 were going to add as a citation in this comment.

16           We feel there needs to be a broader range of  
17 alternatives. That includes distributed generation  
18 alternative, and that we have heard from public comment,  
19 and we appreciate the public continuing to engage in  
20 that.

21           We have an overarching concern that the DRECP  
22 has inadequate financial assurances and designated  
23 funding for the BLM, and we feel this jeopardizes the  
24 goals and objectives of the DRECP.

25           MEMBER HOUSTON: Yes. And I would add that it

1 jeopardizes both the energy development goal and the  
2 conservation goals.

3 CHAIR SALL: Yes. We had a very robust  
4 discussion about the funding, and we will probably be  
5 attaching a little more detail to these.

6 As I mentioned earlier, we had consensus about  
7 needing to have additional analysis on cumulative  
8 impacts. Some of those have already been brought up in  
9 our meeting today with regards to groundwater and  
10 hydrology, but, in addition, the impact to bird and bat  
11 collisions, aerial impacts from utility scale wind and  
12 solar, as well as migration corridor for avian species.

13 Air quality impacts. Disturbing significant  
14 amounts of land brings on PM10 and other air quality and  
15 other public health concerns. Hydrology and  
16 groundwater, scenic view sheds, impacts to visitor  
17 experience and tourism and impacts to wildlife linkages  
18 and landscape level connectivity, which we've discussed  
19 a lot today as well.

20 No. 7, DRECP fails to adequately describe the  
21 processes, methodology and implementation for monitoring  
22 and mitigation program, jeopardizes the implementation  
23 of the adaptive management program plan-wide. In public  
24 comment we also heard comments about protocols needing  
25 to be standardized. This is all related. Protect the

1 Desert Tortoise Natural Research Area. It should be  
2 completely removed from all DFAs in all alternatives.  
3 There is currently conflict.

4           The public must be given an opportunity to  
5 comment on the DRECP ACEC management plans. The ERMA  
6 designation, Extensive Recreation Management Areas,  
7 should be included in more than one alternative to give  
8 adequate choices. Currently they're only one  
9 alternative.

10           Where DFAs, Development Focus Areas, and future  
11 analysis areas overlap the Special Recreation Management  
12 Areas the prohibition on renewable energy should not or  
13 may not apply. Conservation areas need durable lasting  
14 protection. Location of wind DFAs need to be clarified  
15 so the public can comment on those locations. Process  
16 of streamlining for renewable energy development isn't  
17 adequate and may face legal challenges. And if private  
18 lands are acquired for compensatory mitigation, the  
19 management strategies for existing uses must be  
20 clarified.

21           Conservation management actions for the  
22 National Landscape Conservation System are vague  
23 specifically in terms of multiple uses. And the  
24 no-action alternative incorrectly states that renewable  
25 energy development will continue on an ad hoc basis.

1 The Record of Decision from the Solar Programmatic  
2 Environmental Impact Statement should be referenced. So  
3 these were our consensus.

4 Comments. As I mentioned, there needs to be a  
5 little bit of cleanup and editing, but we feel -- the  
6 subcommittee feels that this was a really good work  
7 product that we were able to provide, again,  
8 subcommittee consensus on, and we'd like to have a  
9 little discussion, and then we'll talk about next steps.

10 MEMBER ALGAZY: On No. 9 I wanted to make the  
11 change that the public be given separate opportunity to  
12 comment, not that their comments are required to be done  
13 in this process. The word "separate" is missing from  
14 that.

15 MEMBER HOUSTON: Mark, can you give us a feel  
16 for the number of new ACEC's? That plays into the need  
17 for comment because it's a very significant increase.

18 MEMBER ALGAZY: From 58 to almost 140, off the  
19 top of my head.

20 CHAIR SALL: A little over, yeah.

21 MEMBER ALGAZY: And they're all being  
22 designated simultaneously, and at the current time none  
23 of the ACEC's even show any roads in them, so it's hard  
24 to make good comments.

25 Also on No. 13 the location of the wind DFAs

1 need to be clarified so the public can provide input  
2 into those specific uses in those locations because  
3 without the distinction between solar and wind, the  
4 public can't identify the scenic values that need to be  
5 made. So it has to have the word "specific" added to  
6 it.

7 CHAIR SALL: Thank you.

8 MEMBER MUTH: Minor editing item on No. 8, the  
9 DTRNA, Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area. And were  
10 you going to read our letter?

11 CHAIR SALL: I could do that.

12 MEMBER MUTH: Do it when --

13 CHAIR SALL: When we get through the  
14 discussion. Leslie?

15 MEMBER BARRETT: One additional comment  
16 following up on Don's comments with respect to the DFAs.  
17 And I reviewed all the county responses to the DRECP,  
18 and to get a better understanding of the lack of clarity  
19 with respect to what a DFA really means -- and in many  
20 ways it's not even sufficient that a county accept a  
21 DFA. The DFAs as proposed within the DRECP must be  
22 consistent with the county land use plans.

23 And, for example, the County of Los Angeles  
24 generally accepts the DFAs but quickly clarifies there  
25 will be no utility-scale development in the county with

1 respect to wind and very little with respect to solar.  
2 So it's easy to put out DFAs, but it's the counties who  
3 actually determine whether a development will go ahead  
4 on private land within the county jurisdiction or the  
5 cities, whatever the local jurisdictional issue is.

6           So it's not so much they can accept something  
7 that they don't have to follow but that there be a  
8 consistency between the land use proposed within the  
9 DRECP and the county land use plans. And the best way  
10 to do that is to allow the counties to work on coming up  
11 with their own land use plans and incorporate a lot of  
12 what they're doing into the DRECP.

13           And I suppose a perfect example of that is what  
14 Ray is trying to do in the County of Imperial and  
15 essentially take the good work the county is doing and  
16 bring that into the DRECP rather than just putting out  
17 somewhat of an illusionary area that nobody really has  
18 to follow.

19           MEMBER ALGAZY: I did have one more comment  
20 that I wanted to make that wasn't specifically clarified  
21 in the document about the premature designation without  
22 sufficient county input, and that goes directly to our  
23 charge in advising the BLM, because without waiting and  
24 getting that county input, there's likely to be a lot of  
25 pushback from the county. And that's likely to require

1 a lot higher probability of more DFAs ultimately being  
2 on BLM land. So that's why it's very important to take  
3 that extra time for that input, and that's one of the  
4 bases we talked about, but it didn't get captured in the  
5 comment.

6 CHAIR SALL: Okay. So based on our comments,  
7 we have a draft letter that we would like to submit to  
8 Teri. And in summary, our recommendation after our  
9 review and discussion is to recommend adoption of the  
10 no-project or no-action alternative as the preferred  
11 alternative for the DRECP. In addition the DAC  
12 subcommittee recommends that the DRECP Alternative One  
13 is the environmentally superior alternative or the least  
14 environmentally damaging alternative at this date with  
15 the Draft DRECP.

16 I would like to propose a motion that we accept  
17 in concept the content of these additional comments from  
18 the subcommittee and with time to have some edits and  
19 additional input that was already discussed here in our  
20 discussion and accept these as the amendment to our  
21 December 6th comments and put these into the record.

22 MEMBER HOUSTON: A friendly amendment to the  
23 motion in that we don't characterize it as an amendment  
24 to the December comments but a supplement.

25 CHAIR SALL: Welcome the change.

1           MEMBER BARRETT: I'll second the change in the  
2 motion with the admonition.

3           CHAIR SALL: All in favor?

4           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: We should have a little  
5 discussion on the motion specifically then take a vote.

6           CHAIR SALL: Discussion on the motion. Any  
7 other discussion?

8           MEMBER CASTILLO: No comment.

9           MR. MARTORI: Yes, ma'am. From the public can  
10 we say anything or no? Minerals and mining haven't been  
11 included in here at all.

12           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: We usually do take public  
13 comment before we take the action.

14           MR. MARTORI: I ask before you take a vote on  
15 that, if you could include something about minerals and  
16 mining. We have a short one here. Under the 1872  
17 Mining Law, 30 USC 21 to 54, Multiple Surface Use Act,  
18 30 USC 612(b) numerous other things are paragraphed that  
19 you've left out completely out of here. So maybe if  
20 somebody can get some mineral and mining codes in there  
21 before you vote? Thank you.

22           MEMBER BARRETT: Hang on a second. You asked  
23 something. From your review of the DRECP -- and we did  
24 discuss this in depth yesterday as well but perhaps with  
25 not the expertise that you bring to the table. Was the

1 proposal that existing mining and rockhounding as such  
2 be permissible but there would be restrictions on  
3 future? What's your feeling on -- what were some of the  
4 concerns?

5 MR. MARTORI: I did a lot of reading on that.  
6 Didn't understand half of it. And a lot of it you had  
7 to go from one section to another section to another  
8 section to another section, and everything meant  
9 something different by the end use that it said in the  
10 metals, minerals and renewables area that we were  
11 looking at. There was a lot of parts in there that said  
12 there was mineral withdrawals, land withdrawals, access  
13 withdrawals, and that is not according to congressional  
14 statutes. So there was a big chunk of stuff missing out  
15 of there.

16 MEMBER ALGAZY: If you are more in favor of the  
17 status quo, then our ultimate conclusion to support the  
18 no-action alternative would best support your position.

19 MR. MARTORI: A no use until we get our  
20 position. That's what we're saying, no use for any of  
21 the DRECP until we get our say in there.

22 MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you.

23 MEMBER HOUSTON: Since I am the nonrenewable  
24 resources representative, I feel obligated to review the  
25 environmental analysis on mining and mineral resources

1 and come to a conclusion as to its adequacy or  
2 inadequacy. And if we find it lacking, we can put  
3 comments in, add that comment to this list here. So  
4 I'll commit to that.

5 CHAIR SALL: Okay. So is that sort of our  
6 additional amendment to the motion to have some  
7 additional study analysis on the --

8 MEMBER HOUSTON: Additional review on that  
9 section of the DRECP, yes.

10 MEMBER SHTEIR: I think I'm seconding that, but  
11 I think we need some clarification on specifically what  
12 the inclusion would look like before we -- I mean, I  
13 agree with the analysis, but I want to know what we  
14 agree to add maybe in writing.

15 MR. JENSEN: At the DAC meeting that I attended  
16 I think the simple way to put Bullet No. 18 would be to  
17 be sure that the DRECP before it's passed is  
18 deconflicted with the 1872 Mining Law. Now, that will  
19 take attorneys to do. And right now the mining does not  
20 have a seat at the table in the DAC process. That's  
21 missing.

22 And when we talk about mineral, it's not  
23 nonrenewable from the mineral, oil and gas side of the  
24 house but the other. And that would be the precious  
25 metals or the rare earths and things like that. And all

1 of that is clearly spelled out in the 1872 Mining Law.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Don, did you have  
4 additional?

5 MEMBER HOUSTON: My response to that is, I  
6 think the comment is valid, but if you read at the top  
7 of our comment document, we had a very clear three  
8 criteria, which really speaks to the scope of our  
9 comments. And what Mr. Jensen is speaking to is process  
10 rather than the analysis, and we need to focus on the  
11 analysis and the ability of the plan to achieve the  
12 goals and objectives that are stated in the plan.

13 So I will look at the section through that  
14 lens. And if there's some, you know, comments to be  
15 made, I will make them, distribute them to the DAC for  
16 their inclusion or not. It will be a quick read.

17 CHAIR SALL: Go ahead.

18 MS. STEELY: Can I see item No. 6. Maybe it is  
19 wrong. There's one that mentions visitors. I thought  
20 it was No. 6. Maybe it was No. 7. Okay. Oh, scenic  
21 view sheds. Well, it mentions visitors. I'd like to  
22 see it mentioned where it mentions visitors, also  
23 residents. So I didn't realize it was just scenic view  
24 sheds. But any impact to a visitor, clearly a resident  
25 is impacted too. That's my only comment.

1 MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you.

2 CHAIR SALL: Gerry?

3 MR. HILLIER: Just a point of clarification.

4 Since the public comment period, I think, ended  
5 February 23rd and the DAC -- does the DAC get a pass on  
6 that because they're a creature of the BLM, so the late  
7 comment can still be folded in?

8 CHAIR SALL: Correct. But we still want to do  
9 it soon.

10 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah. And that was one of the  
11 notes is like, yes, the DAC does have a special  
12 relationship with the BLM, but I'd like the comments in  
13 to be timely, you know, not too much later.

14 MR. HILLIER: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. MARTORI: I just wanted to let you know I  
16 gave him the paper that has all the codes, legal  
17 citations and everything. That way you guys can  
18 progress fast. Thanks.

19 CHAIR SALL: Okay. Thank you. Additional  
20 comments?

21 MS. BRASHEAR: Yes, I have an additional  
22 comment. This is for short people.

23 MR. SMITH: Keep it short.

24 MEMBER ALGAZY: State your name for the record.

25 MS. BRASHEAR: Marie Brashear. My comment is

1 on the mining law. I mine precious opal in Nevada, so I  
2 know a tiny bit about it. And what the DRECP document  
3 does it has not the authority to do. It basically in  
4 many places overthrows the 1872 Mining Laws and puts  
5 them in a trash can. It can't do that. And I think a  
6 review of the document and just the mining section will  
7 show you that.

8 CHAIR SALL: All right. So at this point what  
9 I'm proposing is that we see if we can get DAC support  
10 consensus on the talking points here with the  
11 understanding that we will have likely an additional  
12 insertion that Don will help write regarding mining, and  
13 we will handle that formal exception from the DAC via  
14 e-mail. Seth?

15 MEMBER SHTEIR: I just want to make sure the  
16 letter is included in the vote.

17 CHAIR SALL: Yes, the cover letter will be  
18 included. I lost track of where I was, but are we  
19 there? Okay. So all in favor? Opposed?

20 (A vote was taken.)

21 CHAIR SALL: Okay. And we have two members  
22 sitting at the table that can't vote on the item that  
23 are abstained. All right. Thank you.

24 Let's move on to our other subcommittee  
25 reports, subgroup. And motion passes unanimously.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIR SALL: I appreciate the support. It is  
3 late in the day. Okay. We have some corrections to be  
4 made to the December 24th transcripts, and we are going  
5 to review and finalize those off-line internally. Teri,  
6 do you have something you want to say?

7 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah. So Mark actually has  
8 read the transcript, and he has some corrections and  
9 some things to point out. And every DAC has a different  
10 kind of a different personality and content, so I told  
11 Mark we've never had someone really come up with a page  
12 worth of corrections. So he is going to give them to  
13 me, and we'll work with Diane. I was going to call you  
14 "Dinah" because I've got Dinah on the brain. And then  
15 we'll get back, and we can officially approve the  
16 minutes at the next meeting.

17 So we'll take Mark's comments, and what we will  
18 also do is, I will put together -- Steve and I will  
19 prompt the DAC members so we can kind of get your edits  
20 before the meeting so we can kind of resolve them before  
21 we come here, and then you can approve the transcripts  
22 right off the bat. And, Mark, thank you for that.

23 CHAIR SALL: Great. Any updates or comments or  
24 anything you want to add, Teri, on the district  
25 manager's report?

1           DIRECTOR RAML:  Yes.  I do have a district  
2 manager's report this time, and everybody I know makes  
3 jokes about me and paper.  And here I go.  Bear with me.  
4 Yea, here they are.  Okay.  The district manager report.

5           Well, first off I really want to congratulate  
6 the subcommittee, the DRECP Subcommittee and the DAC for  
7 the tremendous amount of work you did on the DRECP.  You  
8 held additional meetings, you created a subcommittee,  
9 you held public meetings, you submitted a report that  
10 you worked very hard on, and then you culminated in this  
11 wonderful letter with these points.

12           And it may seem three pages now and a handful  
13 of pages on your other report, but you absorbed a  
14 10,000-page document and an incredible amount of public  
15 input.  And I know the homework that you did to read the  
16 county's input and other agency input and listening to  
17 people.  And it's short and sweet, but there is a heck  
18 of a lot in it, and I applaud you for that effort.  It's  
19 absolutely wonderful.

20           Okay.  So with that I want to move on to  
21 something else, WEMO.  I'm quite proud to say that our  
22 WEMO draft plan is available for review in downloading  
23 from our website.  The public comment period will start  
24 when the Notice of Availability is published in the  
25 Federal Register Notice on March 6th, but for us it was

1 a tremendous effort to get the WEMO document uploaded  
2 and available for review.

3           If March 6th is the date that it publishes, the  
4 public comment period will end late May. I'm not going  
5 to count out the days, but our April DAC meeting will be  
6 in the midway point. We've not yet developed the  
7 schedule for our public meetings.

8           And again and along the lines of thanks, there  
9 are two groups I'm particularly proud of when it comes  
10 to this effort. One is the BLM staff and the field  
11 offices, both Barstow and Ridgecrest, the I.D. team, the  
12 tremendous effort of the I.D. team, then in this case  
13 the effort of the field-going staff. Again this is  
14 another significant milestone for BLM and took a heck of  
15 a lot of work. And, if you can imagine, we did this  
16 work on top of the work we were doing for the DRECP too.

17           I also want to commend -- again this is another  
18 case where the DAC has stepped up and really helped us.  
19 The DAC had a WEMO Subgroup who, along with the public,  
20 was instrumental in updating our inventory and providing  
21 incredibly useful information to this effort. I reread  
22 the subgroup's report a couple of weeks ago, and I was  
23 impressed. The input stood the test of time and was  
24 really well written. And it's kind of fun to pick it up  
25 when some time had passed and look at it again and again

1 recognize the quality work that the subgroup did.  
2 You'll have some time to think about what you want to do  
3 in the public comment period as a DAC, and we'll have  
4 the April meeting to focus on the WEMO plan.

5           Budget, the president's budget. We did make  
6 sure there was a handout to talk about the president's  
7 budget, so that will be on the table for you to review.  
8 There's some pretty interesting things in it, and of  
9 course all you have to do is be reading the paper to  
10 know what you think about the odds of the president's  
11 budget passing.

12           What was that noise? Duck, duck, quack, quack?  
13 Anyway, but for the administration and for the bureau,  
14 it's very significant for us to see what is supported by  
15 the administration. So there are a lot of little  
16 tidbits in it for BLM.

17           I think, irregardless of a lot of the stuff,  
18 one of the things that I'm really looking forward to --  
19 and I hope it has its own life -- is the establishment  
20 of a BLM foundation. And so there is a proposal for a  
21 foundation that would be a congressionally chartered  
22 non-profit foundation for us, and it would strengthen  
23 BLM's connection with the public. And I hope that's  
24 something that will be along the lines of a  
25 National Park Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife

1 Foundation, National Forest Foundation. It will be  
2 great to have the bureau have a foundation. So I'm  
3 hoping that kind of finds its way through the process,  
4 irregardless about how you feel about the rest of the  
5 president's budget.

6           And a little bit closer to home, in response to  
7 your repeated request for budget and staffing  
8 information, Tim Wakefield, who is not with us here, as  
9 the associate, has put together some information for the  
10 DAC. I will give a summary of it that will go on the  
11 record. And then I've got some information in the blue  
12 envelope for you that will give you more detail.

13           And Tim did it kind of on the -- you know, he  
14 didn't go back a long time in history. And Gerry  
15 probably has some historical perspective he could add to  
16 this. But I'll just give you a summary. From 2010 to  
17 2013 the California Desert District's budget  
18 appropriated funding has been reduced by 21 percent.  
19 That's pretty significant. And for the Desert District,  
20 what is even more significant is our non-appropriated  
21 funding, which is what we call soft money -- it would be  
22 grants, cost recovery, other things, you know,  
23 non-appropriated -- has been reduced by 50 percent. So  
24 that is an extremely significant budget cut in three  
25 years.

1           Staffing. I bet you could imagine from 2012 to  
2 2015 -- and this doesn't include our fire staff -- we've  
3 experienced a 36-percent reduction in staffing. So 229  
4 positions down to 146 positions. So when you talk with  
5 field managers, you know that there's a lot of pain in  
6 the field offices. We value every employee that we  
7 have, and we've got a lot fewer of them. So anyway,  
8 you'll get more detailed information in the blue  
9 envelope.

10           MEMBER ALGAZY: I want to go on record as  
11 saying that's criminal.

12           DIRECTOR RAML: I can go on record saying we  
13 agree. Let's see. So I think I just wanted to  
14 highlight the future topic list for you that we pulled  
15 out of the transcript just to kind of bring it to your  
16 mind again. And then when we come around, you can  
17 either say, "Endorse those future topics," or, "Add  
18 more."

19           The list that you identified in the December  
20 was, okay, the meeting is going to be in Ridgecrest. So  
21 historic cabins was a topic, coordination with the  
22 tribes, collection of user data for us to talk a little  
23 bit more about what we know about our visiting public.  
24 I think there was an interest in the permitting process.

25           One that I particularly -- there are two. I

1 like all of them, but the one featuring BLM resource  
2 specialists, kind of a little bit more in depth about on  
3 what our resource specialists do. So since we would be  
4 in Ridgecrest, one of Carl's wonderful staff could talk  
5 more about what their day-to-day work is like and what  
6 their program of work is like.

7           Then also we would like to talk about  
8 volunteers. And I think April made this great  
9 suggestion. We talked about kind of a broader volunteer  
10 report and then also featuring volunteers. And, as you  
11 can imagine, when I talked about the reduction in budget  
12 and staff, how much we rely on volunteers, so I think  
13 that's very timely.

14           And let's see. And this is kind of a little  
15 bit of an awkward bit of business, but I want to do it.  
16 So the other thing in the blue envelope is, I'm going to  
17 provide -- and this is closer to home. It's your home  
18 budget information. So I'm going to provide you a  
19 report for the 2014 travel reimbursement for DAC  
20 members.

21           So what I know -- I understand the frustration  
22 that individual members feel when the reimbursement  
23 doesn't come in a timely manner. And I know it because  
24 I see the e-mails when you finally reach the breaking  
25 point. And so what I want to do is, I want to show you

1 that we take your concerns very seriously and that we  
2 work hard to address each individual's issues. And  
3 trust me, each individual's situation can be a little  
4 bit different. You know, it can be from we've done  
5 something, you know, that we have a system problem, or  
6 something happened at the end of the fiscal year, you  
7 know. So we have our share of it.

8           But there's also part of it that can be a  
9 member's issue. In other words maybe a member didn't  
10 sign something they needed to sign. Maybe they have a  
11 missing receipt. Maybe they have a difference of  
12 opinion on how much travel was covered. Was it two  
13 nights? one night? Maybe a member's employer is  
14 covering their travel and so they're not applying for  
15 it.

16           So what I kind of wanted to help out with is,  
17 even though this information is technically public  
18 information, it's a business transaction between the  
19 bureau and the traveler. And so what I'd like to do is  
20 start to kind of recalibrate our process. I certainly  
21 understand the urge to say, "Hey, have you been  
22 reimbursed? I haven't yet, but is it just me?" And I  
23 think in the past Randy and I wouldn't be surprised if  
24 Tom Acuna didn't play that role. Tom, Randy and April  
25 tried to be a conduit of venting concerns, but it's not

1 the chair responsibility.

2 I want you to see the information that Jennifer  
3 puts together for us, kind of the tracking way. I want  
4 you to know what it looks like for 2014, but starting in  
5 2015 address your concerns to Jennifer, Steve and then  
6 me, and let's keep that as a business relationship. And  
7 I know how frustrating it can be, but it's really  
8 between the traveler and the BLM. It's not a DAC issue  
9 in the same way. And what a terrible note to end on,  
10 but that's my report.

11 CHAIR SALL: Okay. At this point we still have  
12 our reports from various subgroups, and there are some  
13 DAC members that will be giving some of these reports.  
14 But are there additional reports DAC members want to  
15 give or any comments or questions on the field office  
16 reports at this time?

17 MEMBER SHTEIR: I've got a report. Should I go  
18 first?

19 CHAIR SALL: Sure. I'm not sure what you're  
20 going to report.

21 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay. So I'd like to give an  
22 update for conservation, and I think that the closing of  
23 the DRECP comment period and the fact that we've had a  
24 really good session today with climate change brings up  
25 a good renewable energy topic. And I want to bring up a

1 specific project that myself and many members of the  
2 community have been tracking over the course of the past  
3 several years, and I want to give an update, and I want  
4 to ask ultimately for a board action. So I'm going to  
5 talk a little bit about this, but don't be afraid. I'll  
6 make this brief.

7 I'm going to talk a little bit about the Soda  
8 Mountain Solar Project. This is a project located about  
9 a mile due west of Baker, California. It spans the I-15  
10 just west of the Zzyzx exit both north and south, and  
11 it's approximately 4,000 acres and is proposed to be  
12 about 2,500 acres of solar panels.

13 And where this project is right now is, the  
14 draft EIS has come about, and we're currently waiting on  
15 a final EIS. But, as is the case with many things, the  
16 process has been fraught with a lot of conflict, a lot  
17 of complex resource issues, and that's why I'm giving  
18 this update today.

19 So to begin with, the project -- and the way I  
20 feel about this really, honestly is it's one of the --  
21 probably the most egregious project or harmful project  
22 in the California desert in terms of its impact on  
23 wildlife currently. And, you know, it's also very  
24 popularly opposed, so much so in fact that the following  
25 organizations have banded together and asked BLM and

1 Congressman Cook and the county supervisors to work to  
2 relocate the project.

3 Now, I know that to relocate is a general  
4 project, but that can be done in a number of ways. That  
5 can be a no-action alternative that forces the project  
6 proponent to seek a new site. It could be a supplement  
7 that asks for further analysis of alternatives. That's  
8 open to interpretation. But the problem with the  
9 project remains.

10 And I'm going to read to you some of the  
11 organizations very quickly because I want you to see  
12 that these aren't just tree huggers that have banded  
13 together and are talking about opposing this project and  
14 asking for its relocation.

15 So they include 7IL Ranch, which, of course, is  
16 Rob Blair's outfit out of Mojave National Preserve;  
17 Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep; Joshua Tree  
18 Community Association; DeathValley.com; the town of  
19 Nipton; Shoshone Village; Shoshone Museum Association;  
20 Sun Runner Magazine; the Amargosa Conservancy;  
21 California Wilderness Coalition; Desert Tortoise  
22 Council; Wildlands Conservancy; Mojave Desert Land  
23 Trusts; Morongo Basin Conservation Association;  
24 San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society; Archaeological  
25 Heritage Association; Tourism Economics Commission;

1 Newberry Springs Community Services District; Baker  
2 Community Services District -- so two communities and  
3 towns -- Death Valley Chamber of Commerce; Mojave  
4 National Preserve Conservancy; Alliance for Desert  
5 Preservation; Mojave Community Conservation  
6 Collaborative; Harrison House Music and Arts; Radio Free  
7 Joshua Tree; Southern California Desert Video  
8 Astronomers; and our organization, to name a few.  
9 There's a few more, but I won't continue.

10           Suffice it to say, there's widespread  
11 opposition for a variety of reasons. And I'm going to  
12 just briefly highlight what the significant resource  
13 problems are and why this calls for a relocation of this  
14 project and not merely a reconfiguration of the project.

15           So it goes back to what landscape level  
16 planning is about. And two bighorn sheep scientists  
17 have said that the north and south Soda Mountains  
18 connection are the most important restorable bighorn  
19 corridors in the entire southeast Mojave. And those two  
20 are Clinton Epps and John Wehausen. I'm going to ask  
21 Don to give you a copy of their op-ed and a copy of this  
22 letter.

23           Those two scientists have said the north-south  
24 connection is very important. It's called a restorable  
25 corridor because bighorn aren't currently crossing. But

1 bighorn sheep scientists talk about restoring isolated  
2 metapopulations that had become increasingly genetically  
3 isolated. And the reason they're talking about that is,  
4 that increases the movement of species across the  
5 landscape.

6           So bighorn is one example of why the area is  
7 important. But another really important aspect of this  
8 is tortoise. And so Panorama Resources did a report in  
9 May of 2009, and Keva Biological did a report in 2012.  
10 And on the tortoise site they found sign, tortoise  
11 burrows, carcasses and scat. The United States Geologic  
12 Survey has rated the tortoise habitat on the scale of  
13 zero to one as a .6 to .9, meaning that there's fair  
14 tortoise habitat to very good tortoise habitat there.

15           And finally the project is part of the DRECP  
16 Model Desert Tortoise Connectivity Corridor. So it's a  
17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Connectivity Corridor that's been  
18 identified that links the Ivanpah Valley Critical  
19 Habitat unit with the Superior-Cronese unit, and as  
20 we've learned today, those refugia are going to become  
21 increasingly important as our climate changes.

22           So aside from the reptiles, aside from the  
23 bighorn, there are burrowing owls, which are a species  
24 of special concern; loggerhead shrike, which is a  
25 species of special concern; American badger, which is a

1 species of special concern. Fifty-seven kit foxes were  
2 found in the north and south array. They're a protected  
3 species. And so there's a significant impact to  
4 wildlife species in the California desert.

5 I'd like to read for you a bit about why the  
6 project or the lack of analysis of alternative sites on  
7 the other projects. And this isn't my opinion. This is  
8 the opinion of Ed La Rue, who is a tortoise biologist.  
9 So Mr. La Rue says, "It is not clear in Section 2.81,  
10 the discussion of site alternatives, that the proponent  
11 considered thousands of acres of biologically impaired  
12 habitat east of Barstow between Interstate 15 and  
13 Interstate 40, for example, although there is one  
14 mention of Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base on  
15 Page 241. In a number of places it seems that, if the  
16 alternative site does not occur between Las Vegas and  
17 Barstow, it is somehow unacceptable, which dismisses  
18 thousands of acres of impaired private lands in the  
19 Victor Valley area, for example. It seems as if all  
20 potential alternatives have the same regional  
21 restriction that the site must occur along the I-15  
22 between Vegas and Barstow."

23 And it's our opinion and the opinion of many  
24 people throughout the California desert that that scope,  
25 that search must be expanded.

1           So the last impact I want to talk about is to  
2 Mojave National Preserve. The project lies within a  
3 quarter mile of that boundary. And there have been five  
4 prior desert National Parks superintendents that have  
5 asked for the relocation of this project. Curt Sauer  
6 has asked for the relocation of this project, and I have  
7 it in writing. Dennis Schramm, Mary Martin,  
8 J.T. Reynolds and Mark Butler have all asked for the  
9 relocation of the project because of its adverse impact  
10 to the Mojave Preserve's view sheds, to its wildlife and  
11 things like that.

12           So I'm asking here today for a resolution that  
13 would request that the Bureau of Land Management  
14 relocate the project to a site that does not adversely  
15 impact the ecology, desert communities, archaeological  
16 sites or economics or recreation tourism economy of the  
17 California desert. I just want to put that out.

18           CHAIR SALL: All right. DAC discussion?

19           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Or a second?

20           CHAIR SALL: Do we have a second?

21           MEMBER HOUSTON: Was that a motion to  
22 recommend?

23           MEMBER SHTEIR: Yes, yes, correct, yes.

24           MEMBER HOUSTON: I'll second.

25           CHAIR SALL: We're open for discussion.

1           MEMBER BARRETT: Thank you. Seth and I have  
2 discussed this quite in detail. And with respect to the  
3 motion itself, irrespective of the merits of the  
4 argument, I do not believe the BLM have the authority to  
5 act as you've requested.

6           MEMBER SHTEIR: Let me just -- let me frame  
7 this a different way, then. Well, okay. A couple of  
8 things that are going on. We can ask for a no-action  
9 alternative, or we can ask for a supplemental that  
10 further examines alternatives beyond the scope of  
11 Las Vegas and Barstow, and perhaps that's an option for  
12 this group. So perhaps a no-action alternative is  
13 appropriate as a first line.

14           DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah. And this is one of  
15 those -- exactly. You're headed down the right path.  
16 So we don't ask an applicant to relocate their project,  
17 so that's the technicality that we're addressing. So if  
18 you don't like how the applicant -- where the project  
19 is, where the applicant proposed the project, then  
20 that's what you say. The bureau doesn't say, "Move it  
21 over there," once we get to this phase of it. Let's put  
22 it that way.

23           MEMBER SHTEIR: All right. Let me reframe the  
24 motion. So the BLM's DAC respectfully requests director  
25 Jim Kenna and the California BLM to have a no-action

1 alternative on the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project  
2 and that a letter be drafted to Mr. Kenna expressing  
3 this.

4 MEMBER BARRETT: Is there a second to the new  
5 motion?

6 CHAIR SALL: Is there a second to the new  
7 motion?

8 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: It would be up to Don to  
9 accept it.

10 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, I think the first thing  
11 is, we need to withdraw that first motion. Otherwise  
12 we'll have two motions on the floor.

13 CHAIR SALL: Okay. Withdrawn?

14 MEMBER SHTEIR: First motion withdrawn, yeah.

15 MEMBER HOUSTON: I agree. I second that.

16 CHAIR SALL: Okay.

17 MEMBER HOUSTON: And the second motion, I'll  
18 second it.

19 CHAIR SALL: Got it.

20 MEMBER ALGAZY: Comment on the second motion.  
21 I think in a more acceptable, limited role that's either  
22 more likely to pass muster if we just direct that we  
23 acknowledge the comment period for the DEIS on solar has  
24 ended but we would like to have our voice officially  
25 added to the public record as supporting the no-action

1 alternative. Would that be an acceptable alternative in  
2 terms of --

3 MEMBER SHTEIR: You're saying add that part to  
4 the DRECP as a friendly amendment?

5 MEMBER ALGAZY: No, no. I'm saying on  
6 Soda Mountain, has the DEIS closed on this?

7 MEMBER SHTEIR: Oh, so this is the status of  
8 the project. The project is grandfathered in, so it has  
9 been moving forward aside from the DRECP as a separate  
10 entity. Is that what you're asking?

11 MEMBER ALGAZY: No. Does it have an  
12 environmental impact statement comment period of its  
13 own?

14 MEMBER SHTEIR: That has closed.

15 MEMBER ALGAZY: Right. That's what I was  
16 saying, that we request that our voice be added to the  
17 public comment period, even though it's ended, as  
18 supporting the no-action alternative.

19 MEMBER SHTEIR: Gotcha.

20 MEMBER BARRETT: A comment on that, perhaps as  
21 well. Seth, as you know, irrespective once again of the  
22 merits of your proposal -- and the tendency or the hope  
23 is that, when one makes a proposal, that there be  
24 somebody who could offer some, you know, opposing view,  
25 perhaps, and that's not me. But would it be helpful to

1 invite somebody from the project proponent?

2           MEMBER SHTEIR: The problem that we have is,  
3 this is a time-sensitive issue. So normally I would  
4 say, sure, let's hash it out. Lets's agendize this.  
5 The problem is that there has been a critical series of  
6 meetings. And, as I said, the draft EIS comment period  
7 is closed. There have been a critical series of  
8 meetings at high levels in Washington, D.C., which  
9 involves Tommy Beaudreau, Neil Kornze and Jon Jarvis.  
10 And they're currently deciding what to do about the  
11 state of this project. So it's really that the time to  
12 act is now. And I respect the need for a diversity of  
13 opinion, but I feel that this is an especially strong  
14 case.

15           MEMBER BARRETT: And on that, my understanding  
16 is that there's another project in somewhat the vicinity  
17 that generated quite a bit of concern and hostility as  
18 well. And it's now going through a Board of Land  
19 Appeals process.

20           MEMBER SHTEIR: That's right.

21           MEMBER BARRETT: And it might be interesting to  
22 finally understand what the adjudication on that project  
23 is. It might very well help us and help you in  
24 understanding where this project is going to go as well.

25           MEMBER SHTEIR: That's a great point. But

1 again I think the problem with it is, we don't have  
2 time. That's a legal issue. It could take a really  
3 long time for that to be resolved. This is rolling  
4 along like a freight train, and if we don't take some  
5 decisive action here, it's going to get built. We need  
6 to act now.

7 CHAIR SALL: Randy, you had a comment?

8 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Yes. If I were to answer  
9 those questions, my first point would be, the DAC Desert  
10 Advisory Council had a field trip there. We've already  
11 researched it. We've heard about it. We've spoken on  
12 it. Unfortunately it was just prior to our new members'  
13 coming on board, so this is an older issue that's  
14 essentially grandfathered into our agenda. So I think  
15 there is reasonable nexus for us to proceed on that  
16 point.

17 And number two, just as a side item -- and if  
18 I'm correct, the neighboring project that's going  
19 through IBLA was a variance area application. This is  
20 not a variance land; am I correct? This is just an open  
21 application; it's not variance?

22 MEMBER SHTEIR: That's right.

23 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: So I think there might be a  
24 little bit different resolution with regard to that. I  
25 think it might be -- I'm not going to say an apple and

1 an orange but something of enough difference.

2           And my last point would be simply, if you  
3 haven't garnered from Seth's kind mention of  
4 DeathValley.com writing in opposition, as a DAC member I  
5 read through it, sat through it and became involved and  
6 read through it. I concluded sufficiently to write a  
7 letter of opposition on the project. I can't vote with  
8 you today, but I wanted to at least express that to you  
9 all so you know that this project has my opposition.  
10 The support for the motion is there. Just if you folks  
11 can work out the wording. Thank you.

12           CHAIR SALL: Thank you, Randy. I would also  
13 like to say that, you know, I individually have also  
14 expressed opposition to this project, and it does have a  
15 lot of problems with the current proposal. And I do see  
16 opportunity for this project to be relocated and still  
17 have the success of renewable energy development  
18 megawatts delivered to the grid but in a more disturbed  
19 location. And so I'll leave it there.

20           MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. Just a comment and then  
21 one point of clarification, correction. Like the desert  
22 tortoise, the bighorn sheep is an iconic desert species.  
23 And what we heard this morning and a little bit in the  
24 afternoon is the impact of global climate change on  
25 species that are in the desert and the importance of

1 maintaining these wildlife corridors and migration  
2 routes as the species are challenged by a global climate  
3 change. So that is really the foundation of my  
4 opposition to this project, because it has a huge impact  
5 on the wildlife corridors for bighorn sheep.

6           Now -- and this won't cast a shadow on your  
7 argument --

8           MEMBER SHTEIR: That's all right.

9           MEMBER HOUSTON: -- Seth, but the Channel  
10 Island kit fox and the San Joaquin Valley kit fox do  
11 have regulatory protection, but to my knowledge the  
12 desert kit fox does not.

13           MEMBER SHTEIR: It is a protected fur-bearing  
14 animal under California state law.

15           MEMBER HOUSTON: Fish and Game Code?

16           MEMBER SHTEIR: Yes.

17           MEMBER HOUSTON: But it's not endangered or  
18 threatened under the Endangered Species Act; right?

19           MEMBER SHTEIR: That is correct.

20           CHAIR SALL: Do we have any --

21           MEMBER HOUSTON: Can we restate the motion?

22           MEMBER SHTEIR: Yeah. I'm going to restate the  
23 motion. So the BLM Desert Advisory Council respectfully  
24 requests BLM Director Jim Kenna to implement a no-action  
25 alternative for the Soda Mountain Solar Project. No

1 reconfiguration of this project would remove its harmful  
2 effects. And we plan to draft a letter with that  
3 statement in it.

4 CHAIR SALL: Still a friendly second there?

5 MEMBER HOUSTON: I don't need to second it.  
6 He's just restating it.

7 CHAIR SALL: I'm just making sure. Okay. Do  
8 we have any comments from the public on this particular  
9 item being sensitive to time?

10 CAROL WILEY: I would just like to applaud the  
11 recommendation. I won't list all the reasons. You've  
12 covered most of them.

13 CHAIR SALL: Could you state your name, please,  
14 first.

15 CAROL WILEY: Oh, Carol Wiley, Victorville.

16 CHAIR SALL: Thank you.

17 CAROL WILEY: It's just too valuable a resource  
18 to be damaged, so I applaud you for protecting it.

19 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Any other public  
20 comments. Al?

21 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Call for the question. Ray  
22 called for the question.

23 MEMBER CASTILLO: I called for the vote.

24 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: So discussion is closed.

25 CHAIR SALL: All right. Can we take a vote?

1 Okay. All in favor? Opposed?

2 (A vote was taken.)

3 CHAIR SALL: Motion passes unanimously. Oh,  
4 sorry.

5 MEMBER BARRETT: I abstained.

6 CHAIR SALL: One abstained. My apologies. I  
7 was looking for your arms.

8 MEMBER BARRETT: Ray and I have similar arms.

9 CHAIR SALL: Motion passes. Thank you. Any  
10 comments or questions from the DAC on district manager  
11 or field office reports?

12 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Yes. Thank you. I'm sorry.  
13 John, could I ask a question? Recently your office  
14 released an EIS with regard to Ocotillo Wells. I didn't  
15 see it in the report. I wonder if you can give me a  
16 little background of what the gist is of where that EIS  
17 is going. No, no. That's Tom. Sorry, John.

18 MR. KALISH: That's correct.

19 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: You're off the hook. Sorry,  
20 Tom. He's going, "Go ahead, John. Take this."

21 What's that EIS about?

22 MR. ZALE: So BLM and California Division of  
23 State Parks are going to do a joint EIR/EIS evaluating  
24 the proposed general plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA. BLM  
25 will be a participant in that. Currently the Public

1 Lands that are within that park boundary are managed by  
2 the State Parks under an MOU with BLM.

3 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Is that EIS going to  
4 cover -- or is it within the scope of that document to  
5 discuss a possible land swap?

6 MR. ZALE: As part of that, yes, we will be  
7 looking at identifying whether or not Public Lands  
8 should be made available for disposal.

9 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Thank you. Thanks. With  
10 that in mind, I'd like to just inform the DAC that the  
11 East Kern Acquisition in the Jawbone area by the State  
12 Department of State Parks OHV Division, that that  
13 acquisition has closed and the state is now the owner of  
14 the property. And I would -- I, myself, based on my  
15 seeing little evidence of them being a good neighbor to  
16 the BLM lands with regard to how they're going to handle  
17 their properties, I would encourage the BLM to look at a  
18 land swap between the Ocotillo Wells properties and the  
19 East Kern acquired properties. I think that would make  
20 the most sense in terms of providing homogeny for the  
21 Ocotillo Wells area as well as greater homogeny for the  
22 management of the Jawbone area. That's a comment on  
23 that.

24 I had another comment on --

25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Randy, going back to that

1 East Kern, as I recall, there was an MOU that the  
2 Ridgecrest office was working on.

3 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Working on. There's no MOU  
4 yet between the BLM and State Parks. Thank you. And  
5 you don't have to get up, Carl, but I just want to say  
6 kudos to -- kudos to Carl's work on the South Park  
7 Bridge thing. I know I'm bringing it up, but look.  
8 I've been working on it for eight years, and we're this  
9 close. And it went from an order to be demolished to  
10 this close to getting a permanent sanctioned solution to  
11 visitor access in one of the most extraordinary places  
12 in the whole desert. And I just can't thank you enough.

13 When Carl first came on board from Oregon,  
14 somehow the word floated around that Oregon was the land  
15 of many bridges, and I had great hope that, if anybody  
16 could do this, that it would be Carl. And he did this  
17 all with WEMO going on, with DRECP going on and  
18 everything else that's been tossed around in the way  
19 with declining staff and folks moving away. I just  
20 can't that thank him enough for everything he's done on  
21 this. We're not there yet, so I'll be bringing it up  
22 again when the bridge is actually in, but I do want to  
23 say thanks for everything that's been done so far.  
24 Thank you, Carl. Thank you, April.

25 CHAIR SALL: Yes.

1           MEMBER BARRETT: And a comment perhaps for all  
2 of us is, I must say in reading with respect to  
3 renewable energy your reports, they're fantastic. And I  
4 mean you really do update these reports quite regularly,  
5 and I truly appreciate, you know, getting an update on  
6 the various projects.

7           One thing I've shared with many of you is what  
8 I might call the abandoned applications. We could  
9 coordinate on trying to clean some of those up, and I'm  
10 not sure that many in the public pay too much attention  
11 to, you know -- maybe there's a sense that they are  
12 abandoned, but some who do pay attention to that may  
13 feel that there is an awful lot of applications still  
14 out in the desert.

15           So I'm very much available to work with you. I  
16 don't know that I can represent the applicants per se,  
17 but I can certainly give you some information on what I  
18 understand is their status and allow you then to contact  
19 those applicants to see if they're still active. But  
20 thank you again for the reports. Very good.

21           MEMBER ALGAZY: I have two things. One is a  
22 comment; one is a question. And the first on the  
23 comment side is one of the sidebars to what we've been  
24 doing here today and what we'll be doing at our next  
25 meeting with WEMO is, there's a separate process that's

1 not on the table that's going on on the sides, which is  
2 the development of programmatic agreements between the  
3 State Preservation Office and the BLM on how to define,  
4 identify and manage cultural resources. And they're  
5 developing in both of those processes programmatic  
6 agreements, and I have requested and have been granted  
7 consulting-party status to both of those processes to  
8 try and make both DRECP and WEMO more comprehensive with  
9 input from the public at large.

10           And as far as my question, it is actually not  
11 for any of the field reports. I had a question for  
12 Teri, if she could give a brief explanation on why there  
13 is a second call for nominations on the DAC.

14           DIRECTOR RAML: Because of the resignation of  
15 Jessica Reilly. And so rather than submitting a  
16 package, as long as the process takes to get it all the  
17 way through to the secretary's office and signed -- and  
18 then, you know, we had a vacancy in the middle of the  
19 process -- we decided to extend the time period to fill  
20 that vacancy also.

21           Is that good, Steve?

22           MR. RAZO: Yeah.

23           MEMBER SHTEIR: I had a question. When might  
24 those people be appointed?

25           DIRECTOR RAML: Oh, man, yeah.

1 MEMBER BARRETT: Tough question.

2 DIRECTOR RAML: We wish we could tell you,  
3 yeah. It's a process. Once it leaves the Desert  
4 District, it's pretty much out of our hands in a way  
5 that you would hardly imagine.

6 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay.

7 CHAIR SALL: Additional DAC member questions or  
8 comments on the field reports?

9 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Could I have a second bite  
10 at the apple? I'm sorry. I notice that we've wrapped  
11 quite a few things into that administration, but I did  
12 want to just say -- I'm sorry -- thank you, Steve, for  
13 taking time out of your lunch hour to go back to the  
14 office and get a file to load onto the computer just in  
15 case. It was for our DRECP discussion, had some maps in  
16 case it got to that in case we had those discussions.  
17 So thanks for taking time out of lunch to do that.

18 MR. RAZO: No problem.

19 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Number two, I have a message  
20 for the DAC members that are here. And that is, with as  
21 many vacancies as we have, it's going to be a challenge  
22 for this body to continually maintain quorum. I beg of  
23 you, please check your schedules carefully. Do what you  
24 can to, please, make the upcoming meetings that we have.  
25 Otherwise this group is severely handicapped if it does

1 not have quorum. And so I really appreciate everybody's  
2 effort for coming to this meeting, and there just isn't  
3 enough cushion right now for folks to take time off out  
4 of here. So I'm really proud of everybody for having  
5 shown up and allowed us to have quorum to make decisions  
6 today. Thank you.

7           And just another thanks to Tom in the El Centro  
8 Field Office for inviting me down to the Plank Road  
9 hundredth anniversary celebration. It was a great,  
10 great amount of fun. It was a pleasure to share the  
11 stage with my colleague Ray. And I think we pretty much  
12 laid it, didn't we?

13           MEMBER CASTILLO: Yeah, we sure did.

14           VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I agree. Thank you. I  
15 really appreciate it, and thanks for having me down.  
16 And that's all I've got, I promise. I'm done.

17           Oh, one more. BLM 2.0. I don't think we have  
18 time. We don't have time to get it onto agendas and for  
19 future, there's comment going on, but could I perhaps  
20 beg of the district office to maybe send around a link  
21 to us all or something to us all? This is something  
22 that's -- I think it's big, and it kind of -- shoo --  
23 went past us while we were juggling DRECP. There won't  
24 be time for us to deal with it, but there's still time  
25 for us as individuals to look at it and make a comment.

1           So if there's anybody who knows anything about  
2 it, if you could send something over to us, we would be  
3 really grateful. Thanks. And that, I swear, is the  
4 end.

5           MR. RAZO: Why don't we let Charles give you a  
6 quick 30-second update.

7           CHAIR SALL: Okay. We're asking for an update  
8 apparently.

9           MR. YUDSON: Hi.

10          CHAIR SALL: Could you come to the microphone,  
11 please, real quick.

12          MR. YUDSON: I can project.

13          CHAIR SALL: I trust you, but just in case.

14          MR. YUDSON: Sure. Hi. I'm Charles Yudson.  
15 I'm working with Steve in the district office right now  
16 on public affairs, but my normal job is actually  
17 regulatory affairs in D.C. And one of the rules that  
18 I'm working on is the Planning 2.0 rules. And so a  
19 quick recap would be, it's going to be both a regulatory  
20 effort as well as a handbook effort to basically  
21 re-address and re-evaluate how BLM does its planning,  
22 looking at landscape-level planning as well as being  
23 able to be more adaptive.

24          So one of the things, talking about monitoring,  
25 that's definitely something that's going to be

1 addressed. So I encourage all of you to reach out to  
2 the current Planning 2.0 efforts and make your comments  
3 known. I think you can do it on the BLM website. And I  
4 can certainly, when I go back, ask for you guys to  
5 receive some more updates on what's going on. So I'll  
6 bring that back.

7 CHAIR SALL: Is there a comment deadline?

8 MR. YUDSON: The 2.0 as a proposed rule hasn't  
9 even been published yet, so no. And the overall effort  
10 is beyond just "regs."

11 MEMBER ALGAZY: Just keeping in mind our  
12 friends that aren't here today. Ed would score Carl's  
13 report at the top of the list for having a picture of  
14 the bridge in the back.

15 CHAIR SALL: I had just a quick question, Carl.  
16 In your report it states that currently both wildlife  
17 biology positions are vacant. Is there a budget line to  
18 hire that position, or is that -- no. Okay. Thanks.

19 Other DAC member questions, comments? Okay.  
20 Moving on, next agenda item, so our SRP Subgroup is  
21 inactive. We currently do not have a DAC representative  
22 of that group. No one yet has come forward, but we did  
23 just today. I would like to announce that Supervisor  
24 Ray Castillo has volunteered to accept the role of being  
25 the DAC member on the ISDRA Subgroup, which we greatly

1 appreciate. And so on that note, because the subgroup  
2 report was pretty detailed and lengthy, I'm going to ask  
3 Tom Zale to just give us a brief summary of the update.

4 MR. ZALE: Thank you. So just really quickly,  
5 Tom did prepare a fairly complete report that I think  
6 will be part of the record for this meeting. What I'll  
7 embellish on is that there will be a press release soon  
8 for up to five new members, so we have a number of  
9 vacancies that we want to fill. Hopefully we'll have  
10 applications in to me by -- March 27th, I think, is what  
11 we're shooting for. Our next meeting is May 21st. And,  
12 Supervisor Castillo, we appreciate you stepping up to  
13 the plate as the DAC member for that subgroup.

14 This year I'll just also add that we're still  
15 within our new season, but as things wrap up, I'm really  
16 proud of the work that our staff and partners, the  
17 United Desert Gateway, American Sand Association,  
18 Imperial County Sheriff's Office, have done together.  
19 We've had a very successful year, a lot of favorable  
20 public feedback on law enforcement. We successfully  
21 re-established the closures in the dunes with help from  
22 volunteers. We had a successful Martin Luther King  
23 cleanup out in the dunes, and the Pike Road ceremony was  
24 really fabulous. Three of the five panel people were  
25 sitting up here, and I want to thank you, Randy and

1 Supervisor Castillo, and Teri did a good job. So thank  
2 you for that.

3 Finally we'll be working with the subgroup to  
4 try to refresh the Cahuilla Ranger Station and turn it  
5 into a facility that, instead of being a 1980s vintage,  
6 will be in the 21st century.

7 CHAIR SALL: Great.

8 MR. ZALE: Questions? Thank you.

9 CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Randy, do you have a  
10 Dumont Dunes Subgroup report?

11 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: The Dumont Dunes group has  
12 not met since the previous DAC meeting. Their next  
13 meeting will be on March the 10th, two Tuesdays from  
14 now, in Barstow. Thank you.

15 CHAIR SALL: Great. Thank you. And Seth,  
16 Connecting People to the Desert?

17 MEMBER SHTEIR: We met, and we had an arts  
18 panel that gave BLM recommendations about establishing  
19 an artists in residency program.

20 CHAIR SALL: Okay. Great. Excellent. At this  
21 point we're going to do our public questions and  
22 comments on both the field reports and subgroup reports  
23 and items not on the agenda, since we did not have that  
24 typical format at today's meeting.

25 So the first name I would like to call is

1 Bill Jensen followed by Lorrie Steely followed by  
2 Shirley Leeson.

3 MR. JENSEN: Ladies and gentlemen --  
4 Don Houston, could I borrow that letter that Joe gave  
5 you, the last two pages.

6 MEMBER HOUSTON: Sure. Are you going to give  
7 it back to me?

8 MR. JENSEN: Yes, sir, I am. I was short of  
9 photocopies this morning.

10 MEMBER HOUSTON: Is this the one you're talking  
11 about?

12 MR. JENSEN: Yes. Thank you very much. Ladies  
13 and gentlemen, very quickly for the next five minutes,  
14 three minutes, I would like you to remember that we are  
15 all Americans. Please put down your baton. There are  
16 some things that you don't understand maybe in the law.

17 I've read all of the Supreme Court hearings and  
18 all of the appellate court hearings. These reasons are  
19 thousands of years old. They measure into your  
20 government deliberately and on purpose. They have been  
21 the reason that we won a Civil War, World War I and  
22 World War II. So this isn't aimed at you as BLM members  
23 or employees. What's happened is, something is  
24 surfacing that is much deeper, and we need your help.

25 This is from Congressman Paul Cook. It is to

1 the California Energy and Bureau of Land Management. It  
2 regards including minerals and mining representatives as  
3 federal stakeholders in the DRECP and other land use  
4 planning.

5 "I am writing this letter to object to the  
6 exclusion of mining and minerals representatives as a  
7 federal stakeholder in the Desert Renewable Energy  
8 Conservation Plan. Additionally mining interests have  
9 been ignored, and when designating Areas of Critical  
10 Environmental Concern, units of the National Landscape  
11 Conservation System, Desert Wildlife Management Areas  
12 and the West Mojave Plan, this has prevented miners and  
13 mining interests from having a voice in an important  
14 planning process that shape our desert.

15 "In particular the exclusion of California  
16 Desert District Mining Coalition, CDDMC is troubling.  
17 The CDDMC has been a voice for minerals and mining in  
18 California, and any land use planning in the California  
19 desert should include them at the table, particularly in  
20 light of the 1872 Mining Law, 30 USC 22 through 54.

21 "The CDDMC has represented minerals and mining  
22 organizations and clubs for many years. It and its  
23 affiliates represent a substantial number of miners and  
24 mining claims in California, over 17,000 active, papered  
25 mines, and have organized mining districts of 19 states.

1 This was done under the federal designation of the  
2 Mining and Mineral Advisory Council, MMAC.

3 "The participation of CDDMC in the land use  
4 planning process identified earlier would bring an  
5 important voice for resource development to these  
6 discussions. In these times of recession and anemic  
7 recoveries, jobs have been sited by both sides of the  
8 aisle as a priority for government. New industries  
9 produce as many high paying, long-term jobs as the  
10 mining industry, and I am certain that CDDMC's  
11 participation would lead to an increase in the number of  
12 mining industry jobs.

13 "I am urging you to take immediate corrective  
14 action to assign minerals and mining representatives  
15 from MMAC, or currently CDDMC, to your committees and  
16 mapping organizations.

17 "Additionally I ask that you conduct the proper  
18 public hearings and obtain the proper public input to  
19 include mineral and mining representatives as authorized  
20 federal stakeholders before enacting any rules or  
21 regulations or restrictions that may unlawfully impact  
22 the National Mineral and Mining Policy Act of  
23 30 USC 21(a), not excluding the national security  
24 interests that may exist in this strategic and critical  
25 Mining Stockpiles Act, 50 USC 98 and 98(c), to prevent

1 any further harm from being done to California mining  
2 industry.

3 "Minerals and mining representatives must be  
4 recognized as federal stakeholders in all public land  
5 multiple use decisions, and I urge you to act quickly to  
6 ensure that this happens. If you have any questions,  
7 please do not hesitate to contact my office. Sincerely,  
8 regards, Paul Cook."

9 And this is to go to the Department of  
10 Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, the California  
11 Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and  
12 Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Desert  
13 Advisory Council, California Desert District Mining  
14 Coalition and the Defense Logistics Agency, DLA. Thank  
15 you very much.

16 MEMBER HOUSTON: I'd like to respond.  
17 Mr. Jensen, it's very obvious that you consider a  
18 serious issue, but I want to manage your expectations in  
19 terms of this body's response.

20 MR. JENSEN: Yes, sir.

21 MEMBER HOUSTON: Your comments you just made  
22 are more appropriate for the scoping of the DRECP, which  
23 was early on in the process, which speaks to the process  
24 of the DRECP. What this body is involved in is an  
25 environmental impact report and an environmental impact

1 statement, and we're providing comments on the adequacy  
2 of that environmental analysis. So I just want to  
3 manage your expectations. I'm going to read the mining  
4 and mineral resources resource section of the EIR/EIS  
5 and come to some conclusions as to, did they adequately  
6 analyze the impacts to those resources and to those  
7 desert users?

8           But in terms of process and putting your group  
9 on stakeholder committees, we will not be speaking to  
10 those issues because those are more appropriate to the  
11 scoping phase of the DRECP, which is long past. That  
12 ship has sailed.

13           MR. JENSEN: Well, that would be -- the notice  
14 that we're giving them now is that maybe they violated  
15 the law and they didn't know they were doing it. And  
16 again I don't look to place blame today, only that  
17 there's been an oversight and there needs to be a  
18 correction.

19           And with that I'll tell you that in this venue,  
20 I'm a fish out of water. I'm catching up quickly. But  
21 coming from the legal aspect side, now seeing what's  
22 taken place and how quickly it's transpiring, if we  
23 don't place our objections in the proper places, then we  
24 may not have recourse in the future for other  
25 objections.

1           MEMBER ALGAZY: That also's the point that I  
2 wanted to make on your behalf is, it's not in your best  
3 interest to second guess what a court of law would  
4 decide later on was appropriate in terms of your  
5 exhaustion of administrative remedies. In order to  
6 protect your status now, you need to get up at every  
7 opportunity, whether we like it or not.

8           MR. JENSEN: I appreciate your time. Thank you  
9 very much, and that is the true intention. And if  
10 anybody can point me in the right direction, I'd be glad  
11 to take your advice. Thank you very much.

12           CHAIR SALL: Thank you. Lorrie Steely followed  
13 by Shirley Leeson.

14           MS. STEELY: Hello, everybody. Thank you.  
15 Lorrie Steely with the Mojave Communities Conservation  
16 Collaborative, and my comment is on the Barstow Field  
17 Office notes, the highlights. I just noticed just  
18 reading through that the Coolwater-Lugo transmission  
19 project, there's no update with regard to a scoping  
20 report that I stumbled across. And I think it probably  
21 should be there, because a lot of us don't have time to  
22 be wandering through the internet looking for scoping  
23 reports we don't know exist. So I think it would be  
24 helpful to have it noted in the updates so that we know  
25 what to look for, that it's actually in existence.

1           I had a question because, when I made my  
2 comments and when I submitted written comments, I was  
3 told that I would need to be aware because they would be  
4 available to the public. So I'd like to know who -- how  
5 we would go about finding out where to get the public  
6 comments, if I maybe need to contact the Barstow BLM  
7 office.

8           And then my final comment is just with regards  
9 to the City of Lancaster, and they actually have what is  
10 called their Lancaster Power Authority, and they are  
11 becoming net zero. Our group has really been working  
12 with them significantly. Sadly enough, the power that  
13 they're generating, zero percent of that power is  
14 eligible for RPS, so that's one drawback. And that's my  
15 only comment. Thank you.

16           CHAIR SALL: Shirley Leeson?

17           MS. LEESON: You'll have to forgive me. When I  
18 came in here this morning, I was about the same color  
19 hair as Teri. It's been a long day for all of us. This  
20 is a recap of a request for information on the MOU  
21 Hauser Beds that I asked at the December meeting. And I  
22 also gave you a survey done on rockhounds because I  
23 didn't think that you really realized how many of them  
24 there were. So I am here representing the rockhounds,  
25 the ghosts of the desert.

1           At the DAC meeting in December of 2014 I gave  
2 each DAC member a copy of the MOU between the BLM and  
3 the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies.  
4 During the meeting I spoke to Thomas Zale, field manager  
5 of the El Centro office. We set up a meeting on  
6 January 23rd, 2015, and you'll have to forgive me. I'm  
7 having trouble. It's Efe --

8           MR. ZALE: Efe Erukanure.

9           MS. LEESON: Whatever, him. I'm not going to  
10 say it again. I think you know him more than I do. And  
11 Carrie Simmons of the BLM office and John Martin, CFMS,  
12 first vice-president and I met to begin an update on the  
13 MOU. We have agreed to all meet again sometime in  
14 March, and it depends on the staffing of that office,  
15 because we know they are overworked.

16          MR. ZALE: Did you say overworked?

17          MS. LEESON: At the same meeting I brought  
18 forth a sheet of informal surveys on rockhounds and  
19 collecting activities in the Southern California desert.  
20 Today I have brought to each of you a conclusion of that  
21 informal survey, and I wish to have it entered in the  
22 DAC minutes, and I have it here for you. I'm learning.  
23 The survey was included in the DRECP comments letter  
24 sent by the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society to the  
25 DRECP, California Energy Commission, BLM, California

1 Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife,  
2 Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Boxer and the  
3 50th District Representative, Duncan Hunter, by a single  
4 gem and minerals society.

5           This survey was done by the editor,  
6 Lisbet Thoreson, of the San Diego Mineral and Gem  
7 Society, a 501c3 non-profit organization, which has over  
8 665 members and more than 1,300 newsletter subscribers  
9 and has been in existence since 1934.

10           San Diego's comment letter including the survey  
11 results is presented to you here today to show in some  
12 small way the impact of rockhounds on the desert. It  
13 contains explicit requests for specific revisions to  
14 improve or correct errors, omissions in the Draft DRECP.

15           While rockhounds are included under recreation,  
16 we have a very different use of the desert than the  
17 off-road vehicle community. They use the roads and  
18 trails for pleasure and for commercial events that can  
19 be monitored to obtain a fairly accurate account of how  
20 many of them use the desert. While rockhounds use many  
21 of those same roads, trails and washes, we use them  
22 primarily to reach our collecting sites, so activities  
23 are mostly unknown to the vast network of the BLM field  
24 office and their staff.

25           To my knowledge, no official survey has ever

1 been done by the BLM to determine what recreational  
2 activity related to rock collecting occurs in the desert  
3 or to assess the financial impact that the closing of  
4 the desert to rockhounds will have.

5           If the DRECP or Senator Dianne Feinstein's new  
6 bill is approved without revisions, the impact on all  
7 the small towns in and around the desert areas will be  
8 enormous. Let me remind you there are over 52,000  
9 organized rockhounds throughout the United States. In  
10 the California-Nevada area there are approximately  
11 10,000 organized rockhounds in gem and minerals  
12 societies, and the American Lands Access, whom I am  
13 representing here today, has over 10,000 members  
14 throughout the U.S. but mostly in western states that  
15 has BLM and Forest Service Public Lands.

16           CHAIR SALL: Shirley, can you please wrap up  
17 your comment.

18           MS. LEESON: Yep. What I bring today is  
19 information from one club of one of these organizations.  
20 Rockhounds need to know you are aware of their  
21 activities and their concerns for the land use  
22 designations proposed under DRECP. And thank you for  
23 your time.

24           CHAIR SALL: Thank you. One last speaker card  
25 for Jane Hunt.

1           MS. HUNT: I forgot to bring this up when I  
2 made my comments before, but I think it pertains in a  
3 roundabout way to climate change. But most people view  
4 it as conspiracy theories, but I've been involved in it  
5 for -- I was noticing it's never talked about. As they  
6 call it now -- what do they call it now? It's  
7 geo-engineering, and it's like the climate --  
8 manipulation of the climate. Well, they called it  
9 chemtrails. But you mentioned it, and I just want to  
10 find out more about it because I just used to think they  
11 were clouds, regular clouds, years ago.

12           But lately, it's been even worse. Like in the  
13 desert, in the San Bernardino valley it's just  
14 ridiculous, especially after it rains. And I just want  
15 somebody to make a realistic -- every time you talk  
16 about it, they say, "Oh, it's a conspiracy theory," or  
17 something. But I said, "No." It's been -- I mean, I've  
18 lived here all my life, and I've just been noticing it.  
19 And I've noticed a change, and we have more winds, and  
20 sometimes we -- it's just nobody ever talks about the  
21 mankind manipulation of the environment, you know, the  
22 air currents and everything. And I just wish somebody  
23 would give me a straight answer, because it seems like  
24 you go to the government, and they're hush-hush about  
25 it.

1           And I just want some, you know I'm not a -- I'm  
2 a very skeptical person. But when you actually see it  
3 and you notice it over time that you see more and  
4 more -- like in our community, you see it in the sky.  
5 It's not regular, you know, contrails. And they do it  
6 after it rains, and it's just -- I've seen it on the way  
7 out to the desert. I'm going, oh, my God. It's  
8 worldwide. But I've just noticed it, if it has any  
9 bearing on, you know, affecting climate change. Thank  
10 you.

11           CHAIR SALL: Okay. Thank you. This body in  
12 advising the BLM only can provide advice related to the  
13 BLM's land use authority, and so this entity does not  
14 address what you bring up, but maybe your local air  
15 quality district or another possible body.

16           All right. We have our final wrap-up and  
17 summary, including discussion of next meeting and any  
18 last-minute items.

19           MEMBER MUTH: I believe that our first meeting  
20 of our new year is the time that we elect our officers  
21 for the coming year. And I would like to nominate a  
22 slate, but before I do, just a point of clarification.  
23 I'm termed out. I can't vote. Can I still nominate?

24           I see a "yes" over there. So first of all, I  
25 would like to thank April for her stellar work over the

1 last year, a very difficult time to be guide of the DAC.  
2 April is stepping down, and so this isn't a coup or  
3 anything. But I would like to nominate as our new chair  
4 Don Houston and as vice-chair Leslie Barrett.

5 MEMBER ALGAZY: I'll second that.

6 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: I'm sorry. I just want a  
7 guide point of order. Nominations don't need a second.  
8 Number two, you really should go office by office so, if  
9 somebody doesn't get it, they can be put in the possible  
10 for the rest. So what I would do is call for  
11 nominations for chair first and then conduct that  
12 election, and then do your nominations for vice-chair  
13 and conduct that. So thank you.

14 CHAIR SALL: Okay. Do we have other  
15 nominations for chair?

16 MEMBER CASTILLO: I'll second that nomination.

17 CHAIR SALL: Hearing and seeing no other  
18 nominations, okay. We have a second.

19 MEMBER MUTH: Move nominations be closed.

20 CHAIR SALL: Okay. We move nominations are  
21 closed. Thank you. Point of order. Let's take a vote.  
22 All in favor?

23 VICE-CHAIR BANIS: Oh, I don't get to vote, but  
24 I'm putting my hand up.

25 (A vote was taken.)



1 very much, but I'd like to remain the environmental  
2 person. Declined.

3 MEMBER SALL: Declined. Yes. Any other? All  
4 right. Sorry.

5 CHAIR HOUSTON: Well.

6 CHAIR SALL: Habit.

7 MEMBER MUTH: Nominations are closed.

8 CHAIR HOUSTON: That requires a second. Does  
9 anyone want to second it?

10 MEMBER SALL: Second.

11 CHAIR HOUSTON: I'll call for the question.

12 All in favor for Leslie Barrett as the new vice-chair,  
13 please raise your hand.

14 (A vote was taken.)

15 CHAIR HOUSTON: Unanimous. Congratulations,  
16 Leslie.

17 VICE-CHAIR BARRETT: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 CHAIR HOUSTON: Now, Teri, can you tell us when  
20 our next meeting is.

21 DIRECTOR RAML: April 10th and 11th.

22 CHAIR HOUSTON: Okay. Thank you.

23 MEMBER BANIS: Just want to reiterate everybody  
24 needs to be there, but I can't be there, so I'm afraid  
25 I'm going to miss you guys. It's going to be a great

1 meeting, and it will be my first meeting I've missed in  
2 who knows how many years. But have a good meeting,  
3 guys.

4 CHAIR HOUSTON: Before we adjourn, I have a  
5 few words for public in attendance. This council, its  
6 mandate is to take comments from the public and discuss  
7 your concerns with land use issues in the desert, and so  
8 we really appreciate your attendance. We hope you will  
9 attend the April 10th meeting and continue to address  
10 the huge amount of land use issues going on at this time  
11 in the desert. So continue to comment and attend these  
12 meetings. We benefit from your attendance as a public  
13 body.

14 Are there any other comments from the council  
15 before I adjourn?

16 VICE-CHAIR BARRETT: Just a quick one. I think  
17 we all concur with Al's comments with respect to how  
18 well April has represented and how we're going to miss  
19 her and how we wish her so well in all her future  
20 endeavors, whatever state, country, planet that you may  
21 reside in. It's been a true pleasure, and thank you for  
22 helping us newer members get up to speed so quickly.  
23 Your guidance has been wonderful, and we really thank  
24 you. Good luck.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIR HOUSTON: Anything else? Going once,  
2 going twice. We're adjourned.

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4 (The meeting was concluded at 5:06 p.m.)

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A.    Maker:        Sall  
      Second:     Barrett  
      Motion:     To accept in concept the content of  
                  additional comments on the DRECP from  
                  the subcommittee and to have  
                  some edits and additional input that  
                  were already discussed and accept  
                  these as the supplement to the  
                  December 6th comments and put these  
                  into the record.  
      Result:     Carried

B.    Maker:        Shteir  
      Second:     Houston  
      Motion:     To respectfully request BLM Director,  
                  Jim Kenna, to implement a no-action  
                  alternative for the Soda Mountain  
                  Solar Project, even though comment  
                  period has ended. No reconfiguration  
                  of this project would remove its  
                  harmful effects, that the DAC draft a  
                  letter with that statement in it.  
      Result:     Carried

C.    Maker:        Muth  
      Second:     Algazy  
      Motion:     To nominate Don Houston as chair  
      Result:     Carried

D.    Maker:        Muth  
      Second:     Sall  
      Motion:     To nominate Leslie Barrett as  
                  vice-chair  
      Result:     Carried

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 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

-----  
Certified Shorthand  
Reporter in and for the  
State of California