

In the Matter of:

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
California Desert District Advisory Council

Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings

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1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
3 CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL  
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11 MEETING FOCUS TOPIC - DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY  
12 CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP) - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
13

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15 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
16 SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014  
17  
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19

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21 REPORTED BY: DIANE CARVER MANN, CLR, CSR NO. 6008  
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1 PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

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

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7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Good morning, everyone.

8 Call the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. Thank you,

9 everybody, for coming today to the DAC's first meeting

10 of 2014. I'd like to start with the Pledge of

11 Allegiance, please, and Jessica has agreed to lead us in

12 our pledge today.

13 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. We'd like to

15 move into introductions now, and I'm going to start all

16 the way over to the left. Dinah, would you please start

17 with the introductions.

18 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Dinah Shumway, geologist,

19 nonrenewable resources.

20 MEMBER HOUSTON: Don Houston representing

21 nonrenewable resources.

22 MEMBER SALL: April Sall, public at large.

23 DIRECTOR RAML: Teri Raml. I'm the District

24 Manager for the California Desert District and the

25 designated federal official for this meeting.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Randy Banis, member of the

2 public at large, chairman.

3 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Paul O'Boyle, right-of-ways.

4 MEMBER SHTEIR: Seth Shteir, environmental.

5 MEMBER REILLY: Jessica Reilly, renewable

6 energy.

7 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Kim Campbell-Erb,

8 recreation.

9 MEMBER MUTH: Hey, I'm here. Al Muth,

10 wildlife.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Everybody, if

12 you would just take a moment and make sure your phone

13 ringers are silenced. We have restrooms on this floor

14 across the causeway to the right. There's also

15 restrooms downstairs. Also we have speaker cards. We

16 have restrooms to both sides on this floor. Thank you.

17 We have speaker cards available for members of

18 the public who wish to comment during one or more of our

19 three comment sessions. There's no topic line on the

20 card, but if you wish to speak for all three, just mark

21 all sessions or all topics, or if there's a specific

22 comment period you wish to speak to us, just write that

23 topic on the bottom of the card. Pick up the cards from

24 the side table.

25 MS. WOHLGEMUTH: There are also some outside.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And there's some outside,

2 but return the cards to the side table, and they'll

3 bring them up to me. I ask that the speaker cards be

4 turned in to the side table prior to the start of a

5 comment period. That way I know how many people wish to

6 speak, and we'll see how we can allocate our time.

7 Everybody hopefully has had a chance to review

8 the transcripts from our December meeting. Are there

9 any comments, questions? Do I have a motion to approve

10 the transcripts from December?

11 MEMBER SALL: Move.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Moved by April.

13 MEMBER SHTEIR: Second.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Second by Seth. Those in

15 favor, aye. Opposed, nay?

16 (A voice vote was taken.)

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Transcripts are approved.

18 Let's take a minute and look at our agenda for the day.

19 Is there anything that the DAC would like to change on

20 today's agenda? If there's a small item you would like

21 to bring up, right away coming up is our individual

22 member reports. You can always introduce a topic there.

23 Al, did you have a comment on a new item, or do

24 you want to wait for your report time?

25 MEMBER MUTH: I will wait for my report time.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: All right. If there's no

2 objections, the next item on the agenda is our

3 State Director Report and CDD District Manager Report.

4 Teri?

5 DIRECTOR RAML: Thanks. Well, good morning.

6 My State Director and District Manager Report will be

7 very brief, but let me start by having the BLM employees

8 in the room introduce themselves. I'll start with Carl

9 and go this way.

10 MR. SYMONS: I'm Carl Symons, Field Manager for

11 the Ridgecrest Field Office.

12 MR. WAKEFIELD: Tim Wakefield, Associate

13 District Manager, California Desert District.

14 MR. AHRENS: Mike Ahrens, Needles Field

15 Manager.

16 MR. SINTETOS: Mike Sintetos, California State

17 Office, Sacramento.

18 MR. SCOFIELD: Russell Scofield, Deputy

19 District Manager for Resources.

20 MR. ZALE: Tom Zale, Field Manager for the

21 El Centro Field Office.

22 MR. KALISH: John Kalish, Field Manager right

23 here in Palm Springs, BLM.

24 MS. SYMONS: Katrina Symons, Barstow Field

25 Manager.

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1 MS. WOHLGEMUTH: Jennifer Wohlgemuth, District  
2 Office.

3 MR. RAZO: Steve Razo, External Affairs, BLM.

4 DIRECTOR RAML: Great. Thank you very much. I  
5 think that the State Director's Report would probably  
6 echo the importance of the DRECP, which we're going to  
7 focus on for this meeting. So I will be brief on that  
8 because I think we're going to talk quite a bit about  
9 the DRECP, and Mike is going to help us.

10 I also would refer you to -- we're very proud  
11 of our social media, the BLM is, and we've got a great  
12 web page. We've got excellent social media. So if you  
13 also want to know for California BLM, I encourage you to  
14 go there.

15 Another significant amount of energy is being  
16 spent by Jim and Angie on Discover the Coast, and we've  
17 put quite a bit of effort into Discover the Coast and  
18 events associated with the coast along the coastline, so  
19 we've got that on our website.

20 I think we included on the table the schedule  
21 for the DAC meetings and the DAC meeting topics for the  
22 rest of the year. So for those of you who are not BLM  
23 employees, you can on the table pick up what we're  
24 planning to work on or what DAC and we are working on  
25 together this year, and that will kind of guide you in

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1 that. And I think with that I will wait until the  
2 afternoon, and the field managers will give their  
3 reports or respond to your questions to their report,  
4 and I'll call that good.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Any questions? Good.  
6 Thank you, Teri. The next item on our agenda, Council  
7 Member Reports and Chair Close-outs from Previous  
8 Meetings. Let's start this time, if we may, from the  
9 right side. Are there any reports or items that you'd  
10 like to bring to our attention, Kim?

11 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: No, although I would like  
12 to make a point of saying how much I appreciate the help  
13 of Joanne.

14 MR. STEWART: Could you use the mic, please.

15 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Yes. The one item I  
16 wanted to mention was, I really appreciated all the work  
17 that Joanne Schiffer-Burdett from the Moreno Valley  
18 office has provided for the SRP Subgroup. She has been  
19 wonderful. She's provided so much information, and she  
20 had a lot of light on the process that I think will be  
21 very helpful in making a difference on special  
22 recreation permits.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Al.

24 MEMBER MUTH: First I'd like to say thanks to  
25 John Kalish. I'm usually harassing him about something

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1 other than commenting on a good job, John, on the field  
2 trip yesterday. You can talk about the scale, the size  
3 of the industrial photovoltaic projects in the desert,  
4 but until you actually get out there on the ground and  
5 see from a distance how big those things are and how  
6 much of your public land is being consumed for one  
7 purpose, it doesn't really sink in. So those of you  
8 that missed it yesterday, talk to the staff, find out  
9 where we went, and go have a look if you haven't seen  
10 those things.

11 And off of on my grandstand again. But one  
12 issue I would like to discuss today is the issue of  
13 elections, elections of officers and the waiting for the  
14 appointments to be made before we hold elections. So  
15 whenever you want to bring that up, Randy, that would be  
16 good.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You bet. Jessica, welcome  
18 back.

19 MEMBER REILLY: Thank you. I have nothing to  
20 report, although I would like to say that I did  
21 thoroughly enjoy the conversation that was happening  
22 over e-mail internally about climate change. It is a  
23 sort of broad topic, and in the future I personally  
24 volunteer to explain the basics and the principles as  
25 part of a future DAC meeting if there is interest in

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1 that.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Good morning, Seth.

3 MEMBER SHTEIR: Good morning. Nothing to  
4 report on the environmental side, but I did want to  
5 thank the chair, and I wanted to thank Teri Raml for the  
6 work putting together the Connecting People With Parks  
7 Subgroup, and I'm very much looking forward to that.

8 MEMBER O'BOYLE: This is Paul O'Boyle. I have  
9 nothing to report specifically. I do want to compliment  
10 the BLM staff for the field trip yesterday. I did think  
11 going out to see the photovoltaic solar plant was worth  
12 looking at for everybody.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks, Paul. April?

14 MEMBER SALL: Thank you. I also wanted to  
15 thank the Desert District Office and the Palm Springs  
16 Field Office and John Kalish for the field trip  
17 yesterday. I think it was really nice to visit the  
18 Corn Springs Campground and certainly continue our  
19 discussion on renewable energy and see some of those  
20 projects.

21 One of the interesting things that stood out  
22 for me yesterday was our discussion about water use.  
23 There was some presentations we had at the first solar  
24 site, and the representative there talked about their  
25 water use as being anywhere from currently about 1.2

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1 acre feet per day to in the past being four acre feet  
2 per day. And I think that was just really remarkable  
3 when we think about an average household being a half an  
4 acre foot to an acre foot per year. That really put a  
5 different perspective on the water use of these projects  
6 during the construction phase, and that's again mostly  
7 due to dust issues and the fact that they pretty much  
8 blade or denude all vegetation from these sites.  
9 So I think it's really something we might want  
10 to talk more about as we have a lot of desert water  
11 basins and overdraft and something that obviously  
12 residents are extremely concerned about, especially  
13 where we're at in time right now. So I'd like to maybe  
14 have some future discussion on that in the future.  
15 Thanks.  
16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, April. Don?  
17 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. I echo the compliments  
18 to John and his staff on the field trip yesterday. And  
19 to coattail on April's comments on water usage, just so  
20 everyone knows, 1.6 acre feet is about 500,000 gallons.  
21 I've got three items that are derived from the  
22 Desert Tortoise Symposium that occurred last month. It  
23 was the 39th annual symposium. I go every year. The  
24 first item was the keynote address by Dr. Barry Sinervo  
25 of UC Santa Cruz. He's created a model that forecasts

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1 the effects of climate change on desert tortoise, and  
2 his models, which he has great confidence in -- I don't  
3 know if that confidence is shared by his peers, but his  
4 model forecast the extirpation of tortoises in the  
5 Mojave by 2080. That's how he started off, so it was  
6 sort of a depressing symposium.  
7 Scott Flint presented. He's from the CEC. He  
8 presented on the DRECP. His presentation was titled  
9 "Why the DRECP?" I don't know if he really answered  
10 that question. Maybe we can answer it today. And then  
11 finally Amy Fesnock from the BLM Sacramento office, she  
12 also gave an update on the DRECP. Her two closing  
13 remarks to give guidance to the audience, number one,  
14 was, "Don't freak out." And number two is, "Focus on  
15 the alternatives analysis." That's my report.  
16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Don. Dinah.  
17 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I also want to thank the  
18 Palm Springs office and John for setting up our field  
19 trip yesterday. Echoing April and Don's observations,  
20 it was very illuminating, no pun intended. I have some  
21 comments mostly about maybe -- these comments go from  
22 since I've been on the DAC, but they also were  
23 reinforced when I was reading the district reports. One  
24 of the things that I noticed is, with very few  
25 exceptions, almost never are mineral resources

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1 considered in almost any of the programs or any of the  
2 projects. I think in appreciation of Public Lands,  
3 which we're going to be talking about today, should  
4 include all the potential uses for these Public Lands,  
5 not just the ones approved by the anti-development  
6 cadre. BLM lands are not parks. BLM gem data files,  
7 which are in all BLM offices -- gem data is minerals  
8 data that the BLM collects -- most since 1984 record a  
9 time when the BLM was actually a partner with society in  
10 identifying mineral resources on Public Lands,  
11 identifying resources that have future potential, that  
12 have current potential and have past historic potential.  
13 Past history for a geologist means there is a system  
14 there, there's potential there. It doesn't mean it's  
15 viable today, but it means it could be viable in the  
16 future.  
17 Today it just seems it's the opposite. The BLM  
18 is not a partner with society in identifying all the  
19 potential uses for Public Lands. It seems to me in  
20 reading these reports and in looking at the programs on  
21 the websites that almost all of the programs are meant  
22 to withdraw public access from Public Lands.  
23 We are expanding wilderness for a variety of  
24 reasons. As Don aptly pointed out at our last  
25 meeting -- and you can read his quote in our minutes --

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1 the Wilderness Act did not intend to create wilderness  
2 when there are characteristics that are not wilderness  
3 characteristics. If it has a mine site, then how does  
4 it qualify it for wilderness?  
5 Sure, I'm going to address these later on in  
6 our district comments, but when there is a mine site, to  
7 me, if you read the act, it makes that site not suitable  
8 for wilderness. So we can make places roadless. We can  
9 close things off to the public. But it's not going to  
10 be wilderness. Thanks.  
11 MEMBER SHTEIR: Mr. Chair?  
12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Seth, comment?  
13 MEMBER SHTEIR: Just a quick, quick comment  
14 related to April's comment about the water resources.  
15 And I wonder also -- I was also very taken by the water  
16 work going on in the Chuckwalla Basin by Noel Ludwig,  
17 and I wondered if at some point in the future Mr. Ludwig  
18 could maybe come and do a presentation before the DAC  
19 about what he's doing and just wanted to say that  
20 wilderness is a tricky and sometimes controversial  
21 issue. But the language in the Wilderness Act is  
22 actually that man's imprint be, quote, "substantially  
23 unnoticeable," and so that leaves some room for  
24 different types of definition. Thank you.  
25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Thank you. I

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1 have a couple of items to bring up. The first item I'd  
 2 like to bring up will be a housekeeping item that was  
 3 brought up by Al. Generally the first meeting of the  
 4 year for the DAC is an election of officers for the DAC  
 5 or election of chairman, and the BLM's advice and the  
 6 DAC's practice in the past has been to elect officers  
 7 when the new class is seated. And I'd like to have  
 8 comments from the DAC on that. How would you like to  
 9 proceed. Al?

10 MEMBER MUTH: The appointment process is  
 11 lengthy, arduous and frustrating. And to put off the  
 12 elections until there's a new class seated, you just  
 13 sort of put things off into the future. It's cloudy.  
 14 We don't know when that will happen. And when the new  
 15 class is seated, most of those folks don't know anything  
 16 about the other people that are on the council. And you  
 17 can read their CV's all you want, but you don't really  
 18 know how they feel about voting on things and such  
 19 matters. And so I'm not all that convinced personally  
 20 that waiting to seat a whole bunch of new people really  
 21 gives you a fair election, if you will.

22 I know when I sat down the first time around, I  
 23 think we had to vote a chairperson my first meeting. Am  
 24 I going to vote "no" for somebody I don't know anything  
 25 about, when everybody seems to say, "Yeah, you're doing

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1 a good job, Randy"? That's why I brought it up, and I'd  
 2 just like to hear other people's thoughts on the matter.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Of course. Other comments?  
 4 Don?

5 MEMBER HOUSTON: You know, one of the things I  
 6 see serving on the DAC does, in the end it produces a  
 7 more educated citizenry, and it provides us the  
 8 opportunity to sit up here and hear public comment. And  
 9 I think change on the DAC leadership is good because it  
 10 provides new blood, new perspectives. And so I  
 11 understand the logic behind not having the election of  
 12 officers this meeting, but we need a date certain, you  
 13 know. We can't just say, well, when they get seated.  
 14 We need a date certain, so I would ask the chair and the  
 15 designated federal officer to give us that date certain.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Other comments? April.

17 MEMBER SALL: I would agree with the comments  
 18 that have been made, but I guess could we maybe get an  
 19 update from either Steve or Teri on where we're at in  
 20 the process just for those of us that haven't been  
 21 following the new seats, where that is projected? I of  
 22 all people fully understand that a lot can change in  
 23 that process.

24 MR. RAZO: Yes. Steve Razo. Yeah, I have been  
 25 in discussion with Washington for the past month as

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1 we've tried to get the nomination package moved through.  
 2 It has vetted up to the White House level, and that's  
 3 where it is. And that's where it usually gets hung up.  
 4 We're hoping that at any moment we can have confirmation  
 5 and the appointments be made, but the package -- our  
 6 work was done months ago, and the package has been going  
 7 through the process now probably 90 days, 120 days, and  
 8 it's just a matter now of waiting.

9 Our contact in the liaison office works very  
 10 hard because not only -- well, she works with all of the  
 11 RRAC's in BLM, and she does admit that the California  
 12 Desert District Desert Advisory Council is one that is  
 13 most interesting to those back east, and they want to  
 14 know what you are doing and who is on the committee. So  
 15 it kind of gets a little bit more scrutiny than others  
 16 just by the nature of that we're at the center of  
 17 attention on a lot of things out here that the BLM deals  
 18 with. So I guess we're a victim of our popularity, and  
 19 we just have to wait a little longer than others.

20 But do know that we're constantly checking on  
 21 it, and I can't give you a date. Lauren Luckey, who is  
 22 our contact in Washington, can't give me a date. All  
 23 she can say is, we're hopeful that it happens quickly.

24 MEMBER HOUSTON: And how many seats, new  
 25 members, are we talking about?

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1 MR. RAZO: Five.

2 MEMBER HOUSTON: That's significant. That  
 3 number, five, is significant.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Other comments? My opinion  
 5 on the matter is that this is my -- I'm entering the  
 6 sixth and final year of my six-year term as a public at  
 7 large representative to the Desert Advisory Council.  
 8 I've served as chair for the last three of those years,  
 9 and I've enjoyed every minute of it. And there's been  
 10 quite a few minutes involved in it, but nonetheless,  
 11 given that this is my last year, I think the DAC has an  
 12 opportunity to bring in new leadership to have an  
 13 opportunity for either myself to serve in a kind of an  
 14 emeritus role or mentoring role for that new chair. I'm  
 15 willing to do so and happy to do so if that's the  
 16 decision of the DAC. On the other hand I'm also happy  
 17 to continue to stay the course and stay at the wheel if  
 18 the DAC is also willing or would like me to do so.

19 I really think this decision whether or not to  
 20 have an election today rests entirely within the Desert  
 21 Advisory Council today, and I'm more than happy to take  
 22 a motion and a second on how to proceed. Or we don't  
 23 make a motion and we proceed. So what would the DAC  
 24 like to do?

25 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Mr. Chairman?

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Dinah.  
 2 MEMBER SHUMWAY: If we have an election today,  
 3 it's only going to include the people here at this  
 4 table. Don, are you proposing that we have an election  
 5 sort of by e-mail or at the next meeting, which is not  
 6 until May?  
 7 DIRECTOR RAML: May 9th and 10th.  
 8 MEMBER HOUSTON: I think Al introduced the  
 9 subject, so I would defer to him to take the lead on  
 10 where we're going. But I do have an opinion.  
 11 MEMBER MUTH: Don, I'd be surprised if you  
 12 didn't. I would opt for elections today. And the  
 13 reason for that is that, if you have any faith in what  
 14 was said about the release of the DRECP, it should be in  
 15 late May, and I think we as a council need the time to  
 16 review it and give substantive comments to the bureau.  
 17 And first, Randy, you've done an excellent job,  
 18 and I think you would be an invaluable asset in  
 19 mentoring the next chair. But I believe that what we  
 20 need now is leadership from a different constituency of  
 21 people that are scientists or have a science background  
 22 that understand the biological as well as the political  
 23 aspects of the DRECP. And so that's my line of  
 24 reasoning, and clearly I will nominate somebody else.  
 25 You can read between the lines.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Obviously.  
 2 MEMBER MUTH: But it's no reflection on your  
 3 leadership. It's the evolution of what's happening  
 4 before the council. So that's my thinking.  
 5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is that a motion?  
 6 MEMBER MUTH: Sure.  
 7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We have a motion to engage  
 8 in elections today. Do we have a second?  
 9 MEMBER HOUSTON: I'll second.  
 10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Been seconded by Don. Are  
 11 there further comments on that motion? Any other  
 12 questions or comments on this motion? Good. Hearing  
 13 and seeing none, all those in favor of conducting  
 14 elections today, raise your hands, please. Three in  
 15 favor. Those opposed to conducting elections today,  
 16 raise your hands.  
 17 (A vote was taken.)  
 18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We have three in favor; we  
 19 have four against. Sorry, Al, the motion fails today.  
 20 Any final comment on this item, because it's important.  
 21 It's the DAC's and it's our future. Any other comment?  
 22 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, again I would ask the  
 23 chair and the designated federal officer to give us a  
 24 date certain. We can't just go on, because if we do,  
 25 Randy, and the appointments aren't made and then we lose

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1 you off the DAC without electing a new president, we  
 2 lose that resource of your mentorship. So I think we  
 3 really need that transition period.  
 4 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I do too.  
 5 MEMBER HOUSTON: And I just want to say on a  
 6 personal note, I doubt if the next chair in any measure  
 7 can match your enthusiasm for the position. I think  
 8 everyone in the audience and on the DAC would agree with  
 9 that.  
 10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you for those kind  
 11 words. I appreciate it. And Al, too. I hear the  
 12 beginnings of a second motion. Do I sense that there's  
 13 a motion coming from the table to conduct elections for  
 14 officers at our May meeting?  
 15 MEMBER SALL: So moved.  
 16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: So moved by April. Second?  
 17 MEMBER REILLY: Second.  
 18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Second by Jessica. Any  
 19 further discussion?  
 20 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Discussion. Yes. Is there  
 21 any reason why we can't conduct elections via e-mail?  
 22 Then we can do it before the May meeting.  
 23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My personal opinion is, I  
 24 like to conduct as much -- absolutely as much if not all  
 25 of the DAC's business within the realm of public

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1 participation and in a public meeting. We have in my  
 2 six years -- five and a half years on the DAC, we have  
 3 probably conducted maybe three off-line discussions and  
 4 decisions from the DAC. I think those were unusual and  
 5 urgent.  
 6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: And they were document  
 7 related.  
 8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: They were document related.  
 9 It was generally letters, trying to -- the DAC made a  
 10 motion to write letters, and it was a drafting process.  
 11 But it's up to the group. The motion that was on the  
 12 table is to have elections in May.  
 13 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So we're still in discussion?  
 14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We're still in discussion  
 15 about elections in May.  
 16 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Would it be possible to take  
 17 nominations between sometime between now and May so you  
 18 come to the May meeting knowing who's willing to serve?  
 19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I think it would be a very  
 20 good idea for those who are willing to serve to express  
 21 that interest as soon as possible and to do so to your  
 22 fellow DAC members. In the past when we've had  
 23 elections scheduled, many of you remember receiving an  
 24 e-mail from me prior to that time expressing my  
 25 interest, and I think other DAC members should do the

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1 same. I think it's a good thing. Don?  
2 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. Well, you know the  
3 point of having the election in May is to wait until  
4 the -- I would guess that's why the vote was against --  
5 to wait until the five new members are seated. So  
6 Steve, the heat's on you to get this done, and would you  
7 communicate that to your D.C. contact that we are  
8 intending, if this vote passes, to have elections, and  
9 we want those new members on the council?  
10 MR. RAZO: Certainly, yeah, I will.  
11 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.  
12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Further  
13 comments? If there's no objections, we'll move into a  
14 vote. Those in favor of scheduling elections for the  
15 DAC chair at our May meeting, raise your hand. Any  
16 opposed?  
17 (A vote was taken.)  
18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I don't think so. No  
19 opposed. Very good. Motion passes. We'll have  
20 election for a chair in May. Thank you, everybody. I  
21 appreciate all the comments on this.  
22 The next item under "Chair's Report" is a  
23 Wrap-up of Items from Previous Meetings. We have -- I  
24 have two items. One is, there was a motion by Don that  
25 was passed at the last DAC meeting in December relative

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1 to the East Kern Acquisition Project near  
2 Jawbone Canyon, which is an acquisition of private  
3 property lands by the State Parks Division of  
4 Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation, and you'll recall  
5 that our topic of discussion was relative to the MOU  
6 that would exist between the BLM and State Parks with  
7 regard to joint management of that Jawbone area.  
8 And one of the issues that came up was what our  
9 representative from Kern County might have to say about  
10 that acquisition. Unfortunately Zack was unable to make  
11 it today. He has the next three meetings solidly on his  
12 calendar, so we will be seeing him back at our next  
13 meeting in May, so we won't be able to have Zack's  
14 opinion today. But are there other questions or  
15 opinions or anything else you would like to bring up?  
16 Let me say that I'd like to introduce -- if you  
17 would raise your hand -- Chris Conlin is the Deputy  
18 Director of the California State Parks Off-Highway Motor  
19 Vehicle Division. And Chris is here today mainly for  
20 the DRECP discussion, but I provided Chris with excerpts  
21 from the transcripts of the DAC's discussion on that  
22 topic and asked if he'd be kind enough to make himself  
23 available for questions, should we have any, and he  
24 kindly agreed to do so.  
25 So are there any questions or further comments

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1 on that item? Don.  
2 MEMBER HOUSTON: You're right, Randy. I made a  
3 motion that was passed, but also Kim made a motion that  
4 was passed as well on the same topic. And as part of  
5 this follow-up, I'd like to -- if there is any follow-up  
6 to that motion, I'd like to hear it. I think that would  
7 come from Carl.  
8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: This is the discussion  
9 centering around the MOU, the Memorandum of  
10 Understanding, and the concern that I raised in that  
11 agenda item was to request that the BLM participate in  
12 the MOU process in a way in which allowable activities  
13 on the BLM parcels remain to be allowed even after the  
14 acquisition.  
15 Is there any update on MOU development, Carl,  
16 for the DAC?  
17 MR. SYMONS: Carl Symons. Yeah, as far as the  
18 MOU is concerned, it's still in the same place. It's  
19 been forwarded on to the OHV Division by the Parks  
20 Department. I believe that right now they're trying  
21 to -- they still haven't acquired the land as far as I  
22 know. Is that correct?  
23 MR. CONLIN: Not yet.  
24 MR. SYMONS: So they still haven't acquired the  
25 land yet, which before we would actually enter into the

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1 MOU, it has that. I haven't gotten any feedback yet on  
2 it as far as if there was any issues with it. As I said  
3 before, the whole gist of the MOU is, this is an interim  
4 MOU based on the fact that, once they take part of the  
5 land, that they'll have to do the land use plan for it  
6 and the part of the MOU consists of that I suggested to  
7 it is that we manage the land as we're managing it now,  
8 that we operate the same as we're doing right now with  
9 the private landowners, only with the state and with the  
10 exception of assistance for law enforcement on both  
11 sides, our law enforcement assisting the State Parks,  
12 because we do have an MOU with Kern County, and then get  
13 the assistance of State Parks law enforcement to help  
14 with the lands and in the Jawbone and the acquisition  
15 area. Other than that, maintaining it just the same way  
16 we're doing now.  
17 MEMBER HOUSTON: The fact that the state hasn't  
18 acquired the land begs the question, why not? But I'll  
19 defer that question to the state representative.  
20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. And again,  
21 introducing Chris Conlin. Hi, Chris. Thanks for being  
22 here.  
23 MR. CONLIN: Thank you. I appreciate it.  
24 Trying hard to acquire it. It's really just a  
25 discussion that we're in right now with the current

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1 sellers, and that's RENEW. We are doing a new  
 2 appraisal. That was agreed upon by DGS at the state  
 3 level and RENEW. We're pursuing that right now. Have  
 4 to lock on the new appraiser, and once that's done,  
 5 we'll take a look at what the amounts are and then go  
 6 into it. So really we're just into the price discussion  
 7 for the land.

8 As far as the MOU, the MOU is there to allow us  
 9 to work together as partners, and we have no intention  
 10 of changing during the initial acquisition any of the  
 11 uses on the land as far as the BLM land. I mean, the  
 12 only thing we're really going to be doing is helping  
 13 each other out and probably bringing in more manpower to  
 14 work the land together. There will be a general plan  
 15 process, as we do for all acquisitions like this, and  
 16 during the course of that general plan process we want  
 17 to hear from people on how they want to use the land.

18 We've already had one informal discussion out  
 19 at Jawbone. Ed Waldheim was kind enough to facilitate  
 20 that. We got to hear from rockhounds, from hunters.  
 21 We got to hear from OHV community and back-country  
 22 folks, including even the back-country horse racers.  
 23 That was kind of interesting to hear their perspective.

24 But our intention is that this Public Land is  
 25 for the public. So when we design a new area, a

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1 recreation area, we make sure that we take all the input  
 2 from everybody on that land so that we can do the best  
 3 job of providing recreation, balanced with the other  
 4 piece. That's huge for us, and that's taking care of  
 5 the resource.

6 MEMBER HOUSTON: Real estate transactions can  
 7 be complicated and lengthy. I would guess that the  
 8 state has a very rigorous due diligence process that  
 9 they go through when they acquire real estate of this  
 10 size, of this magnitude. Where is the state with their  
 11 due diligence process?

12 MR. CONLIN: You know that we've done an  
 13 initial EIR. I think that was discussed at the last  
 14 meeting, from what I saw in the notes. This has all  
 15 been run through DGS, and before we can actually do the  
 16 acquisition, it has to go in front of the Public Works  
 17 Board, and they will approve it. They'll approve the  
 18 actual purchase. The money has already been approved by  
 19 the legislature, and it's sitting in a fund ready for us  
 20 to expend when we do it.

21 MEMBER HOUSTON: So has the title work been  
 22 done and Phase 2 and all of that?

23 MR. CONLIN: That will all be a process. Once  
 24 we get the seller to agree, then we'll go into that  
 25 process. Right now we're still negotiating price, so

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1 you know, all of that is in abeyance until then.

2 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.

3 MR. CONLIN: Thank you. Anything else we can  
 4 answer?

5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Chris. That was  
 6 nice of you. I appreciate it.

7 MR. CONLIN: And thank you very much for  
 8 inviting me here today. I appreciate it.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Any further comments on  
 10 that item? Very good. I would like to move on to the  
 11 next item from a previous meeting, and that is at our  
 12 December meeting we had the topic of working landscapes,  
 13 and we heard specifically on topics of mining and the  
 14 topics of grazing. Are there any motions or actions  
 15 that the DAC members would like to put on the table at  
 16 this time?

17 MEMBER SHTEIR: Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes.

19 MEMBER SHTEIR: I thought this was a really  
 20 important meeting. I really enjoyed hearing about  
 21 different aspects of working landscapes, and certainly  
 22 it's in accordance with BLM's multiple-use mission. I  
 23 would also like to see at some point recreational  
 24 tourism be included in working landscapes. There's a  
 25 lot of new data about the value of recreation on Public

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1 Lands, and I think this would be a really interesting  
 2 presentation for a future DAC meeting. And that would  
 3 include all types of tourism.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Both Teri and I are writing  
 5 that one down. Thank you, Seth. Kim?

6 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I wanted to make a comment  
 7 on that. I agree with you. Through the SRP Subgroup I  
 8 was introduced to someone whose name is Uva Deimer, and  
 9 he runs an organization that brings tourists here from  
 10 Europe who want to ride motorcycles in the desert, and  
 11 he takes them on tours. They don't camp, I understand.  
 12 They go out to the desert, and they ride. They actually  
 13 train them first on how to use the motorcycles they're  
 14 going to be using, and then they take them to various  
 15 places, and they may go from various places in  
 16 California to Nevada, you know, using our BLM lands.  
 17 And they bring people here and spend money here.

18 And I had never even thought of that type of  
 19 recreational tourism, but it was an eye opener for me,  
 20 something I've never heard of. So there's all kinds of  
 21 recreational tourism that most of us probably have never  
 22 considered going on on our Public Lands that would be  
 23 interesting to learn more about. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Other comments? Very good.  
 25 Thank you, DAC members. The next item on our agenda,

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1 ladies and gentlemen of the public, is our first  
 2 opportunity to hear from you today. And I have some  
 3 speaker cards. I'm going to call up first John Stewart.  
 4 And the clock is over on the side, but you won't see it,  
 5 but I'll hear it. Thank you, John.

6 MR. STEWART: Good morning, council.  
 7 John Stewart, Resource Consultant for the California  
 8 Association of Four-Wheel-Drive Clubs. Thank you for  
 9 putting out the agenda for future topics to be covered  
 10 by meetings. That's very helpful. And I want to  
 11 reiterate something that was mentioned by Don Houston,  
 12 is that the desert tortoise is coming up in focus of  
 13 being something very important. And the recovery action  
 14 plans by with Fish and Wildlife have been introduced,  
 15 and they're expected to be released to the public for  
 16 further action here in the imminent future, like within  
 17 the next one to two months.

18 I was at the Desert Tortoise Management  
 19 Oversight Group meeting in Las Vegas here a couple of  
 20 days ago where a lot of this was discussed, but it came  
 21 out that there are actions already, plans started and  
 22 some maybe even completed within the BLM concerning the  
 23 desert tortoise, which begs some real important  
 24 questions, like what are the results, and what were the  
 25 expectations, and what are the costs incurred, and what

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1 are the costs that were expected? Or if they're  
 2 planned, what are the projected costs?

3 Also looking at metrics, how are you going to  
 4 determine that there is -- if the effort was successful  
 5 and is there some kind of a monitoring program in place  
 6 or planned in order to make sure that this program  
 7 works?

8 In short I think it is important because the  
 9 desert tortoise covers a major portion of the desert  
 10 area, and there are so many competing activities for the  
 11 tortoise lands. Just setting aside another Tortoise  
 12 Habitat Conservation Area, I don't believe, is  
 13 sufficient, and I really believe that the topic and a  
 14 full update of what is happening with the desert  
 15 tortoise should be brought to the council's full agenda  
 16 at a future meeting. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, John. That was  
 18 a perfect use of that comment period. This comment  
 19 period is for items not on the agenda and requests for  
 20 the DAC to consider future agenda items. So thanks for  
 21 that, John.

22 Next, Ed Waldheim. Something in this comment  
 23 period?

24 MR. WALDHEIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 25 Ed Waldheim, Friends of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage

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1 and California Trail Users Coalition.

2 MS. SYMONS: Slow down, Ed. Just a reminder.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: She got it.

4 MR. WALDHEIM: Thank you. One minute on the  
 5 East Kern Acquisition. We are totally in favor of the  
 6 acquisition. Our only hangup is how we're going to  
 7 manage it, and we're confident working with Chris and  
 8 Senator Fuller that we will be able to give Chris the  
 9 ability to not have to full SVRA type of treatment,  
 10 which we do not even want in the East Kern. It's not  
 11 welcome in East Kern. But the State Parks definitely is  
 12 welcome in East Kern if we work together in a sound  
 13 management that we've been doing, as we are going now.  
 14 So hopefully with Senator Fuller we can give you that  
 15 leeway in there so we can manage it properly or continue  
 16 to manage it properly but in coordination with them.

17 The next minute is, thank you very much, Kim,  
 18 bringing up Uva. He's my friend. What he goes through  
 19 to try to take five people across the desert is  
 20 unconscionable. To get a ticket in Stateline for being  
 21 talkative and enjoying the desert, and then he gets a  
 22 ticket because he opened his stupid mouth when he should  
 23 have shut up, because that's what he got a ticket at  
 24 Stateline. It makes absolutely no sense.

25 It makes no sense for us bringing East Kern

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1 people to visit the -- tourism is incredible. It's a  
 2 jewel of East Kern, and to be penalized because we bring  
 3 people because just a government hasn't found a way to  
 4 make sure that we accommodate this type of recreation is  
 5 unconscionable, so we need to work on that. That's an  
 6 agenda I would like the DAC to consider, that people are  
 7 being led by the nose should not be put to the same  
 8 subject as people who do whatever they want to, which  
 9 brings me to my second question.

10 My third question is that I'd like you to put  
 11 on the agenda, what are we doing about law enforcement?  
 12 Law enforcement does not seem to be the high priority in  
 13 the Bureau of Land Management as far as resources damage  
 14 that's taking place out there. We do absolutely  
 15 nothing. We go after the low fruit hanging. We go  
 16 after the people in the parking lot. We go after the  
 17 people who are recreating in the Public Lands who have  
 18 no signs out there whatsoever, but you're getting a  
 19 ticket for being off road.

20 I challenge any of you to go out there and see  
 21 if you are really on the designated route. I don't care  
 22 how good you are, you're not going to figure it out  
 23 unless you have signs. Yet the areas we have signed to  
 24 the hilt, there is no excuse. Everything is signed in  
 25 the Ridgecrest BLM office on the 1200 miles of trail.

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1 You do not get off trail without knowing you are legally  
2 going off trail, yet we do nothing about it, absolutely  
3 nothing. There's not a single, single case that the  
4 federal government has brought against those illegal  
5 people doing things they shouldn't be doing, not one  
6 single case.

7 And on Monday we're going to have a meeting  
8 with Supervisor Zack and all the leaders of the powers  
9 that be, law enforcement and district attorney's office,  
10 to see what we can do. And Carl is going to  
11 participate, and the Bakersfield office is going to  
12 participate. We need to resolve that. This is a high  
13 priority for us to put on the agenda.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Ed. Question,  
15 Don?

16 MEMBER HOUSTON: I need a little clarification  
17 on the Uva thing. Did you ask the DAC to consider an  
18 action related to that?

19 MR. WALDHEIM: Through the subgroup that Kim  
20 runs through the SRP, I would really like to see the DAC  
21 support Kim in coming up with a reasonable way of  
22 handling those folks that are being led in front, in the  
23 back. There's 100 percent of those people -- they are  
24 not loose cannons out there. They want to get a permit,  
25 but the bureau somehow is so marched in their

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1 regulations that they can't get it.

2 Uva wants to get a permit. He wants to pay for  
3 a permit, but the regulations are such a mess to try to  
4 happen. It's impossible. And even the dual-sport  
5 people, every year the same event, the same event, same  
6 event, yet we don't find time to issue a permit.

7 Something has to be done with those people that are led  
8 by the nose to do something. That has to be done  
9 through her group.

10 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Thank you, Ed, for all of  
11 you because, if you didn't go to the last SRP Subgroup  
12 meeting, you aren't aware of what happened. Ed  
13 appointed Uva Deimer and one of his staff to the Special  
14 Recreation Permit Subgroup because they had applied for  
15 some permits for some tours that they had scheduled, and  
16 they weren't getting their permits, and they had been in  
17 process for quite some time, and they came looking for  
18 help. I think they did get the help that they were  
19 looking for, but there was some frustration there.

20 And I think staffing is difficult right now at  
21 some of the BLM offices, and I think it's a difficult  
22 problem for the BLM. I understand both sides, actually.  
23 Anyway I think Uva got what he needed, but what we need  
24 to be aware of is that there is some difficulty in the  
25 process at some of the field offices right now. So

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1 people who have scheduled events and applied for the  
2 permits a long time ago -- and this particular  
3 individual applies for these permits well in advance and  
4 is very much on top of it and still hasn't received some  
5 of the permits, and it's affecting their business to the  
6 point that they may -- you know, at some point they  
7 could end up having to stop doing business with those  
8 tours if they can't get their permits anymore, so it's a  
9 serious situation for those people. And it is  
10 frustrating, and I don't know how we go about improving  
11 that. Thank you.

12 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Mr. Chairman, I have a  
13 question for Kim.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Of course.

15 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So I don't know anything about  
16 the permits, but I remember about a year -- no, two  
17 years ago didn't we redo the whole SRP handbook permit  
18 through the committee?

19 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: That was for competitive  
20 events. We're now addressing non-competitive events.

21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Let me ask you this, then, is  
22 the reason these people aren't getting the permits -- is  
23 it a logistical roadblock? Are there some reasons  
24 they're not? I mean, is there some application reason  
25 they're not getting it?

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1 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I think we would have to  
2 take that to the BLM and ask them. I think there are  
3 staffing issues.

4 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So they're not getting  
5 feedback on how their permit is progressing. Isn't  
6 there a timeline you turn it in, two weeks later you get  
7 your permit? Is there a timeline?

8 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I can't answer that. I'd  
9 have to defer to Teri.

10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Teri, is there a timeline?  
11 Katrina, is there a timeline, because they're mostly in  
12 your area.

13 MS. SYMONS: Well, I was going to say that  
14 Mike Ahrens and I pretty much share this same issue  
15 right now. As far as by regulation for the SRP's, no,  
16 there's not a timeline, but BLM does have a customer  
17 service standard. Right now on this particular one I  
18 had to actually jump in there and do some staffing  
19 because basically my office lacks the capacity.

20 So in on the discussions of now is, once we  
21 receive applications in, we are responding to the  
22 applicants telling them how much of a lead time it's  
23 going to be before we can even pick up their  
24 application, and oftentimes we're out six months right  
25 now because of the capacity issue. That's an

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1 unfortunate situation.  
2 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So it's more of a bottleneck  
3 kind of issue?  
4 MS. SYMONS: Affirmative.  
5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: April?  
6 MEMBER SALL: Question to Katrina, and then  
7 I'll follow up with maybe a request for a new DAC agenda  
8 item. How understaffed, or how many vacant positions do  
9 you have right now?  
10 MS. SYMONS: Just in my recreation program  
11 since I've been here since November of 2012, I'm down  
12 four positions. I'm going to be losing another  
13 individual come April 1 of this year. That one that's  
14 leaving me, he's the Special Recreation Permit person.  
15 Right now I've got someone in on light duty that will  
16 get me by for a month or two. Outside of that, I'm in a  
17 tough situation. I've already moved people around  
18 trying to fill in behind, fill in, behind fill in.  
19 We're nearing the end of it.  
20 MEMBER SALL: Thank you for that. I guess I'd  
21 like to bring up comments that were made both by Ed and  
22 appropriate for this discussion, I think. In talking to  
23 some of the field managers yesterday, I know this is a  
24 shared issue. And I think that maybe it would be  
25 helpful going forward for the next meeting, you know, as

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1 it was brought up during our elections conversation we  
2 are heading into a really unique and challenging time on  
3 BLM lands with the draft release of the DRECP and all of  
4 the pressures put on our Public Lands that are above and  
5 beyond the historical pressures, and that being  
6 renewable energy.  
7 I think that it's really critical that the BLM  
8 is appropriately staffed and that there are action plans  
9 to address those shortages. And I know we are in  
10 challenging budget times, but I think this warrants a  
11 discussion and a presentation or an update from the BLM.  
12 And maybe we could get a presentation on how many staff  
13 positions we are down at a couple of different time  
14 intervals, maybe five years, ten years into the past,  
15 because I realize there is a long timeframe to fill  
16 positions sometimes. But maybe we could get a couple of  
17 different sort of thresholds, if you will, to better  
18 understand the current picture that we're in.  
19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Kim?  
20 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: I couldn't agree more. I  
21 think that would be very appropriate. It is a difficult  
22 thing. I understand. I understand the pressures that  
23 all of the field offices are under currently and the  
24 staffing issues that you have. And yet I also  
25 understand that these people who need the permits need

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1 the permits, and it's essential to them. In this  
2 particular case it's a commercial event, and their  
3 business relies on it.  
4 And I know that there are a lot of other  
5 organizations that are in the same boat, so I see and  
6 understand and appreciate both sides. So it makes it a  
7 very difficult -- I think it's a very difficult issue  
8 right now, but I agree that the BLM should be more fully  
9 staffed. And if there's anything we can do to support  
10 the BLM in that and in the Desert District, I think we  
11 should do it.  
12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Kim. Leave it  
13 to Ed to toss a match into the DAC for a good  
14 discussion. Thank you, Ed.  
15 We still have additional public comments.  
16 Lorelei, were you intending this period or for the  
17 DRECP? Very good, thank you. And Jay. Jay Erb, were  
18 you considering this period? Come on up if you'd like,  
19 please.  
20 MR. ERB: Okay. I need my notes. Good  
21 morning, Mr. Chairman and council members. Hi. My name  
22 is Jay Erb, and I'm a rockhound and president of the  
23 Searchers Gem and Minerals Society. The Cady Mountains,  
24 Baxter Wash and other collecting sites are unique and  
25 immovable. They belong to all of the citizens of the

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1 United States. These lands should be dedicated to  
2 multiple use, including recreation and earth sciences  
3 education. No legislation can move our collecting sites  
4 to someplace more convenient. Please keep these areas  
5 and the access routes to them open for public use now  
6 and for our children in the future. Thank you.  
7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks for coming, Jay.  
8 Thank you for those comments. I also have a card from  
9 Claudia Sall. Claudia, would you like to speak to  
10 something not on the agenda?  
11 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: Yes, I would.  
12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Please. This is Claudia  
13 Sall, S-a-l-l.  
14 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: Good morning. My name is  
15 Claudia Sall. I work with California Desert Coalition,  
16 a nonprofit, all-volunteer group in the Morongo Basin,  
17 and we worked on a lot of DRECP issues most recently,  
18 and we began understanding about LADWP Greenpath North  
19 and working on a campaign to relocate that.  
20 So one of the things I want to comment on is  
21 the communication that was out on the table about how  
22 DRECP meetings are organized. And one of the things  
23 that have been very unsatisfactory for citizens coming  
24 to these meetings -- and often we drive very far -- is  
25 how the comment period is organized.

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1 Now, there's a lot of detail about how the  
2 meeting should be presented, and certainly a lot of that  
3 seems to be given to that presentation. But there isn't  
4 often any kind of recording, and we are only -- we're  
5 relegated often to just turning in written comments, as  
6 we were when we were doing the Silver State Project.  
7 And we'd like to see a more responsible approach to  
8 capturing citizen comments, because the whole NEPA  
9 process is to create informed decision-making, and if we  
10 don't exchange those comments in an oral form and have  
11 those captured, then we feel a lot of that is lost.

12 So, you know, there's something more powerful  
13 giving an oral word and being able to hear that and  
14 being captured than simply just turning in a letter. So  
15 we'd like to see some of that more detailed. It's very  
16 vague in how you have that outlined and how the  
17 Department of the Interior has outlined that to the  
18 different departments. That's one of my comments.

19 Can I comment on the water that was brought up?  
20 Is that appropriate?

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Absolutely, please.

22 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: One of the things we've been  
23 following through is this water issue. It became  
24 apparent when we looked at Ivanpah. Ivanpah, it was  
25 built an overdrafted basin aquifer and adjacent to

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1 another one, and yet those well permits were issued.  
2 And we never really saw any monitoring after that, so  
3 it's unclear if these are metered and reported on and  
4 what action would be taken if this is harmful to, you  
5 know -- additionally harmful to these aquifers.

6 And one of the things that's been a real eye  
7 opener for us is, we started tracking the water data in  
8 Morongo Basin on these small industrial solar projects  
9 and compared what was on the application, compared to  
10 what was in construction. And when you talk about acre  
11 feet, you have to understand in Morongo Basin a  
12 household is supported on a half to a third acre feet.  
13 So when we talk about 50 acre feet, that represents a  
14 substantial amount of households.

15 In the Morongo Basin we have to recharge our  
16 water, so all that water is paid for through taxes that  
17 is not really recovered on these industrial ones that  
18 are on private lands. So what we'd like to see is a  
19 more responsible attitude towards this water, not just  
20 the action that we understand water is very scarce in  
21 the desert but something about metering and monitoring  
22 reports that go to the BLM or to the County of  
23 San Bernardino and some action that makes them  
24 accountable for that water usage. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Claudia. Any

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1 questions? Please, Jessica.

2 MEMBER REILLY: If I could just add to what you  
3 were saying, I think in general transparency in process  
4 as far as, I think, all the way to permit approval  
5 processes, access to that information, access to  
6 information on how water is permitted, how it's metered,  
7 how it's used, having that centralized in a way that the  
8 public can understand, I think, is something that would  
9 be great to be addressed in future meeting as well.

10 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: Just as you know, we're  
11 finding usage on the application versus what is actually  
12 used is ten times the amount. So in Ivanpah, some of  
13 these new ones coming up to you saying, "We're going to  
14 use, you know, 60 acre feet of water," that's what the  
15 small 40- and 100-acre acre ones are being used in  
16 Morongo Basin for construction. It's not realistic at  
17 all. We're hoping to collect that data and reporting to  
18 you to make sure that gets examined on what really is  
19 realistic.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks for coming up.

21 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And if the council would  
23 indulge me, I'd like to take another speaker, Sam Merk.  
24 Sam just arrived from a long drive from Ridgecrest, and  
25 a matter of timing by minutes shouldn't prevent her from

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1 getting a couple of minutes of comments in for us this  
2 morning. Welcome, Sam.

3 MS. MERK: Welcome to you guys. Thank you very  
4 much for having another meeting out in the desert. We  
5 really appreciate it because there's many people that  
6 like to attend these meetings to find out what's really  
7 going on.

8 I would like to say one more thing on the  
9 public part, and I would like for the BLM to start  
10 looking at more people on the DAC in regards to Native  
11 Americans. I've commented on this for the last four  
12 times, and it really needs to be done. I don't care how  
13 it's done. Tribal members need to be represented on the  
14 DAC. The very first DAC there were tribal members, and  
15 now there isn't. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Sam, and thanks  
17 for coming. Very good. I've noted the comments from  
18 our speakers today, and at the end of the meeting we'll  
19 re-discuss how we would like to handle these topics in  
20 future meetings.

21 The next item on our agenda is Connecting  
22 People to the Desert Subgroup. If you'd all pull out  
23 our draft mission statement for the Connecting People to  
24 the Desert discussion, it might be near the back on the  
25 left fold. Do we have an extra copy by chance, Steve?

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1 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I have one that's in front of  
2 my fold.

3 MEMBER SALL: I found it.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Never mind.

5 DIRECTOR RAML: If you can't find it, it might  
6 be sticking to the NRC S-1. That's where mine was.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Okay. To recap, at the  
8 DAC's December meeting, we had a Friday planning session  
9 rather than our typical field trip, and at that planning  
10 meeting we discussed forming a new subgroup to work with  
11 the BLM on the topic of interpretive opportunities in  
12 the desert. And this topic was assigned a catch phrase  
13 of "Connecting People With the Desert." The DAC's  
14 comments were supportive of that.

15 And in February, I, Seth, Teri and others from  
16 the BLM met at a neutral location, a Starbucks, and  
17 discussed the nature of this group, what kind of  
18 expertise we'd like to see from members of this group,  
19 mission and goals, and we had a couple of drafts  
20 circulated among us. And this is what we have in front  
21 of us as a result of those discussions.

22 The other issue is timeline, and the BLM is  
23 anxious for the DAC -- and so were Seth and I at our  
24 meeting -- anxious to kick this off and try to have some  
25 kind of a report or statement or update from this

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1 subgroup in time for our May meeting. That's a very  
2 compressed schedule for announcing, appointing and  
3 charging a subgroup. But this DAC has operated under  
4 compressed schedules before, and I thought maybe we  
5 could do it again. Off-line we've had suggestions about  
6 extending that schedule out, taking more care with  
7 regard to specifying a mission, suggesting deliverables  
8 and more time to solicit qualified applicants for the  
9 necessary expertise that we envision for this group.

10 So hopefully I've framed this issue well enough  
11 to bring it to a point of discussion. And the first  
12 member I have on my speaker's list is Seth. Are there  
13 others? We'll have Don, April -- I'm sorry -- Dinah.  
14 Thank you.

15 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I look just like April.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Then April, Al and Paul,  
17 and we'll go from there. If you want to be on the list,  
18 give me a finger, an index finger, an index finger, and  
19 I'll note it on my speaker's list. Thank you. Seth,  
20 the floor is yours.

21 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thanks, Mr. Chair, and I'm very  
22 much looking forward to get getting this group underway.  
23 I'm open to other thoughts about the timeline, but one  
24 thing I just want to really put out there is that, if we  
25 do proceed to move forward with a report on our May

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1 meeting, that may just be a very cursory work outline  
2 for the group, because we'll only have met that one  
3 time.

4 And what I'd like to suggest is that that  
5 prospective meeting be used to further clarify some of  
6 the deliverables of that group. And the reason I say  
7 that is because we don't have our constituency yet, and  
8 some of the deliverables, the things we'll be able to  
9 provide to BLM, will be directly related to the  
10 composition and expertise of the group. So that's just  
11 what I wanted to say. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Before I toss it to you,  
13 Don, I'm sorry. There was one more point I should have  
14 made as far as process goes. The chair under the bylaws  
15 is empowered to form subgroups and to name the chair of  
16 the subgroups. It's the DAC's responsibility to name  
17 the members of that subgroup. So moving forward with  
18 that, Don.

19 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. Last night after dinner  
20 I read all of the field office reports, and what struck  
21 me in reading them is, there's a whole lot of connecting  
22 going on right now at the field office level, so I want  
23 an explanation of how is this going to be different, or  
24 is this group going to look for synergies with the  
25 ongoing efforts?

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1 Then finally my concern is in terms of process.  
2 I believe that the chair nominates the members and we  
3 confirm those members. And how are we going to be able  
4 to do that in open session prior to the May meeting?  
5 And I would recommend that, you know, we move forward  
6 with this, we create a schedule for the subgroup. That  
7 can be done by Seth and the chair and Teri. This would  
8 not be a requirement of being on the subgroup, but  
9 invite the applicants to come to the May meeting and,  
10 you know, introduce themselves and give us ideas of  
11 where they would like the subgroup to go so we have a  
12 better feel for what the applicants' interests are. So  
13 that was a whole lot, but those are my thoughts.

14 So I'd like to hear on my first point, how is  
15 this going to be different from what is going on now,  
16 because I want to compliment all the field offices  
17 because they're doing a lot with engaging the public  
18 right now.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Teri, would you like to  
20 respond on that?

21 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah, I'll address that. You  
22 are exactly right, there is an awful lot of work going  
23 on in every one of the field offices, connecting people,  
24 connecting to the desert and the BLM. And how this  
25 group is different -- and I can really get -- as Randy

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1 and Seth, I can get pretty wound up on this because I'm  
 2 pretty excited about it -- is that even though we do a  
 3 tremendous amount of work and a lot is going on, if you  
 4 consider the size of the population being reached, it's  
 5 really minuscule, and we are definitely -- every effort  
 6 expands the people we work with, but I was looking for  
 7 this effort to expand it even further.

8 One of the things I'm hopeful for to reach out  
 9 for the BLM is, a lot of the people we work with are  
 10 regular constituents, and they come to us through an  
 11 interest in natural resources, and they're not always  
 12 the youth. You know, I'm generalizing in a way that can  
 13 cause me to be corrected later, but a lot of times we're  
 14 working with people that already have that interest.  
 15 And what I'm looking for with this is, I feel that there  
 16 are a lot of people that know the desert, appreciate the  
 17 desert but are not connected to public land and the  
 18 public land mission, so by reaching out to the -- I'm  
 19 like everybody else with their voices today -- reaching  
 20 out through maybe more non-traditional approaches for  
 21 us, we can reach a different group of people and in some  
 22 ways affirm their interest in the desert which they  
 23 already have, but they don't know it's about public land  
 24 management or reach out to people and increase their  
 25 appreciation of the desert.

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1 So really for me, it's this. And maybe a lot  
 2 of it's a little bit personal. It's the liberal arts  
 3 part of this discussion. If you get them interested  
 4 through the liberal arts part of the discussion then  
 5 drag them into sciences and hopefully interest in public  
 6 land management and how they can be involved and how  
 7 they can help us. So that would be the difference.

8 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Dinah.

10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay. I have some questions  
 11 and then a suggested addition to the mission. So how  
 12 does this dovetail with the programs under The Great  
 13 Outdoors, or will it be inclusive under that program, or  
 14 will it incorporate the program? Then I'm assuming --  
 15 yes, I agree with Don, there is a lot of outreach  
 16 already in the offices. And I'm not sure that the  
 17 offices talk with each other very much internally. I  
 18 mean, I don't know -- well, some offices talk with each  
 19 other all the time, but not all of them do.

20 I'm more concerned about reinventing the wheel  
 21 on a lot of these things. So I think it would be  
 22 important to start with some kind of an inventory of  
 23 what's already out there provided by the office so you  
 24 have someplace to start and not start from the very  
 25 beginning.

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1 And my third question is, would this issue,  
 2 with this initiative, this subgroup, reach out to  
 3 volunteers to further the mission of this subgroup,  
 4 because last year we didn't do this in December for -- I  
 5 forget which reasons, but we were talking about  
 6 volunteers and recognizing volunteers and encouraging  
 7 volunteers and, more importantly, encouraging BLM staff  
 8 to actually work with volunteers.

9 And there already are volunteers doing paleo  
 10 studies, and what else do they do? I don't know. All I  
 11 know is the paleo people, but I know there are other  
 12 volunteer activities. So those, it seems to me, would  
 13 be part of this initiative as well. And as we talked  
 14 about and was emphasized in our WEMO work too, using  
 15 volunteers, especially these motivated -- there's a lot  
 16 of motivated volunteers that work for free. There's  
 17 really a good way to expand the knowledge and interest  
 18 in the desert.

19 Should I suggest my mission statement  
 20 difference?

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Surely, absolutely.

22 MEMBER SHUMWAY: The only thing I would suggest  
 23 here is in the very last sentence in the mission  
 24 paragraph under "Unique Geology, fragile water  
 25 resources, mineral resources and economic

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1 opportunities." You knew I was going to say that. In  
 2 addition, I know this is geared towards the liberal  
 3 arts.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Pardon me. One more time  
 5 so we all catch up there.

6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I'm sorry.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Or I catch up.

8 MEMBER SHUMWAY: It's just two words, adding  
 9 comma, "mineral resources and economic opportunities"  
 10 after "water resources."

11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks.

12 MEMBER SHUMWAY: And then down in the  
 13 "Expertise Needed From Members, archaeology,  
 14 paleontology," I would put music up with cultural  
 15 performing and visual arts and then say "geological  
 16 sciences." You already have biological sciences, so why  
 17 not geological sciences? And that could actually segway  
 18 into somebody who is an educator teaching geology or an  
 19 educator with geological background, so it could cover a  
 20 lot of issues. Paleontology is geology also. I'm done.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. I have AI  
 22 followed by Paul.

23 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Thank you, AI. I would  
 24 also request that you expand the list or perhaps break  
 25 it down a little further under the expertise needed from

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1 members. You have the first category as cultural,  
2 performing and visual arts. I think that is extremely  
3 broad. And because of my personal hobby, I would  
4 request that you separate the visual arts, because it  
5 would probably include -- you may want to specify  
6 lapidary arts, because rockhounds get into lapidary arts  
7 typically when they collect.

8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Al, Paul, April?

9 MEMBER MUTH: My comments are entirely about  
10 process, and where is the fire? I mean, why May? Why  
11 do we have to have the first product from that subgroup  
12 in May? Looking at the second page, "Selection of  
13 Members and Election of Officers," just going through  
14 that process and then having to hold a meeting and get  
15 something back before May, that's probably ten or 12  
16 weeks down the line. Is that really going to happen?  
17 So it was just that the whole thing seems to be way  
18 overheated and too fast to do any rational return on a  
19 product. Enough said.

20 MEMBER SHUMWAY: It's only nine weeks.

21 MEMBER MUTH: Thank you, Dinah.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Al. Paul?

23 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Regarding this Connecting to  
24 the Desert, I think it's real important. And Teri hit  
25 on the head: you want to hit with liberal arts then

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1 bring in the techno aspects. I think the makeup of the  
2 board should not just be technical people. I think it  
3 should include a Native American because they have  
4 cultural knowledge of what's going on out here, but I  
5 also think it needs to be people who have expertise in  
6 non-technical areas, such as marketing. I know there's  
7 users of the desert, such as the motion picture  
8 association. We should be partnering with our existing  
9 partners that we already do business with, seeing if  
10 they can participate and help out in this.

11 You know, just to give you an example, the  
12 movie "Cars," my kids go crazy over it, and they learn  
13 more about the desert just from that simple movie than  
14 anything else. So I think people that can bridge that  
15 gap and spread it out to more people would be better.

16 I also think the permittees, such as large  
17 utility companies that send out monthly bills should be  
18 required, if we have fliers of information about the  
19 desert or whatever, that they should put it in the bills  
20 as well and that it be part of them as well. Those are  
21 my comments on that.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks, Paul. April?

23 MEMBER SALL: Thank you. Yeah, I also had some  
24 kind of questions about this subgroup, and I think Teri  
25 helped clarify for me some of the goals.

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1 A quick comment in regards to the mission  
2 statement. Towards the end there, it also sort of  
3 leaves out the whole desert vegetation and plant  
4 component. And so I'd like to see that represented  
5 somewhere, because that is very unique to the desert  
6 ecosystem and the way that we have ancient plants and  
7 the way that we have soil crests that are very important  
8 in ecosystem functioning and really in the carbon  
9 sequestration conversation, which also relates to  
10 impacts on the desert from renewable energy projects.

11 Moving along, I think I also share concerns  
12 about the timelines and how accurate we can represent  
13 the needs of this group and provide information to the  
14 deadlines, given what we have going on. But I guess we  
15 can maybe have more discussion on and maybe even hear  
16 back from Teri again on why this timeline. I do think  
17 it's important, and that being said, I question if we  
18 don't have some strict timelines the following meeting,  
19 now we're talking six months out. So I would like to  
20 figure out how we can maybe hybridize the schedule and  
21 come up with something that is timely but also  
22 realistic. So more discussion maybe would be helpful.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Let's focus on  
24 that subtopic at this time, schedule for implementation.  
25 And do you have any comments that you can share with us,

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1 Teri?

2 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah. And I think, April,  
3 you've kind of hit on the dilemma. The aggressive  
4 timeline was really trying to connect with that meeting  
5 date that we had on May 9th and 10th, which seemed like  
6 if we could get this group up and running that, that  
7 would be a perfect meeting for that group. And I am a  
8 little overheated. I'd like to get started, and I'd  
9 like to get the group going that can kind of work and  
10 not be constrained by the DAC meetings, but I hear you  
11 loud and clear. And Randy and Seth have both tried to  
12 accommodate my interest in trying to see if we could  
13 have something in place by May 9th and 10th, but that  
14 may really be pushing faster than people want. I'm not  
15 quite so sure.

16 And I would like to have the BLM be able to  
17 have a good focus on this aspect of our mission sooner  
18 rather than later in association with the DRECP, to be  
19 frank. So part of it is when the DRECP comes out --  
20 we've got a lot of interest in the BLM, a lot of  
21 interest in what we're doing, landscape management. And  
22 I'd like to be talking about interpretation and  
23 interpretation opportunities also.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Seth?

25 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thanks, Teri, and thanks,

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1 Mr. Chair. I think that what April and Don said  
 2 resonates with me in terms of concerns about the  
 3 timeline and reflecting a little bit on this. And I  
 4 think that, you know, one way forward might be to, you  
 5 know, try to identify some of the committee members and  
 6 invite group members and invite them to that May meeting  
 7 then proceed from there.

8 And perhaps there's a way that Teri, myself and  
 9 you can get together to really develop a full timeline  
 10 about this so you have the timeline for a final project  
 11 and then -- or final recommendations then kind of work  
 12 backwards from there as opposed to trying to rush this,  
 13 because my feeling is that process is related to  
 14 content, and this is a really important item, and I  
 15 would hate to see it rushed and perhaps not incorporate  
 16 the full range of use. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: AI?

18 MEMBER MUTH: Just to comment on the nexus with  
 19 the DRECP, it may be six months down the line, but then  
 20 again there's not going to be any rational commentary  
 21 back from the DRECP before six months. So even if it's  
 22 delayed, the first report is six months, they will still  
 23 be there in a timely manner.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don?

25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. I just want to speak to

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1 the feasibility of the proposed schedule as it relates  
 2 to process. I'm assuming that the confirmation of the  
 3 subgroup by the DAC has to occur at a scheduled meeting.  
 4 Am I correct, or am I in error?

5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My answer would be the same  
 6 as I mentioned to Dinah with regard to off-line work.  
 7 It's only in very rare circumstances that we do work  
 8 off-line, and that would be something that the DAC would  
 9 have to elevate to that level of priority, I think, for  
 10 us to do off-line.

11 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. I would hesitate to  
 12 form a subgroup, you know, via e-mail. So again when  
 13 talk about forming -- you know, appointing members to  
 14 work on deliverables prior to the May meeting when the  
 15 subgroup is the next meeting where they could be  
 16 confirmed, I think we have to speak in terms of  
 17 tentative members or applicants who more than likely  
 18 will be confirmed. But, you know, we have to  
 19 characterize them and send that message to them to  
 20 manage their expectations.

21 I have no disagreement with getting this thing  
 22 started by working with the applicants, but they need to  
 23 know that their application may not be confirmed.

24 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Dinah.

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1 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I agree with all the comments  
 2 about timing, because you don't want to rush things,  
 3 because things get overlooked. But I'm wondering if  
 4 during this period when an application goes out to  
 5 applicants and they come back, the DAC reviews them, if  
 6 during that period perhaps we could still go forward  
 7 with soliciting from BLM district offices information  
 8 and inventory of programs that would fit into the  
 9 mission of the subgroup, and Seth could be a coordinator  
 10 of compiling that data as it comes in, and perhaps in  
 11 the May meeting give a report based on what's already  
 12 out there and how the subgroup's mission would fit in  
 13 with that or how those programs would fit in with the  
 14 mission of the subgroup. That way we're still going  
 15 forward on it, possibly seeking applications and have  
 16 more data in May to discuss it.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Now, the Desert District  
 18 will have to put out a Federal Register Notice and press  
 19 releases to solicit applications for this and would have  
 20 to do so, you know, as quickly as possible, obviously.  
 21 Perhaps we can also take advantage of that Federal  
 22 Register Notice filing by setting a first meeting date  
 23 rather than constituting the subgroup and trying to set  
 24 the meeting date after the group has been appointed  
 25 through e-mails and through other methods. That will

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1 take time.

2 And in my experience there's always somebody  
 3 who can't make that first meeting. Regardless of the  
 4 amount of correspondence and connectivity that occurs,  
 5 it's just that first step is a tough step to take. So  
 6 that's why I think it would be likely just as good. Or  
 7 Seth could suggest a first meeting date, have that put  
 8 forward as part of the expectation, have it announced in  
 9 the Federal Register, along with the applications and at  
 10 least kill those two birds with that one stone. Comment  
 11 on that point?

12 MEMBER SHTEIR: Mr. Chair, I think you raised a  
 13 really good point, but I think in honor of the  
 14 prospective and future members of the groups, it's  
 15 important to solicit feedback from them about what  
 16 dates, times and places might work. You know, I  
 17 definitely agree that that can be a little trickier, but  
 18 I think it is worth the effort. And I, for my part as  
 19 chair, commit to doing that very promptly once we have  
 20 the group convene. But I think it's important to get  
 21 feedback from people about when they can attend this,  
 22 because their participation is essential in this. Thank  
 23 you.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Other comments on that  
 25 particular idea? Is there support for Seth setting that

1 date after the members have been chosen? That will put  
 2 us out -- if we're looking to invite applicants to come  
 3 to the next DAC meeting and be selected at that meeting,  
 4 that's May 10th. And from there I don't know that we'd  
 5 be feasibly having that first meeting even in May if we  
 6 wait. Any other comments, or does anyone else share  
 7 that concern? April?

8 MEMBER SALL: Yeah. I mean, I think we can  
 9 probably find a way to start moving this forward and  
 10 maybe sending out the announcement of the subgroup and  
 11 the request for members and, I think, as was mentioned  
 12 in the very beginning of this discussion, have just a  
 13 somewhat lighter report, if you will, on this subgroup  
 14 in May if we don't have all the details worked out and  
 15 all the membership hasn't been confirmed, et cetera.  
 16 But I do think we can find a way to start the process so  
 17 we're not just looking at two meetings out.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Further comments? More  
 19 direction, decisions? Seth.

20 MEMBER SHTEIR: Can I just clarify what you  
 21 were saying there, April? Were you saying that the -- I  
 22 mean, because it seems like if we move ahead with the  
 23 subgroup at this point convening the subgroup by May, it  
 24 seems like we'll have to convene them through e-mail  
 25 process. That's the way it seems to me. And I just

1 want to be clear about that. I mean, because if we have  
 2 a report at that May meeting, we'll have to --

3 MEMBER SALL: Well, it doesn't have to be, I  
 4 think, an official report like some of the subgroup  
 5 reports have been to date where it's, here's the  
 6 members, and here's our official report. It could be  
 7 something of, here's an update of where we are on the  
 8 process. I guess that's what I'm trying to suggest.

9 MEMBER SHTEIR: I see.

10 MEMBER SALL: In moving this forward, I think  
 11 this is a unique subgroup in that the title of it says a  
 12 lot about what the goal is. So although we may not have  
 13 all the wordsmithing and the mission and who are all the  
 14 members that are going to be represented, I think just  
 15 what's been outlined in the draft and the title of the  
 16 subgroup gives a pretty good idea to the public as to  
 17 what this is about.

18 And so I think it's a little bit unique in that  
 19 regard and that we can move it forward, you know, in a  
 20 little bit looser structure than maybe we have in the  
 21 past and get it moving, I guess, is what I'm suggesting,  
 22 if that is helpful.

23 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you.

24 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Mr. Chairman, before we're  
 25 done, can I make a further change, suggestion to the

1 mission, just so we are all talking on the same page? I  
 2 suggest that we add to "unique geology" on the last  
 3 sentence again, "unique geology and plant populations."  
 4 Does that work for you?

5 MEMBER SALL: I would have to think about that,  
 6 but yeah.

7 MEMBER SHUMWAY: At least so it's in there.

8 MEMBER SALL: Right.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'd still like to try to  
 10 get back on the timing issue. I haven't heard any  
 11 dates. I mean, I e-mailed you back a schedule with  
 12 fixed dates and times, and I would like us to resolve  
 13 this with some notion of dates and times. I think we  
 14 should solidify this as opposed to make it more fluffy.  
 15 Don.

16 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, I would recommend that  
 17 we confirm the members of the subgroup and how it's  
 18 constituted at our next meeting. Whatever Seth can do  
 19 to informally push the effort forward and provide an  
 20 informal report as to, you know, his efforts in doing so  
 21 at the May meeting would be helpful. But I don't see in  
 22 terms of process how we can do it any sooner than that.

23 I mean, we have to have the notice for the  
 24 applications. We have to review the applications.  
 25 Randy, you have to, you know, nominate the members that

1 you see fit to nominate and give us those names, and  
 2 then I would hope that as part of that solicitation  
 3 process and recruiting process that we would invite  
 4 those applicants to the May meeting to introduce  
 5 themselves as part of the confirmation process.

6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: If I may, let me work  
 7 backwards from Don's suggestion and see if that rings a  
 8 note with everyone. If we would like to have this  
 9 decision and invite the applicants to our May 10th  
 10 meeting, just working on dates, we could have an  
 11 application period between April 1st and the 30th. It's  
 12 back to a 30-day period as opposed to the two-week  
 13 period that was previously suggested. That means that  
 14 External Affairs will have from Monday, the 17th and  
 15 forward to get a Federal Register Notice published  
 16 before April 1st. Is that a problem?

17 MR. RAZO: These types of notices go quick, but  
 18 I can't guarantee it. Sometimes these can happen within  
 19 ten days. That's probably a good -- because it's a  
 20 general announcement that --

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Are we going to go with  
 22 that? Seth, what do you think now?

23 MEMBER SHTEIR: I just wanted to address one  
 24 final thought regarding the setting of the meeting at  
 25 this particular meeting. And I really understand the

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1 perspective that we do need to get this out the door,  
 2 but I think the first meeting is very critical, and it's  
 3 very essential that we have a full representation of  
 4 people there. And by arbitrarily picking a date at this  
 5 DAC meeting, even though it may be fine with the members  
 6 that are present on the board, it doesn't mean it's fine  
 7 with those members who may constitute the group. And  
 8 absence of certain members, if the goal is to deliver a  
 9 work plan, could impact that. And so that's my concern  
 10 really there. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: So what I have again is --  
 12 let me work forward now. It would be beginning with  
 13 March 17th, effort would be made to notice the call for  
 14 applications, not a subgroup meeting date but a call for  
 15 applications. We would have an application period from  
 16 the 1st to the 30th. It would give us a week to sift  
 17 through the applications to make recommendations for the  
 18 May 10th meeting. After the May 10th meeting there will  
 19 be a roster of members for Seth to work with to set the  
 20 first meeting date, and we'll have a report from a  
 21 subgroup at our September DAC meeting.

22 Good. All the heads are being nodded,  
 23 therefore -- it's the chair's responsibility to form the  
 24 group. I'm forming the group, and I'd like to ask Seth  
 25 if he'd be kind enough to serve as chair of the group,

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1 and he's indicated his willingness to do so. It's the  
 2 chair of that subgroup's responsibility to set the  
 3 schedules, and Seth seems to be in agreement with that  
 4 schedule. Any final comments? I see a hand from Don --  
 5 from Al.

6 MEMBER MUTH: We all look alike. Would it be  
 7 possible to receive the CV's and the application  
 8 material for the various candidates that you nominate in  
 9 advance of the meeting?

10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'd be happy to.

11 MEMBER MUTH: So we're not sitting up here  
 12 trying to go through it while we're having the  
 13 discussion.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Further  
 15 comments? No? Good. This item is closed.

16 For our next item there is a few minutes to set  
 17 up the screen. We're running a little bit early, but  
 18 we're going to set up the projection screens. And  
 19 Steve, do you think folks are ready to participate on  
 20 this at this time? We're a little early. Is that going  
 21 to be okay?

22 MR. RAZO: Mike, you're okay?

23 MR. SINTETOS: I'm okay.

24 MR. RAZO: Why don't we take a break now. We  
 25 can make a phone call.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Let's take a  
 2 full 15-minute break. We have to connect with our  
 3 partners that are offsite for our presentation. So it's  
 4 9:50. We'll be back at 10:05, please. Thank you.  
 5 We're in recess.

6 (A morning break was taken.)

7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, everybody. If  
 8 we could grab our seats and begin, I call the meeting  
 9 back to order at 10:16.

10 The next item on the agenda is our Focus Topic  
 11 Briefing on the Mechanics of the DRECP Public Process.  
 12 And helping us today from the BLM state office is  
 13 Mike Sintetos. Great to have you here with us, and the  
 14 floor is yours. Welcome. Also I'd like to introduce on  
 15 the speakerphone we have Terry Watt from the governor's  
 16 office. And Terry, you're now live.

17 MS. WATT: Good morning.

18 MR. SINTETOS: Okay. My name is Mike Sintetos.  
 19 I'm from the BLM California State Office. First of all,  
 20 thank you very much for inviting me here today. It's  
 21 great to be here.

22 MR. STEWART: Could you speak into the mic,  
 23 please.

24 MR. SINTETOS: I'm a little too tall for this.  
 25 I'm sorry. Is that better? Okay. I think that will

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1 work. Works for me. Can people hear me? If I look  
 2 around, I'm not talking through the mic.

3 So you all are very familiar with the Desert  
 4 Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. A few things I want  
 5 to do today: one is, if you'll bear with me, just do a  
 6 little reminder of in general terms what we're talking  
 7 about here, what this plan is, spend a little bit of  
 8 time talking about why we're doing this. So hopefully  
 9 I'll get to that question a little bit more.

10 Really as I'm going through talking about what  
 11 the plan is, I want to highlight some of the key areas  
 12 we see for public participation then hopefully set up a  
 13 discussion afterwards on how we can most effectively set  
 14 up our public participation process to get the feedback  
 15 that we're looking for. So, Steve, you want to hit the  
 16 next slide?

17 So I show this slide here to make the point  
 18 that we're not doing this plan in a vacuum. We've got a  
 19 number of state and federal policies, laws that are  
 20 driving renewable energy. On the federal side we have a  
 21 law from Congress that gave us a goal for renewable  
 22 energy development on Public Lands. We have the  
 23 president's Climate Action Plan that he put out last  
 24 year that also sets a more ambitious goal for renewable  
 25 energy development on Public Lands. On the state's side

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<p>1 we have a number of laws, one of which, AB32, sets 2 greenhouse gas reduction targets and then a renewable 3 energy portfolio standard.</p> <p>4 So the reason I show that is that I want to 5 make the point that there are some big factors kind of 6 above anything that I'm working on or that my boss and 7 my boss's boss are working on that are driving renewable 8 energy demand in California. And so assuming that these 9 policy drivers don't go away -- and the only indications 10 we have is that they will be getting, you know, more 11 ambitious in the future -- we can expect the demand for 12 renewable energy in the desert won't go away as well.</p> <p>13 So the question is, if we all are working from 14 that assumption, are we okay with the path that we've 15 been on to date, or do we want to try to get out in 16 front of this potential increasing demand and have some 17 say in terms of where projects go and where they don't 18 go? Next slide.</p> <p>19 So we're anticipating an increasing demand 20 based on these policies. The agencies that we'll talk a 21 little bit more about in a minute got together and said, 22 why don't we try to figure out if we can shift our 23 approach to a more proactive stance so that we're no 24 longer considering each renewable energy project on its 25 own as it comes in the door but instead looking at the</p>		<p>1 sensitivity. That could be recreation sensitivity, 2 cultural resource sensitivity, other uses. Next slide.</p> <p>3 So we're not working in a vacuum here. The BLM 4 is partner to the DRECP, but we're not the end-all, 5 be-all. The plan is a Land Use Plan Amendment for us, 6 but it would also serve as a General Conservation Plan 7 for the Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Community 8 Conservation Plan for the Department of Fish and 9 Wildlife. So what we're trying to achieve is to 10 represent in this diagram where it's going to have the 11 essential elements of all three of these plans, but may 12 not look exactly like what you're used to seeing for any 13 one of those plans.</p> <p>14 And this is relevant for public participation 15 too, because the BLM isn't the one decision-maker for 16 deciding how we go forward for soliciting public input. 17 We've got a number of other partners, and we need to 18 make sure we come up with an approach that works for 19 everyone. So keep that in the back of your mind as 20 we're talking about public participation. Next slide.</p> <p>21 Re-emphasizing the last slide, not only do we 22 have our four key agencies that have been the lead on 23 developing the DRECP, there's whole host of other 24 agencies that have been participating to date. Just 25 wanted to make the point there's a lot of cooks in the</p>	
<p>1 desert as a whole and trying to figure out where we 2 should be sending project applicants and, more 3 importantly, where we should not be sending them, so 4 trying to find a balance in the desert, where we already 5 have a large number of existing values, existing uses, 6 and we've got this new use that has started to come in. 7 How do we accommodate that as well? Next slide.</p> <p>8 So very generally the renewable energy, or the 9 DRECP, would plan for up to 20,000 megawatts of 10 renewable energy generation in the desert. I want to 11 make it clear that the plan itself isn't determining 12 that we're going to have 20,000 megawatts. It's simply 13 saying that, if demand for renewable energy continues to 14 be driven by some of these other policies, this plan 15 would provide the acreage to get us to that number. And 16 in the areas where we've determined or we will be 17 determining that renewable energy is more appropriate, 18 those developers would have a streamline process they 19 could go through for wildlife permits.</p> <p>20 On the flip side, we're trying to provide for 21 the long-term conservation and management of certain 22 covered species, which is part of the state law 23 requirements -- and I'll speak about in a little bit -- 24 and focus renewable energy away from the areas that have 25 the greatest sensitivity. And that's not just wildlife</p>	Page 75	<p>1 kitchen here, so keep that in mind also, that this is 2 complex not only in the scale we're working at and not 3 only the number of resources we're working with but also 4 in the number of agencies that are involved, and all of 5 them have different missions. Next slide.</p> <p>6 You're all, I think, familiar with the planning 7 area, seven different counties, 22-and-a-half million 8 acres. About ten million acres are BLM lands, but the 9 majority of the planning area is actually not BLM land. 10 Next slide.</p> <p>11 So fundamentally I just wanted to give a sense 12 of kind of the renewable energy and the conservation 13 side of the plan. On the renewable energy side, we're 14 looking at identifying these development focus areas, 15 which are areas that hopefully have relatively low 16 resource conflicts, have been identified as having good 17 solar, wind and thermal resources. These are areas 18 where development would be streamlined, be a more 19 efficient process to get wildlife permits. And the next 20 slide, Steve.</p> <p>21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Excuse me. Are those all 22 Public Lands exclusively or public and private? 23 MR. SINTETOS: Good question. So those are not 24 all Public Lands. On the private lands obviously the 25 state and federal agencies don't have land-use</p>	Page 77

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1 authority. So for the state or -- sorry. For the  
2 non-federal Public Lands, for the non-federal lands, for  
3 the private lands, essentially those lands would be  
4 eligible for streamlined wildlife permits. But it's not  
5 necessarily changing a local plan or anything like that.  
6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: That map depicts both public  
7 and private lands?  
8 MR. SINTETOS: Yes.  
9 MEMBER REILLY: And are you going to detail how  
10 those areas were modeled, or should we find that out  
11 some other way?  
12 MR. SINTETOS: I'm not going to go into too  
13 much depth with that. We'll talk about avenues for  
14 exploring that with the Gateway tool in the next  
15 presentation. I wanted to keep this at a somewhat of a  
16 high level, and frankly that's not my area of expertise,  
17 and I'm not going to go into too much detail as far as  
18 the DFA development.  
19 MS. WATT (via telephone): Hi. This is Terry.  
20 That's a great question to hold for the Data Basin  
21 Gateway discussion.  
22 MR. SINTETOS: Thanks, Terry. Next slide.  
23 So I'm not going to spend too much time talking  
24 about this because the biological conservation strategy  
25 is really kind of a Natural Community Conservation Plan

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1 element of the plan, not the BLM's real area of  
2 expertise, but I just wanted to give you an overview.  
3 These are the steps that the agencies have been  
4 going through to come up with this conservation  
5 strategy. So it starts with developing covered species  
6 and natural communities, which are basically where we  
7 want to focus our conservation. We developed biological  
8 goals and objectives that will help us conserve those  
9 species and communities. We developed this reserve  
10 design envelope, which is, you know, the lands that are,  
11 you know, critical for protecting those species, and  
12 then conservation and management actions and developing  
13 and monitoring adaptive management plans.  
14 Steve, I think you can probably just kind of  
15 flip through the next slide pretty quick, 52 covered  
16 species and 31 natural communities. And then I'm not  
17 going to talk about the biological goals and objectives  
18 in real detail because that's not really my area of  
19 expertise. But what I really want to speak time talking  
20 about is the BLM component of the plan, which is our  
21 land use plan, which is the part I'm probably most  
22 qualified to speak on. I won't speak for the state.  
23 So in the most simple terms on the ten million  
24 acres of BLM lands within the planning area, we're going  
25 to be creating go and no-go zones for renewable energy.

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1 Development focus areas on the Public Lands would be  
2 those go areas, where our plans would say, yes,  
3 renewable energy can go here. The no-go areas would be  
4 some form of conservation. And what I don't want you to  
5 think is that conservation equals wilderness, because  
6 that's not necessarily the case. The no-go areas  
7 encompass Conservation Lands for wildlife, for sure,  
8 pretty significant acreage, but the no-go areas are also  
9 Special Recreation Management Areas, areas that have  
10 significant recreation values or areas of Critical  
11 Environmental Concern that have been set aside for a  
12 particular cultural resource or a significant  
13 destination that requires special management.  
14 So I'll go through this in a little bit more  
15 detail, but I just want to make sure that distinction is  
16 clear that it's not necessarily a distinction of  
17 renewable energy and wilderness but rather, yes, go for  
18 renewable and no-go for renewable energy.  
19 And actually before I jump into this, the other  
20 point I wanted to make is that, when you see the draft,  
21 you're going to see a number of different alternatives,  
22 alternative plan designs. And those plan designs are  
23 going to vary not only the land use designations, the go  
24 and the no-go areas for renewable energy, but also  
25 they're going to vary the specific management

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1 prescriptions, how we manage those land designations.  
2 So we'll get to that in little bit, but I wanted to make  
3 sure that concept is out there.  
4 Yeah, Don.  
5 MEMBER HOUSTON: Do the DFA's capture the  
6 transmission corridors?  
7 MR. SINTETOS: So the DRECP does not change any  
8 existing transmission corridors. The DFA's were all  
9 designed using a filter and making sure that there is  
10 transmission capacity -- or not necessarily capacity,  
11 but they're transmission aligned. I guess that would be  
12 the way to put it. So either existing lines or existing  
13 transmission corridors that you could use to get power  
14 out of them.  
15 MEMBER SHUMWAY: These are just existing, not  
16 future? These are only existing corridors?  
17 MR. SINTETOS: Correct, correct. Yeah, we  
18 wouldn't be creating any new corridors or anything like  
19 that.  
20 Okay. So on the renewable energy side, when  
21 you see the plan -- or the draft plan, you're going to  
22 see the development focus areas. So areas that BLM  
23 lands would be available for renewable energy  
24 development, those lands are going to have some  
25 incentives for development. So there would be -- you

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1 know, those applications would be prioritized,  
2 potentially would have more predictable or lower rental  
3 payments, financial incentives, things like that.  
4 You're also going to see a category of lands  
5 called study areas. And if you're familiar with the  
6 Solar PEIS the BLM finalized a couple of years ago, this  
7 is that concept of the variance lands, where either  
8 there's been interest by industry or potentially have  
9 good renewable energy resources and they might be  
10 appropriate for development, but we're not quite sure.  
11 We need to take a closer look. We need to do a little  
12 bit more study to really make a determination on that.  
13 So that's a concept that's going to appear in some of  
14 the alternatives, not in all of them. But I wanted to  
15 make sure you're aware of that.  
16 So as you all are reviewing the DRECP in  
17 whatever form that takes, whether you form a  
18 subcommittee or whatnot, this is going to be one of the  
19 key areas to look for: are the development focus areas  
20 in the right places? What should we do about these  
21 study areas, things like that. Next slide.  
22 There's going to be a number of conservation  
23 designations that you're going to see in the plan.  
24 First of all, is that there are going to be a large  
25 number of new acres added to the National Conservation

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1 Lands. This is something that Congress actually told us  
2 to do. In the Omnibus Public Land Management Act back  
3 in 2009 there is a statement in there that the BLM  
4 should designate areas managed for conservation in the  
5 California Desert Conservation Area as part of the  
6 National Landscape Conservation System, which National  
7 Conservation Land is kind of our shorthand for that. So  
8 we're doing that in this plan. We're implementing that  
9 statement from Congress.  
10 Across the alternatives you're going to see  
11 variations in which lands are included in that the  
12 National Conservation Lands. That's another thing we're  
13 going to need input on. What's the appropriate level --  
14 or what's the appropriate number of acres? What are the  
15 appropriate areas that we should be including in that  
16 land management category?  
17 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Can I ask a question, please.  
18 MR. SINTETOS: Yes.  
19 MEMBER SHUMWAY: You say National Conservation  
20 Lands, but in practical terms are these the national  
21 preservation lands instead? I mean, are other uses  
22 going to be allowed? If not, then they're preservation;  
23 right?  
24 MR. SINTETOS: I'm going to talk about that in  
25 just a minute, so maybe save that question for one more

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1 slide.  
2 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay.  
3 MR. SINTETOS: You're going to see new and  
4 expanded areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the  
5 draft plan, and you're also going to see this category  
6 of management called Wildlife Allocations, which is, you  
7 know, lands where we're not necessarily prohibiting any  
8 type of action, but whatever action we allow in those  
9 Wildlife Allocations has to be consistent with the  
10 management of whatever wildlife species that area is set  
11 aside for. And then you're also going to see about a  
12 million, although it varies by alternative, acres of new  
13 and expanded Special Recreation Management Areas.  
14 Got another question, yeah.  
15 MEMBER HOUSTON: Before you leave this slide,  
16 what I see here is, you know, we're not making any more  
17 land. And I see the first bullet there is, "Create  
18 new," and the second bullet, "New and expanded,"  
19 "Expanded," and then the final bullet says, "New and  
20 expanded." How are you going to get new and expanded  
21 out of all those points when you only have a certain  
22 amount of land?  
23 MR. SINTETOS: I guess the better way to put  
24 that probably would have been "New and expanded  
25 designations." So an area that had previously been

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1 undesignated would now carry that, you know, ECDC  
2 designation. Good question.  
3 You want to go to the next slide there, Steve?  
4 So Dinah getting back to your question, we've  
5 got -- along with these land use designations, we're  
6 also going to be proposing what are called Conservation  
7 and Management Actions. And what these are, are  
8 essentially our proposals for how we would manage these  
9 different designations. So if you're thinking about  
10 Development Focus Areas, that would take the place of,  
11 you know, potential avoidance or minimization measures,  
12 things that solar or wind companies would have to do to  
13 avoid particular resources. So, you know, even if  
14 they're in a Development Focus Area, you know, we want  
15 to make sure that they avoid washes, something like  
16 that. That would be an example. Then there would also  
17 be compensation requirements, which would be kind of  
18 that offsite mitigation component.  
19 In terms of the Conservation Lands, we are also  
20 going to see Conservation and Management Actions. And  
21 what those are going to do is, those are going to vary  
22 our management of those lands across the alternatives.  
23 So in one alternative we may have a very, I'll say,  
24 strict interpretation of what we'll allow within those  
25 National Conservation Lands, very limited in terms of,

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1 you know, the rights-of-way or other types of  
2 development or mineral development, things like that.  
3 In another alternative we'll have a more  
4 liberal interpretation, I guess. So you may have  
5 National Conservation Lands where you can actually  
6 propose a right-of-way or something, as long as it's not  
7 affecting the values that led us to designate those  
8 lands. So that's going to be a key point where we're  
9 going to need some input on.  
10 And this is something that I really want to  
11 highlight for you is, as you're looking at our component  
12 of the DRECP, look at what the land designations are and  
13 where they are, but just as importantly, look at how  
14 we're proposing to manage them, because that does vary  
15 across the alternatives, and that's going to be really  
16 important.  
17 We are making a couple of other decisions  
18 within the DRECP, such as designating visual resource  
19 management classes. So I just wanted to throw that up  
20 there also to make sure you're all aware of that. Next  
21 slide.  
22 So as we're gearing up for public  
23 participation, obviously the -- and really "gearing up  
24 for public participation" is probably not the right  
25 word. But as we're getting ready in terms of engaging

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1 the public on the draft, obviously the next step is to  
2 release the draft. We're still a couple of months away  
3 from that, so this is, you know, kind of a pre-brief.  
4 But when that draft comes out, we'll be holding  
5 a number of public meetings. The vast majority of those  
6 will be within the planning area. We're going to try to  
7 be covering as broad a geographic area as possible at  
8 those meetings. And actually it will be great that, as  
9 we're having discussion today, if you have input on  
10 where those meetings might be, that would be something  
11 really useful for us to hear.  
12 We've got our website where the documents will  
13 be posted, and then we've got this DRECP Gateway, which  
14 I'll talk about a little bit but mostly save that for  
15 Jim Stritholt, who's on the phone. So Steve, why don't  
16 you go to the next slide.  
17 The Gateway tool is going to be, I think,  
18 really valuable in terms of visualizing what it is that  
19 it's being proposed in this plan. It's already  
20 available, so you can already check it out. And Jim is  
21 going to walk you through it a little bit in terms of  
22 what you can do right now and how you can start playing  
23 around with it and, more importantly, how you can use it  
24 when the draft comes out. So I'll save that for Jim's  
25 presentation. And the next slide, Steve.

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1 And then as we're transitioning into discussion  
2 mode here, I wanted to leave you with a few questions  
3 that Terry proposed. As we're trying to figure out how  
4 we move forward and what we do when the draft comes out,  
5 what are the key messages for the public that we want to  
6 be communicating? How do we get people involved? How  
7 do we emphasize the importance of this, because this  
8 affects pretty much everyone that uses the desert. This  
9 should be important to everyone who uses the desert, so  
10 how can we help people to recognize that and  
11 participate? And how can we help people understand what  
12 exactly we're proposing?  
13 And then it covers Point 2. And then Point 3,  
14 if you have recommendations, it would be really useful.  
15 How can we improve our communication so that people  
16 understand what the heck we're doing, because this is  
17 something that's very complex, has a lot of different  
18 elements. And finally, you know, if you've got thoughts  
19 on where meetings are, what we do in terms of  
20 structuring those meetings, that would also be really  
21 helpful.  
22 So Randy, I think I'll leave it there. I don't  
23 know if you want me to stay up here and take questions  
24 or go ahead and sit down.  
25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Why don't we go ahead, and

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1 we'll start with Dinah and work around the table with  
2 questions.  
3 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Now I need the mic on; right?  
4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes. Turn it on with the  
5 switch.  
6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Is it on?  
7 MR. RAZO: It's on.  
8 MEMBER SHUMWAY: You were going to address the  
9 terminology using "conservation" and "preservation." In  
10 the classical term "conservation" means multiple use,  
11 where "preservation" applies to more places like we are  
12 preserving landscapes or preserving Wilderness Areas.  
13 So how are you using those terms? It doesn't sound like  
14 you're using "preservation" at all. You're using  
15 "conservation" almost universally.  
16 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. The National Conservation  
17 Lands designation was so named because it isn't a  
18 Wilderness designation. You know, recreational  
19 opportunities within those Conservation Lands won't be  
20 going away just because we give it a new name, you know.  
21 And like I said, I mean, I really think that -- because  
22 I can't get into too many specifics right now before the  
23 draft comes out, I really think that looking at the  
24 alternative ways that we're proposing to manage the  
25 Conservation Lands is going to be critical because, like

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1 you said, there's kind of a spectrum there from what our  
 2 kind of typical definition of what wilderness is to a  
 3 more multiple-use approach.  
 4 And what we try to do is in these different  
 5 alternative plan designs, we try to hit different points  
 6 on that spectrum. And so what we want to get input in  
 7 is, how well did we do in terms of covering that  
 8 spectrum, and where on that spectrum do you think we  
 9 should be?  
 10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: My understanding of National  
 11 Lands Conservation programs, most of them do not allow  
 12 mineral entry; in fact many of those areas are  
 13 specifically closed to mineral entry. So what kinds of  
 14 studies have you conducted that would allow you to make  
 15 a designation closed to mineral entry?  
 16 MR. SINTETOS: So again you're going to see in  
 17 the plan a range of approaches to minerals. You're  
 18 going to see some alternatives where there's going to be  
 19 more opportunities for leasing, things like that, and  
 20 you'll see alternatives that have fewer opportunities.  
 21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: And these are based on?  
 22 MR. SINTETOS: These are based on, yeah, the  
 23 analysis of that our mineral staff have --  
 24 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I mean, are these based on  
 25 geological science?

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1 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. That will all be in the  
 2 draft.  
 3 MEMBER SHUMWAY: We hope. Thank you.  
 4 MR. SINTETOS: You're welcome.  
 5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: What I'd like to do is  
 6 questions for Mike. Then we'll do comments from the  
 7 DAC, our opinions and answers to the questions. So  
 8 let's make sure we get all questions answered from Mike  
 9 at this point. Thanks. Don?  
 10 MEMBER HOUSTON: For those on the phone, this  
 11 is Don Houston. Mike, going back to the slide with the  
 12 intersecting circles -- one circle for the service, one  
 13 circle for the department and one circle for the BLM --  
 14 under the service, you have a phrase "General  
 15 Conservation Plan." Is that different than the Habitat  
 16 Conservation Plan that's designed in Section 10 of the  
 17 Federal Endangered Species Act?  
 18 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. And so I'm not the best  
 19 person to answer this, but a General Conservation Plan  
 20 is essentially an umbrella Habitat Conservation Plan, so  
 21 it provides a framework for step-down Habitat  
 22 Conservation Plan.  
 23 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. So there will be  
 24 subsequent HCP's after the GCP is adopted?  
 25 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. And so you would need an

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1 applicant who would basically apply and go through that  
 2 HCP process.  
 3 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. Now, this next question  
 4 is about process. So the GCP and the NCCP, the National  
 5 Communities Conservation Program, at the state level  
 6 provide compliance with both the federal and state  
 7 Endangered Species Acts. The plan use amendment for BLM  
 8 provides compliance with FLPMA; correct?  
 9 MR. SINTETOS: Yes.  
 10 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. So I could envision a  
 11 project being proposed on an area in the desert that  
 12 would not require a land use amendment, a plan  
 13 amendment. So the plan amendment and the Endangered  
 14 Species Acts compliance, are they joined at the hip?  
 15 Can one proceed without the other? Do you understand  
 16 what I'm asking here?  
 17 MR. SINTETOS: I'm not quite sure where you're  
 18 going.  
 19 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, is it all in one bucket?  
 20 Is it all approved at the same time?  
 21 MR. SINTETOS: I see. I see. So when the  
 22 DRECP -- basically could the BLM portion of the DRECP go  
 23 forward without the other pieces? Is that --  
 24 MEMBER HOUSTON: I was thinking the other way  
 25 around. Would the BLM portion hang up the Endangered

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1 Species compliance portion?  
 2 MR. SINTETOS: I see. I see. So I'll answer  
 3 that in maybe a slightly roundabout way, but hopefully  
 4 I'll get there. The BLM Land Use Plan Amendment is, of  
 5 course, you know, going to be in compliance with FLPMA.  
 6 However the BLM Land Use Plan Amendment is also a piece  
 7 of that conservation side. So the BLM Conservation  
 8 Lands are providing protections to those species, those  
 9 covered species that the state NCCP is relying on, so  
 10 they really are pretty closely joined.  
 11 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thanks.  
 12 MR. SINTETOS: Sure.  
 13 MS. WATT: And I would answer it the same way.  
 14 The hope here is they are joined and that the Land Use  
 15 Plan Amendment will connect with the NCCP findings and  
 16 help make them findings. That's something you're going  
 17 to want to look at carefully in the planning. We could  
 18 have separated out the Land Use Plan Amendment from the  
 19 NCCP and the GCP. We're choosing to tie them together  
 20 for a better result. That's what makes this plan so  
 21 unique.  
 22 I mean, this is a first-ever attempt, as Mike  
 23 said earlier, at this kind of configuration of a joint  
 24 plan. And so it's going to look a little differently to  
 25 you all when you see it, and we're trying our best to

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1 organize it in a fashion that is clear and  
2 understandable and readable. We're guessing the  
3 information briefings early on in the circulation period  
4 are going to be really important to folks' understanding  
5 and especially understanding how the WIPPA communicates  
6 and supports the NCCP and the GCP. So you can only  
7 imagine how complicated it has been to sort of develop  
8 this plan. I mean, we're hoping to make it as easy to  
9 understand as possible. We get that there will be  
10 conversations about how this all works, let alone some  
11 of the substantive elements.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: April, do you have any  
13 questions at this point?

14 MEMBER SALL: Not questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don, you're all set?  
16 Questions for Mike?

17 MEMBER SHTEIR: Yes. Thanks for the  
18 presentation. I've got a question as it relates to  
19 water and in particular groundwater. And, you know, the  
20 other day the BLM gave quite a nice tour of the  
21 Chuckwalla Valley. And one of the issues there is that  
22 a significant number of renewable energy applications  
23 have been authorized there and projects, and there's  
24 more to be authorized, and yet there isn't a clear  
25 understanding of that groundwater basin. And this is

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1 from my limited experience here in the desert. That's  
2 not an unusual situation in terms of desert aquifers in  
3 terms of recharge and things like that.

4 So my question is, what level of analysis is  
5 going into DRECP in terms of making sure we don't draw  
6 down our water resources in terms of renewable energy?  
7 What's being made sure that seeps and other sensitive  
8 receptors, springs, aren't harmed in this process? I  
9 see you have a Habitat Conservation Plan based on focal  
10 species, but what about processes? Thanks.

11 MR. SINTETOS: Good question. And I think  
12 that's something a lot of people here probably are very  
13 interested in. I'm going to speak generally to it  
14 because I think for a lot of this you're going to need  
15 to go to the draft, but I'll at least give you places to  
16 look.

17 First of all, Noel Ludwig and colleague  
18 Pete Godfrey have been doing really great work in the  
19 Chuckwalla. I'm sure he will be happy he's in the  
20 record now. They have been doing in the work Chuckwalla  
21 Valley. Noel has been a very important member of our  
22 team in terms of the DRECP development as well, so what  
23 they're learning in the Chuckwalla is something he's  
24 brought to the table for the DRECP.

25 A couple of places you're going to want to

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1 look -- well, I guess the main place you're going to  
2 want to look is the discussion in the document of the  
3 Conservation and Management Actions. What you're going  
4 to see there and what Noel has helped us to develop is,  
5 one, avoidance measures for things like seeps and  
6 springs, key sources we want to make sure are not  
7 disturbed.

8 The second thing you're going to want to look  
9 for is potential mitigation for impacts to groundwater  
10 resources and how we approach that. So I can't go into  
11 a whole lot more detail right here, but I think that's  
12 the point in the document where you're going to find  
13 that information.

14 MS. WATT: And this is Terry Watt adding that  
15 this is a question we're getting frequently. It's a  
16 great question. And as Mike said, going into a little  
17 more detail today is not possible because the draft  
18 isn't out. But I think I would emphasize Mike's first  
19 comment, the plan is making an attempt at strongly  
20 suggesting avoidance. Your question, though, is a good  
21 one because it goes to the broader challenge here for  
22 groundwater, which is, we don't necessarily know exactly  
23 what the groundwater hydrology is in the desert. And so  
24 the other thing that I think we're looking at in the  
25 draft are things like groundwater modeling monitoring,

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1 what's the appropriate timing, what requirements should  
2 be on a project developer at project application time  
3 versus more broadly suggested as part of the agency's  
4 work in implementing the DRECP?

5 So those are all really actively being  
6 discussed now as the draft is being developed, and we  
7 really are pleased to hear these kinds of questions  
8 asked of us now. Will we get it completely right?  
9 Probably not, which is why we're going to be really  
10 excited to figure out how to engage with you while the  
11 draft is on the street so we can do more work between  
12 draft and final. So thank you for the question.

13 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you. And I don't want to  
14 take too much time, but let me be a little more specific  
15 in my --

16 MS. WATT: Please do. You were reading my  
17 mind. I was going to say, bring the specifics. I'm  
18 taking some notes here.

19 MEMBER SHTEIR: Will there be an attempt at an  
20 analysis on the programmatic level of a cumulative  
21 impacts analysis of what the impacts would be to surface  
22 water, groundwater, et cetera, in the draft?

23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Hang on. I'm going to go  
24 around. Jessica, do you have any questions for Mike?

25 MEMBER REILLY: I do, and then we'll go Al.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Do you have more?  
 2 MEMBER SHTEIR: I want that answered.  
 3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Continue, please. I'm  
 4 sorry. Continue. Did you all catch that? Are you okay  
 5 with that?  
 6 MS. WATT: Yes, I've got that.  
 7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My apologies.  
 8 MR. SINTETOS: So I haven't reviewed the water  
 9 section in particular, but the answer to that question  
 10 is, yes, at a programmatic level we're looking at the  
 11 impacts to, you know, 25 different resources or, you  
 12 know, what we call program areas or disciplines. And  
 13 water is a big one among those, so look in Volume 4.  
 14 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay. Thanks.  
 15 MEMBER MUTH: Mr. Chairman?  
 16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: AI.  
 17 MEMBER MUTH: Since I believe there are some  
 18 other questions explicitly related to this topic, can we  
 19 back up and --  
 20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Would you like that? Do  
 21 you mind?  
 22 MEMBER MUTH: No.  
 23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Other speakers don't mind?  
 24 Okay. Very good. We will go back on this topic.  
 25 April?

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1 MEMBER SALL: Yeah. So just to, I guess, kind  
 2 of tag team on Seth's question but clarify this. So  
 3 there will be some programmatic analysis done on the  
 4 water, but will there be monitoring requirements also  
 5 spelled out as to how you're going to help build that  
 6 cumulative analysis going forward? Will that be in the  
 7 draft?  
 8 MR. SINTETOS: So I would ask you to refer to  
 9 the draft. I'm sorry I can't give you a more specific  
 10 answer, but a lot of these questions about what's in the  
 11 plan have to wait for when the plan comes out,  
 12 unfortunately. Sorry.  
 13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don, follow-up?  
 14 MEMBER HOUSTON: I'll wait for the draft.  
 15 MR. SINTETOS: I'm just trying to build the  
 16 anticipation here, get people excited.  
 17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Seth, do you have more?  
 18 MEMBER SHTEIR: No. That's it for me.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Jessica.  
 20 MR. SINTETOS: I'm sorry. Before Jessica  
 21 starts, I think Seth brought up a good point, and Terry,  
 22 I think, captured some of it. But a lot of it is, when  
 23 we're talking about resource impacts, you know, we're  
 24 looking through our Conservation and Management Actions  
 25 at ways to mitigate some of this. And what I wanted to

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1 try to distinguish between, I guess, is what happens at  
 2 the project level versus what happens at this planning  
 3 level. And, you know, what we've done at the project  
 4 level to this point is, we've started to come up with  
 5 ways to try to figure out ways to address some of these  
 6 issues like groundwater, adaptive measures where we  
 7 monitor the impacts on the aquifer, and if we reach a  
 8 threshold, then we need to take some of action. So I  
 9 wanted to distinguish between the work that we are  
 10 already doing at the project level versus kind of  
 11 programmatic plan level.  
 12 MEMBER REILLY: So regarding making informed  
 13 comment either from the DAC or from the public, how many  
 14 alternatives will there be in the DRECP?  
 15 MR. SINTETOS: There will five. There will be  
 16 a preferred alternative and four additional action  
 17 alternatives and then a no-action, which is basically  
 18 just the status quo.  
 19 MEMBER REILLY: So either through the Gateway  
 20 or otherwise, is an effort being made to clearly and  
 21 simply distill out the similarities and differences  
 22 between each alternative so that people can see them all  
 23 together in one place?  
 24 MR. SINTETOS: That's a good question. That's  
 25 something we've been giving some thought to in terms of,

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1 how we can almost kind of give people a shorthand way of  
 2 distinguishing between the alternatives? You know,  
 3 Terry might want to speak to it some more. I can't tell  
 4 you, yes, we have "X" product right now, but it's  
 5 something we're giving a lot of thought to. I think  
 6 it's really good feedback that something like that would  
 7 be useful.  
 8 MEMBER REILLY: I think in the past we've  
 9 experienced that, with these alternatives, oftentimes  
 10 the language and the organization of the document can be  
 11 confusing. So I was curious as to whether or not there  
 12 was an attempt to get at that from the beginning.  
 13 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. That's a really useful  
 14 question.  
 15 MS. WATT: So this is good because it will  
 16 place emphasis on the need to do this. One of the  
 17 things the consultant team has done very, very well is  
 18 to start to focus in on exactly how to respond to this  
 19 question by impact, by, you know, acreage for DFA's,  
 20 Development Focus Areas, by acreage, by study areas, by  
 21 every element by which someone might take an interest in  
 22 the difference in alternatives. So this is great. This  
 23 will emphasize the need to do that really clearly and  
 24 potentially make a feature of frequently asked  
 25 questions, even, you know, the documents that will be

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<p>1 out supporting your review efforts. So thank you.</p> <p>2 We are definitely focused on this question, but</p> <p>3 I think it behooves us to think of everything that might</p> <p>4 be of interest to the public, not just limited to their</p> <p>5 impact, which would be the traditional way that EIR</p> <p>6 acts.</p> <p>7 The other thing I just wanted to emphasize is,</p> <p>8 while there is a preferred alternative -- Mike can speak</p> <p>9 to more to this. I can speak as Commissioner</p> <p>10 Karen Douglas's early average as we approach the draft</p> <p>11 being circulated. Quite often some of you may have</p> <p>12 heard her say this she's emphasized that, while there is</p> <p>13 a preferred, there is no decision yet on the</p> <p>14 alternative. The preferred is a label, for reasons</p> <p>15 relating to our job, to do the EIR, but we totally</p> <p>16 expect that there will be elements of each of the</p> <p>17 alternatives potentially brought into, you know, a final</p> <p>18 alternative. So this is really a range intended to</p> <p>19 inform a lot of rich discussion between draft and final.</p> <p>20 Now, to the extent that the decision-makers</p> <p>21 ultimately select from and match the alternatives,</p> <p>22 obviously that has a ripple effect on how the</p> <p>23 Development Focus Areas relate to the reserve designs</p> <p>24 and the mitigation. And, you know, we will have to in</p> <p>25 pretty realtime be juggling how that, you know, ripple</p>		<p>1 other, we've done some work in terms of how do we</p> <p>2 explain that, but having some kind of a visual</p> <p>3 representation might be a good idea. So thanks.</p> <p>4 MEMBER REILLY: Thanks.</p> <p>5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Follow-up on this, or going</p> <p>6 around? AI?</p> <p>7 MEMBER MUTH: First a comment. I'm rather</p> <p>8 surprised that you skipped over "Conservation</p> <p>9 strategies, biological goals and objectives and reserve</p> <p>10 design," since in the last science review of the draft,</p> <p>11 that was excoriating. I mean, it was the harshest</p> <p>12 review I think I've ever seen on a public document. So</p> <p>13 you skipped over it real fast this morning, which</p> <p>14 surprises me.</p> <p>15 MR. SINTETOS: If I could clarify real quick,</p> <p>16 the purpose of this personally running through that a</p> <p>17 bit quick was only because that's not my area of</p> <p>18 expertise. It was not to minimize that part of the plan</p> <p>19 in any way. That's something that's crucial. It's</p> <p>20 something we've done a lot of work on since we got</p> <p>21 feedback from the Independent Science Panel. I</p> <p>22 apologize if I created that perception, but because the</p> <p>23 BLM Land Use Plan Amendment is what I'm most familiar</p> <p>24 with and because this is a BLM public meeting, I thought</p> <p>25 it would be useful to put the most emphasis on that part</p>	
<p>1 effect would play out. And so, you know, I think this</p> <p>2 is going to be -- all of this data we're making</p> <p>3 available to mix and match from between drafts and</p> <p>4 finals will make for some lively, hopefully realtime</p> <p>5 discussion.</p> <p>6 MR. SINTETOS: Yeah. That's a great point. I</p> <p>7 mean, with this range of alternatives we basically are</p> <p>8 going to be putting out five ways that we can balance</p> <p>9 renewable energy with conservation and other uses. The</p> <p>10 preferred is the way we think balances those uses the</p> <p>11 best, but they're all viable options, and we want input</p> <p>12 on whether what we think is the best is what you think</p> <p>13 is the best. If not, which one is, or some combination?</p> <p>14 MEMBER REILLY: I have one more related</p> <p>15 question, which is in talking about the GCP and the BLM</p> <p>16 Land Use Plan Amendment, I'm wondering if there is a</p> <p>17 flowchart that can explain visually potentially, or even</p> <p>18 simply in words, how all of these things connect.</p> <p>19 MR. SINTETOS: That's also a good question,</p> <p>20 and -- I mean, for the GCP and, you know, Habitat</p> <p>21 Conservation Plans that come on down the road.</p> <p>22 Section 10 in the Endangered Species Act is private</p> <p>23 lands, so, you know, we can distinguish between those.</p> <p>24 But I think that the NCCP and the BLM land use plan and</p> <p>25 the GCP, you know, how those all kind of stem from each</p>	Page 103	<p>1 of the plan. So apologies for creating that perception.</p> <p>2 MR. STRITTHOLT (via telephone): This is Jim.</p> <p>3 I'll be talking quite a bit about that during my</p> <p>4 presentation, so stay tuned.</p> <p>5 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. The relationship between</p> <p>6 the General Conservation Plan and the tiered-down</p> <p>7 Habitat Conservation Plan, can you sort of drag that</p> <p>8 past me again? I think I was dozing or something,</p> <p>9 because I missed that.</p> <p>10 MR. SINTETOS: So again I'm not the best person</p> <p>11 to explain this because, you know, it's Fish and</p> <p>12 Wildlife Service's planning effort, or that's Fish and</p> <p>13 Wildlife Service's plan. But it's my understanding that</p> <p>14 General Conservation Plan is essentially an umbrella</p> <p>15 Habitat Conservation Plan, so it creates a framework for</p> <p>16 future -- it's more kind of area-specific Habitat</p> <p>17 Conservation Plan to build off of. Unfortunately I</p> <p>18 can't get into more detail than that because I would be</p> <p>19 afraid of saying something incorrect.</p> <p>20 MEMBER MUTH: So when the DRECP is adopted,</p> <p>21 that's just the beginning? The individual projects will</p> <p>22 need Habitat Conservation Plans?</p> <p>23 MR. SINTETOS: If Terry can speak to this any</p> <p>24 more, I'd defer to her. But my understanding is that</p> <p>25 individual applicants wouldn't each be applying for</p>	Page 105

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1 Habitat Conservation Plans. But I really don't want to  
2 speculate because again Fish and Wildlife Service is an  
3 expert on GCP's and HCP's, and what I'm taking from this  
4 is, it would be useful to have this more clearly spelled  
5 out, so that's something we can work on.

6 MEMBER MUTH: There is a plan out there  
7 already. It's the Coachella Valley Multiple Species  
8 Habitat Conservation Plan, so all of this has been  
9 addressed before on a smaller scale, to be sure, but  
10 you're not creating this de novo.

11 MR. SINTETOS: Right. And I know that we've  
12 taken a close look at that Coachella Valley Plan, so I  
13 know that we haven't ignored what's come before.

14 MS. WATT: So I'll just say this: the decision  
15 to label the Federal Conservation Plan GCP is something  
16 that I think more is a very good discussion in a  
17 frequently asked questions, Mike. I think you know that  
18 for some period of the planning process we had referred  
19 that element of the plan as an HCP. The modification to  
20 GCP tended to suggest there is some work to be done for  
21 projects, but I'm making a note because I think that  
22 this is a really important question for the frequently  
23 asked questions to dive into. So thank you for the  
24 question.

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Good. Kim? Kim Campbell.

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1 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: I think my first question  
2 is, in the mapping will you be providing benchmarks so  
3 that the public can identify, so they can recognize what  
4 they're seeing in the maps; for instance, a road name, a  
5 route number? If the public can't recognize the  
6 specific area they're looking at on a map, it's going to  
7 be very difficult for them to understand what you're  
8 doing in that area. And I think that was a major  
9 frustration during the WEMO plan in the maps and scale  
10 change. And the mapping is going to be critical for  
11 people to understand them. And I'd like to know how  
12 you're handling it.

13 MS. WATT: This is a great question for a demo  
14 of the Gateway. Jim, do you want to just speak briefly  
15 to what we can show you this afternoon.

16 MR. STRITTHOLT: The best thing I can do is to  
17 show you the system this afternoon, and you'll get the  
18 whole flow of how it's rolling out. And you're going to  
19 have access to data that you've never had access to  
20 before in a way that you've never had available.

21 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: Okay. And then my next  
22 question is, will you be providing a cumulative impacts  
23 analysis on everything -- including recreation,  
24 motorized, non-motorized, rockhounding, rocks, minerals  
25 and mineral development? Minerals don't move. They're

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1 fixed where they are where God put them, and whether  
2 they end up in the middle of a solar plant or whether  
3 they end up in a conservation area that we are not  
4 allowed to collect in or access in a vehicle, in a  
5 motorized vehicle, we may lose our ability to collect  
6 them.

7 And I believe that there is so much loss to  
8 date, I think it's necessary that a cumulative impact  
9 analysis be provided for those also, and I'd like to  
10 know if you will be.

11 MR. SINTETOS: That's also a great question and  
12 comment. I'm not going to speak to any particular  
13 section. But just in general, you know, we're analyzing  
14 the direct and indirect and cumulative impacts to all of  
15 these disciplines, and that includes the impacts from  
16 renewable energy development and also the impacts of our  
17 Land Use Plan Amendment, if that makes sense. So what  
18 are the impacts of us designating particular areas as a  
19 particular designation?

20 So sorry I can't get more specific right now,  
21 but there will be a robust cumulative-effects analysis  
22 in the document.

23 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: AI, question?

25 MEMBER MUTH: Changing topic, are we going to

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1 get a second go-around here?

2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: What we'd like to do is for  
3 opinions. Comments will be another round, and I'd ask  
4 that we even go through the questions at some point.  
5 And we've still got plenty of time.

6 I have a question, if I may. Does the plan  
7 specify a target goal for the amount of megawatts that  
8 the plan hopes to achieve from the desert?

9 MR. SINTETOS: Yes. Twenty thousand megawatts.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is that number up for  
11 discussion, revision and comment through the process,  
12 through the draft process?

13 MS. WATT: So, Mike, let me parse words for a  
14 minute. "Hope to" is an interesting choice of words.  
15 So this is a plan, and the megawatts are an up-to  
16 amount. This plan is going to be a really interesting  
17 one to ride along with once approved, because I know  
18 adaptability is a term applied to biological function,  
19 but we're looking for a different term for the energy  
20 function of this plan, "flexibility." Because  
21 technology is changing, the mix is always in play  
22 between utility scale and distributed.

23 That's why we picked an up-to amount that we  
24 felt was commensurate with the potential need for  
25 utilities in the desert. But it is an up-to amount. It

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 is a planned amount. We can't predict at this point how  2 much of that amount will actually be subscribed over the  3 duration of the plan to 2040.  4       And so I want to just focus in on your word  5 "hope." I don't think "hope" is quite the right word.  6 You know, it's a planned up-to amount that allows us to  7 tap the amount of energy that could occur under the plan  8 for planning purposes and analysis purposes. Is that  9 helpful, Mike?  10       MR. SINTETOS: Yeah, that's a good  11 clarification. I tried to make that point in the  12 clarification that the 20,000 megawatts. You know, the  13 plan isn't saying we're going to have 20,000 megawatts  14 in the desert; it's saying that if because of outside  15 policy drivers, there is demand for that much  16 development, this plan would be able to accommodate  17 that.  18       To answer your question, Randy, you know, the  19 Energy Commission developed this calculator that came up  20 with that number, and, you know, all the assumptions in  21 terms of, you know, how much are we expecting we'll get  22 from distributed generation, from large-scale generation  23 in other parts of the state, things like that. And  24 then, you know, scaling out to 2040, we could see this  25 much development in the desert by 2040 to meet the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1       And so I think it's a very important point that  2 you're going to hear from the public I would estimate  3 thousands of times when this draft comes out. And in  4 trying to prepare and somewhat answer your questions up  5 on the slide projector here, I really feel the agencies  6 and the REAT teams, Renewable Energy Action Teams --  7 sorry -- need to do a better job at talking about that,  8 because you are going to hear, why 20,000 megawatts?  9 Where is rooftop solar in this, et cetera, et cetera.  10 What are we doing with geothermal? Why is that not  11 catching up, et cetera?  12       So I think in all the presentations I've heard  13 about DRECP, you guys do a very good job, and I  14 understand there are so many different roles that each  15 person is trying to fill. And I don't mean to be too  16 harsh with my criticism, but from a public standpoint  17 and the public being able to understand this massive  18 planning document, I really think it's critical that  19 these other components are part of the presentation  20 because they will come up in questions. And I can't  21 stress that enough.  22       And so in terms of, you know, looking at this  23 plan and its requirements, you know, you just made a  24 comment about setting policy. And by having the  25 constraints of the DRECP as they exist today, the REAT</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 state's goals. So that will all be in the document. I  2 believe it's in an appendix, so you'll be able to review  3 that as well.  4       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Follow-up  5 question, April?  6       MEMBER SALL: Yes. Thank you. April Sall. I  7 was going to save this comment for later, but since we  8 just opened this up about the 20,000 megawatts, I guess  9 part of what I wanted to give feedback back to BLM and  10 to the agencies on this point is that, you know, I have  11 mixed feelings about the DRECP and its value, and this  12 is one of the reasons. It is based on the assumptions  13 that basically frame the plan.  14       And, you know, the devil is in the details, but  15 in this case it's also in the assumptions and the  16 high-level constraints that were put on this planning  17 process. And, you know, you make the comment that this  18 is not being done in a vacuum. But in terms of  19 renewable energy throughout the state, it is being done  20 in a vacuum because outside goals and accomplishments,  21 if you will, and development in renewable energy  22 throughout the state is not being continually reassessed  23 and reapplied to the DRECP, thus changing the pressure  24 and the requirements for the desert and the DRECP  25 planning boundary to absorb up to 20,000 megawatts.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 team is essentially setting policy to make utility-scale  2 renewable energy development in the desert the model for  3 meeting the state's 33-percent goal, and I think the  4 public takes issue with that. I take issue with that  5 very clearly, but I think it's something that we need to  6 continue to be able to address throughout this process.  7       And certainly as the public meetings and the  8 draft is released, there needs to be more information  9 provided about that because in the meetings -- and I'm  10 on the DRECP stakeholder group, for anyone that doesn't  11 know. But the public asks these questions in meetings,  12 and they are frequently told, "That's not part of what  13 we're talking about today," or, "That's not part of the  14 DRECP plan." And I think that's very inappropriate,  15 when this is a statewide goal. It should be statewide  16 analysis.  17       And I'm going to give Lorelei some kudos here.  18 As other counties -- for example, like Kern County --  19 have very aggressive renewable energy targets and goals  20 that they are meeting, that calculation needs to be  21 current and updated with the DRECP in reference to this  22 20,000 megawatt goal.  23       So I just want wanted to dive into that a  24 little bit because I think it's really important for the  25 public to hear that discussion.</p>

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1 MR. SINTETOS: That's really good feedback.  
 2 Thanks for that.  
 3 MS. WATT: For the benefit of listening, what  
 4 I've found that I'm listening really carefully to words.  
 5 So I have a question for you, April, and a request. So  
 6 one of the things you sort of suggested is that that  
 7 analysis be statewide. And of course I'm going to parse  
 8 that a bit because the analysis for the environmental  
 9 and other impacts is obviously going to be the desert  
 10 area, the geography. But I think you make a really  
 11 important point, is that there needs to be information  
 12 about the current sort of state's renewable energy need.  
 13 We have the RPS, the 33 percent you've all  
 14 heard. We've essentially met that. So what is the next  
 15 goal we're trying to meet with the plan? I think that  
 16 needs to be articulated. And I think you make a really  
 17 good point about where are we in sort of renewable  
 18 energy around the state and other energy towards the  
 19 state's need, the state's goal for renewable or emerging  
 20 potentially updated goals, which we could see out of the  
 21 state at any point in time, and break that all out.  
 22 And, April, I'd be really interested if you're  
 23 willing to take the time for an off-line with Mike and  
 24 me to sort of list the kinds of questions you're  
 25 interested in. Karen, Commissioner Douglas, we've had

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1 these conversations. We've had them recently about the  
 2 goal, if you will, of up-to amounts of this plan, and I  
 3 think this would be a really important frequently asked  
 4 question and contextual piece we need to issue along  
 5 with the plan.  
 6 MEMBER SALL: Thank you, Terry, and I would be  
 7 happy to do that.  
 8 MS. WATT: Great.  
 9 MEMBER SALL: Just to dive into the weeds very  
 10 quickly, just for your sake, I have had this  
 11 conversation with Karen Douglas's office and with  
 12 several other members. In this discussion one of the  
 13 things that came back is that the reporting process for  
 14 utilities and for the CEC, California Energy Commission,  
 15 on where we're at with renewable energy is two to four  
 16 years behind basically, and so I will just ask you to  
 17 look into that before we have our conversation so that  
 18 that is not one of the reasons, if you will, that we  
 19 can't move forward on this. Thank you.  
 20 MS. WATT: I'll do you one better. I'll look  
 21 into that, and I'll also see what, April and folks in  
 22 the room, we have developed as public information on  
 23 this. But I think it's a really important question. As  
 24 you look at the state's major infrastructure priorities  
 25 related to water and energy, I think it's really

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1 important to provide what contacts we have, even though  
 2 we know there are gaps in information. There are gaps  
 3 in information. There are definitely gaps in  
 4 information. There's gaps in groundwater information.  
 5 There are probably gaps in what we know about what local  
 6 governments are producing on the renewable end,  
 7 especially rooftops. But I know a focus of the  
 8 governor's office and the Office of Planning and  
 9 Research is to try to go find the best ways to assemble  
 10 this information.  
 11 So let's find out what we know, how we know it  
 12 and what we don't know and what that means for this and  
 13 other planning efforts we're all engaged in together.  
 14 So let me find out some things, April, and I'll send you  
 15 an e-mail.  
 16 MEMBER SALL: Thank you.  
 17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. You know, we're  
 18 about to make a 45-minute run from the DAC, and so I'd  
 19 like to ask, Diane, are you okay for a 45-minute flurry,  
 20 or would you like to take five?  
 21 THE REPORTER: What does the flurry entail?  
 22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Our talking for 45 minutes  
 23 straight.  
 24 THE REPORTER: That is okay.  
 25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We're going to thank our

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1 presenters and take over and answer the questions that  
 2 are on the screen and provide all the input that we can  
 3 relative to public participation in the DRECP.  
 4 So do you have a comment, Al, or do you want to  
 5 start? Either way.  
 6 MEMBER MUTH: Before we get off of this and  
 7 before Mike sits down -- and I know what Gerry Hillier  
 8 is going to say, I think, when he comments. On the  
 9 slide "Land Use Plan Amendments, Conservation Management  
 10 Actions, Avoidance, Minimization and Compensation  
 11 Requirements for Various Resources," the counties are  
 12 adamantly opposed to removal of any more private land  
 13 from the tax base and inclusion in as compensation for  
 14 projects under this plan. Does the DRECP address that  
 15 issue?  
 16 MR. SINTETOS: I thought I was off the hook.  
 17 Here I am again. So I would think about compensation as  
 18 not just acquisition of land but as acquisition or  
 19 restoration or enhancement. So when we say  
 20 "compensation," that doesn't necessarily mean buying  
 21 more private land. It could easily mean restoration of  
 22 public land.  
 23 MEMBER MUTH: I assume you're aware that, when  
 24 you start talking about restoration in the desert,  
 25 that's another whole bag of worms?

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1 MR. SINTETOS: Absolutely.

2 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. End of comment.

3 MR. SINTETOS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: As I look at the four

5 questions on the last slide, I'd like isolate the fourth

6 question for a specific roundtable. We'll go around on

7 No. 4, which is the "DAC Recommendations for Meeting

8 Locations," and we'll stay right on that topic and toss

9 some out. The other three questions, I believe, have

10 interrelationships that might be hard for us to separate

11 if we just go question by question. Therefore I think

12 what would be best is if we again go around the table

13 expressing our opinions and comments on public

14 participation in the DRECP vis-a-vis Questions 1, 2 and

15 3 that are before us.

16 And may I just frame it in this way, if I'm not

17 oversimplifying it, but the public may be faced with a

18 document in excess of a thousand pages. There may be

19 several dozen data layers on maps, and there's a

20 computer modeling process involved. How do we get

21 substantive, meaningful public participation in that

22 process?

23 So with that, which side of the table would you

24 like to start?

25 MEMBER MUTH: Start with her.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: All right. We'll start

2 with Kim and work our way around. Kim, the floor is

3 yours.

4 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I think for this

5 particular issue it's going to be very important to go

6 beyond the typical workshop meetings that have been held

7 for other matters and to have public hearings. Perhaps

8 there needs to be a combination of workshops and public

9 hearings, and I believe it will be necessary to have

10 more than one public hearing and in different locations,

11 I think, to have at least one in areas that are heavily

12 populated for people who live in heavily populated areas

13 who travel to the desert and then also perhaps in

14 Barstow. I'm not certain what the best location would

15 be, but I think Barstow is probably a good location

16 closer to the land that the people will be using that

17 will be affected. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. AI?

19 MEMBER MUTH: Item 3, what recommendations do

20 we have to improve public understanding of the draft

21 DRECP? For heaven's sake, have people talk about the

22 plan in plain language. Forget about the bureaucratic

23 distinctions that are made, and quit parsing your words,

24 and just tell people what the intent of the plan is and

25 how you intend to go about it. Cut out the acronym

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1 soup, and just talk to people.

2 Now, having said that, I can tell you that

3 being a veteran of a couple of Habitat Conservation

4 Plans, it doesn't matter what you do to publicize it, it

5 doesn't matter how many public hearings you're going to

6 have, there are still going to be a large percentage of

7 the people that say, "I've never heard of this before.

8 Where did they come from?" long after the fact, long

9 after the train is gone. So that's my recommendation on

10 how you get people to understand it.

11 And then as far as locations go, as Kim has

12 pointed out, the constituency of users for the desert

13 comes from all over Southern and parts of Northern

14 California. So locations for hearings should at a

15 minimum include Palm Springs, someplace in

16 Orange County, San Diego, perhaps Ridgecrest and

17 El Centro. Now, you need a broad range of venues to

18 capture the audience you're really trying to communicate

19 with. So that's my say.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Jessica.

21 MEMBER REILLY: I think my earlier comments

22 really strongly related to this, and so I won't repeat

23 those. I do have a couple of more questions, though, in

24 that it was mentioned before but not specifically

25 addressed as to what exists for social media as far as

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1 disseminating this information and then to just

2 encourage the BLM to think creatively about how to reach

3 those people who already know what this is and reach

4 those people who don't.

5 And so in that way I don't know what resources

6 the BLM has for building effective visual explanations

7 of what happens with the DRECP and, if the BLM doesn't

8 have the manpower or the resources to do that, if

9 there's been any sort of reach-out to other communities

10 like the tech community, the motion picture community,

11 just creatively reaching outside of the bounds to see

12 how this can be effectively communicated, especially

13 because, as the chair mentioned, this is a long,

14 potentially very opaque document with quite a few

15 acronyms, and quite honestly a lot of people just don't

16 have the time to get through that.

17 So it would be great to be able to distill it

18 down in advance, which brings me to my final point,

19 which is that I think in a lot of ways it's really

20 fantastic to hear the BLM wanting to be proactive as

21 opposed to reactive with this document. And I would

22 encourage the BLM to carry that through also in the

23 water management side of it, as we addressed earlier.

24 Instead of thinking about monitoring water usage and

25 then reaching a threshold and then reacting, I think it

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1 would be great to carry forward this proactive momentum  
 2 in the DRECP for both outreach and then for the  
 3 implementation. Thank you.  
 4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Jess. Seth.  
 5 MEMBER SHTEIR: I've got a couple of just  
 6 really practical things and then some, I guess,  
 7 bigger-ticket items. But one is a combination of  
 8 weekend and evening meetings and meetings dispersed  
 9 throughout the California desert and really ample  
 10 publication and notification of those meetings so that  
 11 the public can attend.  
 12 Moving forward, I think that there has to be  
 13 more clarity as to what types of recreation activities  
 14 will be allowed in National Conservation Lands, will be  
 15 allowed in the other various designations, and I think  
 16 that has to be laid out very clearly. I have yet to  
 17 hear a coherent, cogent answer to that. And I think the  
 18 determination as to whether the public supports this  
 19 will depend on their understanding that they will have  
 20 access in certain types of activities and certain  
 21 values, so I think that's very important.  
 22 The last thing I wanted to bring up was the  
 23 issue of water again. And not to beat a horse to death,  
 24 but I think there's a certain concern I have about a  
 25 disconnect between the programmatic DRECP plan and the

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1 permitting of individual applications, even within the  
 2 DFA's, and it basically is this: that what appears to  
 3 me has occurred in the Chuckwalla Valley is that you  
 4 have a significant amount of water allocation and  
 5 projects moving forward, and, for example, you have  
 6 Eagle Crest Pumped Storage, which is going to pull 1800  
 7 acre feet, you know, just in evaporative losses. Then  
 8 you've got Desert Sunlight, Desert Harvest, all these  
 9 things.  
 10 And I applaud the BLM and other agencies'  
 11 effort in trying to get a better understanding of what  
 12 the hydrologic properties of that basin are, and yet a  
 13 lot of activity has moved forward. And so my comment, I  
 14 guess, is that it would be good to have a real  
 15 understanding of the properties of hydrologic basins  
 16 throughout the California desert's water budget,  
 17 available water and how these things will impact us  
 18 rather than just move forward in a piecemeal fashion.  
 19 And so that's a comment I'm very concerned about. Thank  
 20 you.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Seth. Paul?  
 22 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Thank you. What I would say  
 23 is, I think identification of stakeholders is real  
 24 important, and I think that could pretty easily come  
 25 about by looking at all applicants who have applied for

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1 permits in the last --  
 2 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Can you use the  
 3 microphone, please.  
 4 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Sorry. What I was saying is,  
 5 I think it's important to identify the stakeholders in  
 6 this, and I think that would be pretty easily come by by  
 7 looking at people who have applied for permits on these  
 8 lands over the last five to ten years. I think that's  
 9 pretty much everyone who has an interest in the desert.  
 10 So these would be people who have permits or have  
 11 applications in the process, and I think that's real  
 12 important, and I think that information could come about  
 13 pretty easily.  
 14 I also think these meetings should take place  
 15 in population centers. Granted, the desert is where we  
 16 all end up, but very few people actually live in the  
 17 desert relative to people who come out here. Most  
 18 people commute from San Diego, Orange County, L.A., and  
 19 these meetings aren't always easy to get to. So I think  
 20 we have to bring the meetings to these people.  
 21 As far as getting the message out to these  
 22 people, I think it needs to be broken down both  
 23 geographically based upon location. For example, the  
 24 people down in El Centro are very interested in the  
 25 Glamis Dunes, and so the off-road people would be very

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1 important down there. But I also think it should be  
 2 based upon topic areas, such as biology, geology, and I  
 3 think people on the DAC probably have questions  
 4 connections to each of those groups, and I think we  
 5 should look at those relationships to get that  
 6 information out.  
 7 Lastly, as far as getting the information out,  
 8 radio, public radio as well as, as I mentioned earlier,  
 9 public bills, the bills of applicants. A lot of these  
 10 are renewable energy or large utility companies that  
 11 send out bills every month. I think that, if we don't  
 12 have the ability, we can ask them, if not require them  
 13 by a permitting process, to allow us to provide  
 14 literature in their bills. That's it.  
 15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks, Paul. We'll just  
 16 keep rolling around the table, if that's okay. I'll let  
 17 our guests on the phone know that we have four  
 18 commenters left. I'll take the next stab, being next in  
 19 the seat. I have a few notes.  
 20 First of all, I think it would be -- the DRECP  
 21 has already involved and put together a stakeholder  
 22 committee that was important in the early phase of the  
 23 DRECP development. I think that the agency should  
 24 return to that stakeholder group for the benefit of  
 25 achieving outreach through each of those stakeholder

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<p>1 groups to ensure that the members of those stakeholder 2 communities get the word, if not directly from the 3 agencies, but at least from their stakeholder 4 representatives.</p> <p>5 Another issue is that of the executive summary. 6 I'm concerned that we're going to potentially need an 7 executive summary for the executive summary. We do need 8 something that the public can digest in a relative short 9 amount of time to whet their appetite, stimulate their 10 curiosity and make them want to dig deeper into the 11 documents.</p> <p>12 The no-action alternative in my experience is 13 rarely the outcome of a planning process. But in this 14 case the no-action alternative needs to be discussed in 15 a great, great amount of detail because the question of 16 "Why DRECP"? I believe, has a lot to do with -- or the 17 answer to that is, do you like how it's being done now? 18 I believe on a project-by-project basis that has gone on 19 in the past few years for project permitting, I think 20 the ability of the public to influence the outcome of 21 those projects has not been good. I don't think we've 22 seen good results from that. And as a person who's been 23 interested in more than one project at a time, I'm just 24 overwhelmed at having to participate in multiple 25 processes across a wide geographic area.</p>		<p>1 and forgive me if I'm oversimplifying again, but if it 2 is people's desire to protect the places with the 3 highest biological values and to build in the places 4 with the lowest biological values -- for example, 5 previously disturbed land -- where is that previously 6 disturbed land? It's adjacent to those desert 7 communities. That's where that disturbed land is.</p> <p>8 And the communities are hearing this now, and 9 they're seeing it, and I don't think the desert 10 communities want to bear the brunt of having all the 11 projects in their backyards. So this issue of trying to 12 focus development on previously disturbed land, it needs 13 to have the input of those communities. Your Lucerne 14 Valleys, your Yucca Valleys, your Ridgecrests, they need 15 to participate, and so local press is a good way to 16 reach out to those communities.</p> <p>17 And I just wanted to second Jessica's comments 18 on the social media. I don't know what plans the DRECP 19 has for specific social media accounts and platforms, 20 but I think it should look at that vigorously and try to 21 spread across as many of the popular platforms that we 22 have today.</p> <p>23 And as for locations, a lot of great locations 24 have already been suggested, but I would like to see 25 something in the neighborhood of Lucerne Valley for a</p>	
<p>1 One of the things I like a lot about DRECP is, 2 we're having this big discussion now about the big 3 picture rather than just nibbling at the edges, which 4 seems to be what the project-by-project method has left 5 us with. So the no-action alternative, I think, needs 6 to be discussed not just as, well, if you hate the plan, 7 you can always say the no-action alternative. I think 8 we really need to describe why the no-action is an 9 alternative or having not taken an action has really 10 gotten us to where we are today, especially in regard to 11 trying to get public participation.</p> <p>12 Is it possible also maybe to involve field 13 trips in a public process? As DAC members we benefit 14 greatly from field trips, and I think early on in the 15 DRECP planning process there were field trips around 16 different places in the desert that were well attended 17 and attended by a great number of community members who 18 didn't go to the stakeholder meetings. So I'd like to 19 consider if there are field trips possible.</p> <p>20 I think it's important to engage the community 21 press. It's not just enough to advertise in L.A. Times, 22 but we've got to reach out to things like the 23 Press Enterprise or the Daily Independent and some of 24 the smaller community news. I think it's important to 25 engage because one of the realities I see of DRECP --</p>	Page 127	<p>1 meeting location and also in the Ridgecrest area. I 2 think, too, that Owens Valley is going to want to weigh 3 in again. There was a wonderful workshop in 4 Independence, but that got people interested, and I 5 think they're listening, and I think they're going to 6 want to have an opportunity to participate. The fingers 7 of the DRECP reach right up into the Owens Valley.</p> <p>8 I think I touched on all my points, and I'm 9 sorry they're rather disjointed. One from Column A, two 10 from Column B. Thank you. April?</p> <p>11 MEMBER SALL: Thank you. First off I'd like to 12 pretty much second all the comments I've already heard, 13 with the exception of in regards to meeting locations, I 14 think it needs to be a combination of populated areas 15 and desert locations, because obviously the folks that 16 live in the desert live in the desert for a reason and 17 are certainly desert users, so I would want to see a 18 combination of meetings in population centers and in 19 desert locations.</p> <p>20 To date most of the DRECP meetings have been in 21 Ontario or Sacramento, so I do feel the desert 22 communities are behind, if you will, in getting meetings 23 and getting an understanding of this document and this 24 planning process.</p> <p>25 A couple of specific recommendations for public</p>	Page 129

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1 process. And Terry, you've heard me say this before --  
2 both Terry's, actually. I still believe there needs to  
3 be a couple of meetings or a series of meetings pre  
4 draft release to try and cover what the draft is and  
5 when it's coming and why it's important that people pay  
6 attention to the release of the draft, if you will,  
7 because again in terms of number of participants and  
8 number of people that show up to the meetings, I think  
9 that's part of the problem is that so many users and  
10 residents still don't know this is happening.  
11 And getting to some more specifics on that, one  
12 suggestion that I'd like to propose is posting DRECP  
13 meeting notices and a summary of what the DRECP is with  
14 the website posted at all BLM user and info kiosks  
15 throughout the desert, campgrounds, trailheads,  
16 et cetera, because that's where the users are in a lot  
17 of places obviously, and to potentially consider making  
18 a video about what the DRECP is and using that in not  
19 only social media but on the website, because part of  
20 the challenge with the website is that in order to get  
21 an understanding of the DRECP, you often have to click  
22 on multiple different documents, and you don't  
23 necessarily don't know which documents you need to click  
24 on to figure that out if you're brand new to this  
25 discussion. And so maybe a sort of DRECP 101 five- or

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1 ten-minute video or two- or three-minute video or  
2 whatever the attention span will allow would be  
3 appropriate and useful going forward.  
4 Also in terms of -- I want to reiterate Kim's  
5 point about having hearings as well as public workshops  
6 because this has been a highly contentious item, and the  
7 public wants to make sure that there is an opportunity  
8 to have their comments recorded face to face in a public  
9 meeting. So I think those meetings need to occur and  
10 that it needs to be advertised appropriately that public  
11 comment will or will not be accepted and/or recorded.  
12 I think it's going to be important, in addition  
13 to having the summary and sort of comparisons of the  
14 alternatives that Mike and others have recognized that  
15 they're trying to prepare, that there be a glossary in  
16 the draft of all acronyms, the whole acronym soup.  
17 And I think, I guess, lastly one of the things  
18 I would like to address, in terms of public comment, I  
19 feel like the counties have also had a lack of  
20 engagement in this process and in my opinion not enough  
21 public engagement from the REAT agencies. And the  
22 counties have for many years now made very specific  
23 comments about their concerns, and AI outlined one of  
24 them, and many of these are not surprises. And it will  
25 be, I think, a great disservice if the draft document

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1 does not answer and address a lot of those comments.  
2 So I don't see how this document can go forward  
3 with public support, which also means county support,  
4 unless we are able to answer those questions. So that's  
5 just food for thought for the draft.  
6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don.  
7 MEMBER HOUSTON: This is Don Houston. One of  
8 the consequences of coming near the end of a roundtable  
9 is that there's not much left to say. So I think in  
10 terms of encouraging public participation, I think  
11 really Mike said it best, is that this plan will affect  
12 everyone who lives in and uses the desert. We're  
13 dividing up a 22-million-acre pie, and if it's going to  
14 be done in an equitable and balanced fashion, we need to  
15 hear from both the occupants and the users of the  
16 desert. And since most of the users, a majority of the  
17 users, live outside of the desert and commute to the  
18 desert, I agree with both Paul and April that at least  
19 some of the meetings should be in the urban centers.  
20 I have a little more. Okay. Just one more  
21 thing. And I'm sure we'll address this later on in the  
22 meeting, but I would hope that the DAC would feel the  
23 need to form a subcommittee to develop comments on the  
24 draft EIR/EIS and ahead of the actual availability. So  
25 we need an action plan because we only have 90 days to

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1 make comments. So, you know, I would hope we would see  
2 the need to do that.  
3 And to get into specifics -- and this may sound  
4 a little presumptuous, but one of the things the  
5 subcommittee could do is make recommendations to the BLM  
6 as to the language that will be in the Notice of  
7 Availability, so I hope you would have that opportunity  
8 as well. So that's it for me.  
9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Don. Dinah.  
10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Another consequence of being  
11 the last one in a roundtable is, I've got to follow  
12 everybody, including Don. I have to emphasize that I  
13 agree with everything everybody said, but I, especially  
14 speaking as someone who has severe reservations about  
15 the value of the DRECP, I will go forward anyway,  
16 especially for how we can communicate the message, get  
17 the message out, especially for the potential workshops,  
18 opportunities for testimony, opportunities for review  
19 besides the ones that have already been mentioned,  
20 especially the local newspapers.  
21 In the desert there are -- I don't know --  
22 maybe ten or 20 local newspapers. And when an article  
23 runs in those things, like Lucerne Valley, for example,  
24 that was the best attended WEMO workshop because it was  
25 in the local paper. So a lot of people showed up, not

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1 only people from Lucerne Valley and Barstow and  
2 Victorville but people from down below, people from  
3 Lancaster, people from Yucca Valley and Morongo Valley.  
4 So that was well attended partly because it made the  
5 local paper, so that's an important thing for the DRECP  
6 to get the message out, is to make sure the local papers  
7 are aware of it and possibly in the press release the  
8 impacts to the locals of this report.

9 Another reason we need to have these messages  
10 is because as rule people -- a lot of people are rule  
11 people -- you never hear the term "environmental  
12 justice." "Environmental justice" is a real big term in  
13 urban areas, but as Randy pointed out, these projects  
14 are going to be located in the backyards of rural  
15 communities. So where is the environmental justice  
16 considerations here? So they should be allowed to  
17 speak.

18 Another way to distribute -- oh, I'm sorry.  
19 I'm back on two now. Another way to distribute  
20 information is also through professional societies. I'm  
21 a member of about six professional societies that  
22 include land use, mineral resources, engineering. So  
23 DRECP people or people who are knowledgeable might be  
24 willing to respond to invitations to come and speak to  
25 like the Inland Geological Society or associate

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1 engineering geologists, things like this, people who  
2 deal with land use and land use mechanisms.

3 And I cannot emphasize enough Jessica's  
4 recommendation for a flowchart of not only the acronym  
5 glossary but a flowchart of the acronyms, you know,  
6 NAACP, NCCP -- what are the other ones? -- GCP, FCP. I  
7 can't keep them straight. So it would be nice to have a  
8 picture and also especially for the DRECP people, the  
9 recommendation to have a table or a flowchart of all of  
10 the important elements of each alternative is really a  
11 big comparison tool, so I think we really need to  
12 emphasize that. So I haven't said anything original,  
13 but I'm done.

14 MEMBER REILLY: May I add something quick to  
15 that?

16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You bet. In fact I'm going  
17 to go back around for one more nibble at the buffet from  
18 April, Seth and Jess.

19 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I'm full.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Oh, we have ten minutes  
21 before we break and conclude. So April.

22 MEMBER SALL: Great. Thank you. I just wanted  
23 to clarify a couple of things in my recommendations.  
24 And I would like to reiterate one of the things that  
25 Randy said about the value of the DRECP in terms of the

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1 no-action alternative. The project-by-project analysis  
2 has been extremely frustrating for the public and for  
3 stakeholders, and so I'm not advocating for that either.  
4 However, because of the enormous impact of these  
5 projects, that's why I made my earlier comments about  
6 the constraints of the plan and the impacts being mostly  
7 on the desert and obviously on the DRECP planning area  
8 and that the rooftop and distributed and other pieces of  
9 getting to 33 percent are extremely important in having  
10 that information available and ready during the draft.

11 A couple of quick things also in regards to  
12 some of my recommendations. I mentioned posting some of  
13 the notices at BLM kiosks, and earlier in the day I had  
14 alluded to the fact that our field offices are extremely  
15 understaffed, so I'm sure that our field office managers  
16 were panicking a little when I said that. Great  
17 opportunities, volunteers. I volunteer to be one of the  
18 people to help do that. So in terms of getting the word  
19 out about meetings, I think that's very important. And  
20 there was something else, but I forgot.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Seth?

22 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you. I just wanted to  
23 underscore April's comment about recording public  
24 comment, and I would encourage as much recording of  
25 public comment as possible for a couple of reasons. One

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1 is, really, the recording of oral public comment is an  
2 accessibility issue in my mind. The second thing is  
3 that it's in the best tradition of town hall meetings  
4 and democracy in that people come to these meetings with  
5 the expectation that their words and values are going to  
6 be transmitted to the agency.

7 Third thing is, I think that it shows respect  
8 for stakeholders who take the time to attend these  
9 meetings. And the last thing is that it allows the  
10 agency to respond under NEPA, and from a very practical  
11 standpoint, I really believe after organizing in the  
12 desert for several years that your attendance will  
13 improve if you demonstrate that you are going to record  
14 public comment. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Jess.

16 MEMBER REILLY: Thank you. I wanted to just  
17 briefly tell the story of why flowcharts were brought to  
18 my attention. I received a phone call late at night a  
19 couple of weeks ago from a professor at MIT who had been  
20 connected with me through a friend who said, "I think  
21 she knows something about Ivanpah," and he had to go on  
22 a radio show the next day, a national radio program, to  
23 talk about Ivanpah. And he's a solar expert, and he  
24 wanted to know more details about it.

25 And he said, "I'm going to be asked questions

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1 about the process. How does this approval process go  
2 through?" And we looked, and we really couldn't find  
3 anything specific, and I really wanted to help him.  
4 And I said, "You know, I feel like I should be  
5 able to help you here," but we couldn't find anything  
6 specific. There was, you know, a brief, little, line  
7 by-line, eight acronym kind of thing on the BLM website,  
8 but I couldn't find anything more.  
9 And so both creating something that's a little  
10 more interactive, a little more -- a better visual  
11 demonstration of what's happening and more accessible, I  
12 think, is something that -- people are asking about it  
13 on national radio programs, and so I think that this is  
14 a great opportunity to present this information in a way  
15 that's digestible. Thank you.  
16 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Mr. Chairman, may I comment on  
17 Jessica's comment? I will be very short.  
18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes, and then Paul has the  
19 floor.  
20 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay. I'm going to be termed  
21 out in December. And for most of you who know, about  
22 three years ago I proposed that we follow a project  
23 through the NEPA process, and it originally started with  
24 Roxie, but because of WEMO it kind of fell by the  
25 wayside. Then it was going to start with Christine, and

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1 because of WEMO and other stuff, like we have to make a  
2 living, it fell through the wayside.  
3 So I propose that that project -- and this is  
4 not a formal project -- go forward with Jessica  
5 exploring the NEPA process with various people from the  
6 district. Our proposal was to use a little project.  
7 Was this a trail project we determined, through  
8 Afton Canyon maybe? Yeah. A little project, not a huge  
9 one, but follow it from beginning to end using a NEPA  
10 process and reporting to the DAC. And eventually  
11 Jessica's report could be useful to the rest of the DAC  
12 members.  
13 I mean, people like me, here, I've been on the  
14 DAC almost six years, and I'm still not clear on how the  
15 process works, so this is a really viable question. It  
16 goes to understanding a lot of the acronyms. It goes to  
17 understanding what has priority over everything else in  
18 these issues. And I just think this would be a really  
19 valuable thing with a new person who has lots of time  
20 ahead of her to do this project. I propose that Jessica  
21 conduct this project.  
22 MEMBER REILLY: Thanks, Dinah.  
23 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Now I'm really done.  
24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Let's have Paul close out,  
25 if we can. Then we'll adjourn for lunch. Paul?

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1 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Yes. I have one quick  
2 comment. I think it's important that, whenever you  
3 undertake anything, you have some type of benchmark,  
4 some type of goal. Since we're talking about public  
5 participation, this has to come up with numbers. How  
6 many people do we want to reach? What would we consider  
7 a successful outreach project, because if we don't have  
8 this benchmarking set up in advance, we're flying blind.  
9 At the end of the process we will have no idea whether  
10 we were successful or not.  
11 If we take a moment now in advance and say,  
12 based upon past projects, we get a lot of great public  
13 participation, come in with some type of numbers maybe  
14 from regions that we would like to see, then we can  
15 evaluate how successful we are at achieving that. We  
16 may be making up numbers, but at least it's better than  
17 just flying blindly.  
18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Well, thank you  
19 for the discussion. Terry, thank you for hanging on the  
20 line for us. We're going to break shortly for lunch.  
21 We'll be taking a break beginning at noon until 1:30.  
22 Sometimes it could be a little tough to get your lunch  
23 out to your table and get your bill paid within an hour  
24 break, so we'll stick with the agenda, and we'll be back  
25 at 1:30 p.m. Does that sound good? Very good. Thank

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1 you.  
2 MS. WATT: I just want to clarify before we  
3 jump off, we're going to try to dial the Webinar  
4 connection a little before 1:30 for those who are  
5 working with Jim and me on that. And all I can say is,  
6 this was a tremendously rich discussion, and every one  
7 of you contributed something new. So thank you very  
8 much.  
9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. And you get a  
10 thumbs-up from the BLM staff with regard to an early  
11 hookup to the WebEx. Thanks.  
12 MS. WATT: Perfect.  
13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks. We're adjourned  
14 for lunch.  
15 (A lunch break was taken.)  
16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Call the  
17 meeting back to order at 1:36, and we'll begin. Before  
18 we begin our topic, Don brought up at the closing of the  
19 previous topic that the DAC create a subcommittee for  
20 DRECP. I spoke with Teri briefly about this, and Teri  
21 concurs. The chairman of the DAC with the concurrence  
22 of the designated federal official can create a  
23 subcommittee, and I'm happy to do so today. We should  
24 pick our members today. But one thing that's different  
25 about the subcommittee as opposed to a subgroup is that

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1 a subcommittee is a meeting of the DAC, and therefore  
2 all the meetings need to be conducted with a designated  
3 federal official with their concurrence, and it also  
4 needs to be noticed in the Federal Register.

5 So what I would propose is that we create the  
6 subcommittee here today, find out what members are  
7 interested in participating, and then off-line we will  
8 check our schedules and try to set the actual dates of  
9 all of our subcommittee meetings so that they can be  
10 noticed to the public in one notice. And then we'll  
11 stick to that schedule, because the time involved in  
12 getting those notices out, if we have to do it on a  
13 meeting-by-meeting basis, it's possible we may not get  
14 as much or as many meetings as we'd like to have. So  
15 we'll try to set those meetings up in advance.

16 MEMBER HOUSTON: Mr. Chairman.

17 THE COURT: Don and then Al.

18 MEMBER HOUSTON: I agree with you. However I  
19 think we can only schedule some planning meetings in  
20 advance of the release of the draft EIR. The complete  
21 schedule of the meetings is dependent on when the draft  
22 EIR is released.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yeah, that's a good point.  
24 That's a good point. Once the draft comes out, it's  
25 anticipated there will be a 90-day comment period. It's

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1 going to take two weeks to get a notice.

2 DIRECTOR RAML: If I could recommend --

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Please.

4 DIRECTOR RAML: -- maybe setting the frequency.  
5 If you were to anticipate a 90-day public comment  
6 period, the frequency in which you would like to meet as  
7 a group and just set that. It's easier for us to post  
8 on the website and tell them we're not having a meeting  
9 than it is to put out a Federal Register Notice that  
10 frequently. So part of it is, is form your  
11 subcommittee, talk about your process, propose about how  
12 often you would like to hold these public meetings, then  
13 notice it. We can easily not have a meeting, but we  
14 can't go the other way. We can cancel a scheduled  
15 meeting but can't schedule them as easily.

16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: What do you think?

17 MEMBER MUTH: Do the meetings need to take  
18 place at a venue that's handicapped accessible and all  
19 such matters? Okay.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Does that sound okay? Don,  
21 is that okay, because it was your suggestion. I just  
22 want to make sure.

23 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, I still think I'm  
24 hearing that we're going to have to set specific dates.

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes, or frequency.

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1 MEMBER HOUSTON: I'm just concerned that if the  
2 release of the draft is delayed for a long period of  
3 time, we could cancel the meetings, but we're still  
4 going to have to re-establish these. And I think the  
5 two-week timeline is not a real challenge. I think, as  
6 we get closer to the release, we'll know. Usually they  
7 know when they're going to send it to the printer, and  
8 it takes somewhere from two to four weeks actually to  
9 get it on the street once they send it to the printer.

10 But I think we do need to schedule some planning  
11 meetings so we have an action plan or a work plan in  
12 place prior to the release. So those planning meetings  
13 we can put specific dates to.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: April.

15 MEMBER SALL: Could we potentially set some  
16 planning meetings, set some dates going forward for,  
17 say, the next two to three months and then do a second  
18 public notice closer to the June timeline or so, when we  
19 anticipate at this point a release, and then we can go  
20 forward with suggestions for future meeting dates based  
21 on where we're at in couple of months? Hybridize.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Teri is nodding her head,  
23 so I think the compromise is recognized. And are there  
24 any objections? Who is interested in serving on this  
25 committee by show of hands?

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1 DIRECTOR RAML: Steve, did that sound all right  
2 to you?

3 MR. RAZO: Yes. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: To my left I have Don, I  
5 have April; to my right, I have Kim, Al, Jess, and Seth.  
6 Very good. One, two, three, four, five, six. Does that  
7 sound good? Any objections to these members being our  
8 subcommittee? Very good. Then so be it. Oh, would you  
9 care to chair this?

10 MEMBER SALL: Okay. Sure.

11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.

12 MEMBER SALL: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: So April will reach out to  
14 the subcommittee and work on dates and scheduling that  
15 date and will work on getting that to Steve so that we  
16 can have it noticed and begin work on this subcommittee.  
17 It will be the first subcommittee of the DAC really in  
18 my six years. We briefly had a subcommittee, but this  
19 is a real one. Very good.

20 Okay. Moving on, the next agenda item is a  
21 Focus Topic Briefing on the DRECP Web Tool  
22 Demonstration. You all know me as rather of a Luddite  
23 and technophobe, but I think we will all find this is  
24 going to be a tremendously important presentation and  
25 helpful, not only for DRECP, but I want some of you

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1 folks to put on your thinking caps to envision how this  
2 Gateway might help you and your stakeholders and the  
3 activities that you do with regard to data. This is a  
4 really terrific system.  
5       So with that, I'm going to introduce  
6 Jim Strittholt from the Conservation Biology Institute  
7 joining us remotely by telephone, and Terry Watt is  
8 still with us on phone. And Terry, is there anyone else  
9 there with you that we should acknowledge?  
10       MS. WATT: I don't think so.  
11       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Great. Well, we're ready  
12 to go. Jim, are you all set?  
13       MR. STRITTHOLT: I am all set.  
14       MS. WATT: Jim, I'm going to ask you to say a  
15 few words about your background today.  
16       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes, I will do that. First of  
17 all, can you all see my screen? It's been on a for a  
18 while. I want to make sure you're seeing it clearly  
19 before I jump in.  
20       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes. Thank you.  
21       MR. STRITTHOLT: Can everybody hear me okay, or  
22 do I have to speak louder?  
23       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We've got you on microphone  
24 so we can turn it up as loud as we need.  
25       MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay. Very good. So, Randy,

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1 according to the schedule I have like a half an hour to  
2 go through things, and then there's another half hour of  
3 questions. And there's a lot of material here that I  
4 need to get through, and I think it might be, if it's  
5 workable -- if it works best for the group, I will have  
6 some natural breaks in the presentation. And if folks  
7 are dying to ask a question, it might work better that  
8 way rather than trying to hold everything until the end.  
9       And the system, what I'm about to show you, it  
10 does a whole lot more than what I'm able to show you  
11 today, but this will give you a sense of what we've  
12 built and why we have built this to assist in DRECP and  
13 beyond.  
14       Before I jump into the system, which is --  
15 you're seeing the landing page for the Gateway now -- I  
16 wanted to start with four slides, and I'm going to go  
17 through them fairly quickly. So 1997 my wife and I had  
18 started the Conservation Biology Institute, and this is  
19 our landing page for our own website, and we were trying  
20 to bridge conservation, science and practice. We are a  
21 non-profit. We started with three people. We now have  
22 30 people. And these 30 people are extremely busy.  
23 You're welcome to go to our website at consbio.org and  
24 explore more. We have lots of our publications and  
25 other material that you can review.

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1       My background is, I have a number of degrees.  
2 I used to be a -- I was a naturalist originally. Then I  
3 was a high school science teacher and then went on to  
4 get a master's of population genetics and a Ph.D. in  
5 planning. So what I'm going to show you is actually a  
6 culmination. I'm going to talk very briefly about  
7 what's our role in the DRECP.  
8       Before I jump off of this slide, if you are  
9 interested further in what I show you today, if you go  
10 to our website, you'll see down in the margin down here  
11 on "Webinars," we record all of our Webinars. They're  
12 all free. We have them every other week, and we  
13 alternate how to use our Data Basin system and alternate  
14 it by some topic.  
15       And the last topic that you can see here was  
16 decision support modeling, and we explain how that's  
17 done in more detail for folks. So you can go to our  
18 website, find the schedule. And in there you can also  
19 sign up for a live one, as I mentioned. So we will be  
20 doing DRECP-specific Webinars. We've done two thus far.  
21 We are scheduled to do many more, some of which are very  
22 general, some of which are very focused and topical.  
23 The next one on the agenda, I believe, is going to be,  
24 how do you do species distribution modeling, and how do  
25 you interpret them accurately? So what are they used

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1 for, and maybe more importantly what they shouldn't be  
2 used for.  
3       So what we were brought on to do after the --  
4 it was mentioned earlier about the science review panel  
5 and a lot of the criticisms that were levied against the  
6 current status of the planning process. And we were  
7 brought on to do two things. We were brought on to add  
8 scientific rigor underneath it and improve the actual  
9 core foundation, some of it on which the plan is built,  
10 not all of it but some of it. The weakest parts we were  
11 asked to leave off, so we've done that. However my  
12 group is not responsible for the plan. We are not the  
13 generators of the plan.  
14       We were also asked to -- okay. The plan is  
15 going to hit the street in some form, and how do we  
16 carry it forward into the future? The realization is  
17 coming where there is no such thing as a plan that's  
18 cast in granite, and it's worked on forever. These  
19 planning processes are just that they're processes, and  
20 we learn as we go. And hopefully we have a government  
21 and operational structure that allows us to make course  
22 corrections, when we do learn from our successes and  
23 failures, we have some way to do that.  
24       So you know it as adaptive management, and I  
25 have on the screen a number of bullets that I want to

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1 emphasize because, as you'll see in a moment, the system  
2 that I'm about to show you is really trying to get after  
3 all of these major topics in some way or another. So we  
4 are trying to make this process as easily accessible to  
5 as many people as possible. A web solution is the best  
6 way to do that. That does not preclude the need to have  
7 face-to-face public meetings at various locations, and,  
8 as was discussed this morning, those are critical as  
9 well.

10 This is the supplemental piece and allows  
11 people the opportunity to really roll up their sleeves  
12 in whatever timing they're comfortable with to learn as  
13 much as possible so, when they do have an opportunity to  
14 provide guidance, review and so on, they can do it from  
15 a place of being prepared.

16 One of the major criticisms of the science  
17 panel was that in the science panel we're given the same  
18 kinds of things you have been given. Here's a whole  
19 bunch of static maps telling me everything you can tell  
20 me with incomplete information about how they're even  
21 created, and yet we're supposed to endorse that. Well,  
22 that's not very transparent, and it's not very  
23 accessible. Those are things that need to be addressed.  
24 We need to present content clearly.

25 This system I'm going to show you is trying to

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1 find ways to accommodate a wide range and very rigorous  
2 monitoring strategies from a lot of different sectors,  
3 and some of those sectors are you. It's not just the  
4 agencies or companies. It's people who have to  
5 participate in the process of monitoring the desert.

6 We wanted to make this system easy to make it  
7 shareable, and you can build collaborations, as I'll  
8 show you momentarily. It has to be really flexible. It  
9 has to allow the users to maintain their own internal  
10 security, which I'll show you some examples of today.

11 A high, high, important topic is that it has to  
12 be transparent. Whatever is analyzed, whatever final  
13 plan that comes out, people need to know how it was  
14 done, why were the decisions made that were made, what's  
15 behind the data and in the best way possible. So we'll  
16 talk a bit about transparency in the time I have today  
17 as well.

18 And finally it's going to be really helpful if  
19 we have tools of reporting functions that are easy for  
20 people to use so they can go through this large volume.  
21 I mean, I heard it mentioned that the plan could be a  
22 thousand pages. Well, the data that goes behind it is a  
23 thousand more. How to get your head around that in an  
24 effective manner is really, really important, and we've  
25 built some tools. I will show you a couple today. And

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1 we are building more to make this process the best we  
2 can make it.

3 Now, the system I'm about to show you, the  
4 DRECP Gateway, is actually built on a technology that we  
5 built. We have a bigger system called Data Basin, and  
6 you might have heard of databasin.org, and this is its  
7 landing page. It's the whole world. We have over  
8 14,000 datasets. We have thousands and thousands of  
9 users using this system.

10 The DRECP Gateway is a subset of Data Basin.  
11 We've carved out the Southern California desert. We've  
12 carved out the geography and the content. We've built  
13 special tools unique to that geography and for the  
14 people who need to use it, including you. So it's a way  
15 of filtering the noise so it's not just this big, giant  
16 thing. You don't want to be searching for data and  
17 finding data on tigers and whales and redwood forests  
18 unless those are the things you're interested in. It  
19 doesn't apply to the desert. When you go to DRECP  
20 Gateway, it's going to be relevant to that geography.

21 An important thing for us is that this system  
22 runs on any of the common web browsers. You do not have  
23 to download anything, and you don't have to buy  
24 anything. It runs on Chrome, Firefox, Safari and the  
25 more recent versions of Internet Explorer. If you have

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1 really old versions of Internet Explorer, it will not  
2 work because it doesn't support the latest web  
3 technology, but if you have nine and above, it works  
4 just fine.

5 In my last slide before I go to the demo, what  
6 were we trying to do with Data Basin and, by extension,  
7 the DRECP Gateway, it really boils down to four things.  
8 Accessibility is a big deal. For a lot of people we  
9 often hear there's data on this, there's data on that.  
10 Then you go to find it, and you can't. Or if you find  
11 it, you're not permitted to see it. If you're permitted  
12 to see it, you don't understand how it was made because  
13 they don't provide information to help you understand  
14 how it was created. Those are common problems, and  
15 these are not unique to Southern California. This is a  
16 global problem. So accessibility is a big deal, and  
17 we've worked hard on trying to overcome some of the  
18 accessibility problems that we are currently facing.

19 Another one is integration. This is not a  
20 system that's built to do one thing. It's built to  
21 allow people to integrate many things from many places  
22 to come up with their own solution. It's not a system  
23 to tell a story of ours. It's a system to allow people  
24 to tell their own, and it's a very different way to  
25 program something. That's your goal. So accessibility

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1 and integration are very key.  
2 The third one is usability. It can't be too  
3 complicated or no one is going to use it, so how do you  
4 build something that's really rigorous and has a lot of  
5 power? And this system has a lot of power. But how do  
6 you do that in a way that allows people, normal -- I'll  
7 call them "normal people" -- normal people to get access  
8 to it and actually use it? And so we are constantly  
9 trying to do this, and it's not an easy thing to do.  
10 And I'd be lying to you if I said it doesn't require a  
11 little self-education.  
12 And we try our best to help people do that both  
13 through free Webinars and videos and even help tips as  
14 you go. And it's working, but it's not effortless. You  
15 can't just come to the system and expect it to dump it  
16 into your head. You do have to invest a little bit of  
17 time. But it is extremely usable from all indications  
18 from all the reviews we've got from a whole variety of  
19 different people now.  
20 And the last one I've got -- then I'll move  
21 on -- is collaboration. You'll see that the system is  
22 not just another data haystack in the sky where you can  
23 just go and look at stuff. We've tried to build certain  
24 tools -- I'll show you a couple of them today -- that  
25 support people working together to do things, and I'll

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1 show you a couple of examples of that today as well.  
2 Okay. With that I'm going to get off of  
3 PowerPoint and go to the live system. So are there any  
4 questions thus far?  
5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We're good.  
6 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay. Excellent. So here we  
7 are with -- this is the DRECP Gateway. It's powered by  
8 Data Basin, as you can see here. Now, the system is  
9 built -- you have a series of tabs across the top.  
10 These are all things about how to help you get involved,  
11 like how do you run this thing? what is about? how does  
12 it work? And it's pretty easy to digest. The system is  
13 really built on a couple of key basic components, and  
14 they're all managed for you.  
15 If you hit the "Explore" tab, you're going to  
16 see four different icons with their tags. There are  
17 datasets, maps, galleries and groups. Datasets. In  
18 this particular way we're using "datasets," think of  
19 them as individual spatial data layers. Maps are maps  
20 created by the users in this system of one or more  
21 datasets that they can save and share with colleagues or  
22 the public. Galleries are collections of datasets  
23 and/or maps in some logical folder. I'll show you some  
24 of those. And groups are made by all of the users to do  
25 whatever it is they wish to do in those groups, as

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1 you'll see in a little bit. I'm going to create a group  
2 towards the end of my presentation to show how it easy  
3 it is. You can elect to make it totally public, or you  
4 can make it quite private, you and a handful of others,  
5 if you choose. And it's entirely up to you; it's not up  
6 to us.  
7 One of the other things before I start showing  
8 you the viewer and some of the tools, this is an  
9 important distinction. So you can use this Gateway or  
10 any of the Data Basin Gateways, for that matter,  
11 anonymously. You don't have to create an account if you  
12 don't want to. If you want to do certain things, like  
13 save the content or download something, 99 percent of  
14 the data in the system are downloadable for you. If  
15 you're a power user, you can do that.  
16 So we wanted to give them a workspace, so in  
17 order to have a workspace, you need to create an  
18 account. It takes literally a few minutes. We keep  
19 those accounts private. In fact you can even use one of  
20 your existing accounts. If you have Gmail, if you have  
21 a Google account or a Facebook account or a Yahoo  
22 account, you can use those. You don't have to create a  
23 new one at all. So we're trying to make this really,  
24 really easy for folks.  
25 But once you do that, you have your own private

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1 workspace. And it's private workspace. It's not just  
2 you go to a website, you find something interesting and  
3 then you have to do a screen graph and put it on your  
4 own desktop. You can find things, create things in the  
5 system and save them as long as you want to save them.  
6 I'll give you an example. If I go to my  
7 bookmarks, I have a folder. Let's see. I have a folder  
8 here called "Oregon." I'm in Corvallis, Oregon. Here  
9 are some of the data I come back to easily. I don't  
10 have to search for it every time. I may have found  
11 something in my travels and want keep it in my Oregon  
12 folder. I can go here and add content, and I have this  
13 now as long as I want. I can delete, add, whatever I  
14 wish to do.  
15 Okay. The other thing I can do is, I can make  
16 as many maps as I want. You're going to get a peek at  
17 mine. I have 217 maps in my particular private  
18 workspace. I can filter those by typing in the key word  
19 so I don't have to pan through 20 panels. You'll see  
20 that I made a couple for our presentation today. You'll  
21 also notice there's little red locks on all of these.  
22 These are private maps. They're mine, and I don't want  
23 to share them for a variety of reasons, or I'm not  
24 allowed to share them because I'm using private data  
25 that I'm allowed to see. So we have internal controls

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1 to prevent people from making mischief with things.  
2 Okay. So there are groups that I belong to and so on,  
3 so that's part of your private workspace.  
4 Now I'm going to go back to the main page. And  
5 I'm going to show you galleries because -- oh, before I  
6 do that, I have one more thing. I'm sorry. Let me do  
7 one more thing. You'll notice down here where my arrow  
8 is, it says "Biological Goals and Objectives" and  
9 "Conservation Management Actions," and you'll see two  
10 things in development, and I want to show you what it's  
11 going to look like.  
12 So this was mentioned earlier. I think Mike  
13 was showing a slide of the 52 covered species and 31  
14 communities, and that would be biological goals and  
15 objectives written for each one of them as well as  
16 specific conservation management actions. We built a  
17 database, so once this is connected -- it's still in  
18 draft because they're still refining the language for  
19 these BGO's, but be by public launch, these will all be  
20 done.  
21 So if I go to the database on covered species,  
22 it's going to look like this. Now, all 52 covered  
23 species are here. You can filter them up here if you  
24 want to just worry about mammals or birds or what have  
25 you. I can even do a search on specific goals or

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1 objectives by name, something about wetlands or riparian  
2 or whatever it is. I won't do that, just for the sake  
3 of time. So for any one of these, let's say I go with  
4 the toad here. And these are goals. And if I want to  
5 show each of the goals, I can just show the panel, and  
6 this will be publicly available to everyone.  
7 So under "Goal 1," there will be specific  
8 objectives under "Goal 1." Those will be paneled here.  
9 When I get to that level of information, I can go and  
10 quickly pick out what are some of the requirements or  
11 avoidance or compensation, whatever it happens to be.  
12 If it's there, it will be available here for folks to  
13 see.  
14 Let me close these. Before I do that, there  
15 are a couple other things here. There's a chart and a  
16 map, and here the charts on the current condition of the  
17 environment where this animal is predicted to exist  
18 going from very high to very low. And you also see  
19 there are some maps in the thumbnails along the margin  
20 here as well. If you click on any of these -- I'm not  
21 going to because I'm going to take you to the viewer in  
22 just a moment. Anyway, if you click on these, it will  
23 open up a panel to show you the actual map for that  
24 particular topic, if you'd like to see it. So it's  
25 connected to all of the mapping functions of the system

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1 at the same time.  
2 So here is the one place you can see it all in  
3 an organized manner in a way that you don't have to wade  
4 through gobs and gobs of noise. You get right to what  
5 you're interested in seeing, and you can do that. Okay.  
6 The system is already built. We're waiting for the  
7 final language on the text before we make it publicly  
8 available, but it's scheduled to be launched at the time  
9 of the draft release.  
10 Okay. So let's go back and look at some  
11 galleries. Now, the system I'm showing you is live  
12 today. After your meeting today, if you're really  
13 curious on a Sunday and you want to go in and play, you  
14 can do that. You just go in. You can look at it  
15 anonymously if you'd like, or you if want to create your  
16 own account, you may do so or use an existing one.  
17 There are about 250 individual datasets  
18 currently loaded for public view. The current draft  
19 plans are not. And there are several other pieces that  
20 are not loaded just yet, but they are scheduled to be  
21 loaded in the next month or two. And what we've done  
22 is, we've built a series of -- they're calling them  
23 galleries now. Think of them as folders. The icon is  
24 giving you a mental picture of a folder. In the folder  
25 we have content, and the content are either individual

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1 datasets or some maps. A composition of sorts is what  
2 we're talking about.  
3 Currently we have galleries on climate refugia,  
4 natural communities, covered species and some of the  
5 energy data. Here is some of the energy footprints back  
6 from December of 2012. These are the old ones. The new  
7 ones will be loaded, but these aren't the new ones yet.  
8 We have ancillary data on land cover, vegetation, and  
9 those are the current ones that are up.  
10 If you click on any of these -- I'll click on  
11 "species," for example -- it's going to tell you, here's  
12 the gallery's contents, and there's thumbnails. You can  
13 go with the default thumbnails, or if you don't like  
14 that presentation, you click over here and you have  
15 something more descriptive like -- okay. Now I can read  
16 it. The default is this one, however.  
17 Now, you'll notice as I go down, there's  
18 folders and subfolders to help organize it for people.  
19 Again we're trying to make this easy for folks to get  
20 access to things that they want to see. The two  
21 datasets that are shown here are actually compilations  
22 of what's falling below, so that's why it's logically  
23 placed above it, kind of a higher-level place. I'm  
24 going to show you a dataset in just a minute.  
25 If I click on "animals," for example, there are

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1 33 animals here or separate folders, and I can pick any  
2 one, Mohave ground squirrel. In that folder we have  
3 three different things. There is a map, and there are  
4 two individual datasets that you can review. If I click  
5 on the name, it will take you to an overview page that  
6 will tell you about either the map or the dataset. If I  
7 hover over it, you'll notice that I have some actions.  
8 I can just open it. I can export it right away. I can  
9 add it to my workspace. Remember my bookmarks? Say I  
10 want to keep that in some folder I want to come back to,  
11 it makes it really easy for you to do that.

12 But for now it's click on it. Let's click on  
13 the title, and the title will bring up a page that looks  
14 like this. Now, we've made a bunch of maps, and we'll  
15 be creating more in the coming months. And there's a  
16 full description on what it is this map is trying to  
17 communicate. There is an automatic listing of all of  
18 the datasets that went into making this particular map.  
19 And if I click on any of these, it will give me full  
20 information about everything about that dataset, who  
21 created it, who loaded it, what it's about, what do the  
22 codes mean. Everything is there, and everything is  
23 there in a similar -- not similar -- identical  
24 arrangement so it's easy for people to read it.

25 We didn't build this for GIS experts. We built

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1 this for everybody else who also needs to see spatially  
2 explicit data. We're not having you read through 20  
3 pages of metadata that is hard for anybody to create or  
4 read. We're trying to make this more accessible for  
5 people to understand what it is that they're looking at.  
6 So that's what this is all about, so it's giving you  
7 that background information.

8 There are some high-level actions up here to  
9 export it, or I can add to. We won't get into that.  
10 Let me just open it for you and see what that looks  
11 like. Now, our system is built -- a lot of these  
12 datasets, we're not looking at static pictures here. We  
13 are looking at the actual GIS layers on the web. You  
14 now have a simple GIS operating on your desktop right  
15 now. That's what this is.

16 Now, it takes a few moments to load things  
17 because we dynamically start and stop our coverages, or  
18 our layers. We do that to save a lot of money. If  
19 these things are running all the time, they have  
20 problems. They're very expensive. It's pennies a  
21 minute when they're running all the time. It's pennies  
22 a year when we do this. The only time the meter is  
23 running is when I'm asking for it to run. Otherwise it  
24 sits dormant and is really expensive to store. That  
25 gives you the capability, the capacity to do lots and

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1 lots of -- have lots and lots of data at your  
2 fingerprints and do it in an affordable way.

3 Okay. So in about two months -- this viewer is  
4 getting a huge facelift right now. It's going to be  
5 even simpler, but it's going to actually do more. So I  
6 can't show that to you today, but be aware that it's  
7 going to be coming soon. I'm going to hit both screens.  
8 It's going to look a little more like this.

9 Now, I'm not going to go through all of the  
10 functionality today. I want to just give you a feel for  
11 it. You can choose different base maps. So here are  
12 various base maps. If I want to look at an entry, I can  
13 look at an entry, or if I want to look at street maps, I  
14 can look at street maps. I can go back to this one. I  
15 can go over to this one.

16 This particular map I fired up has a number of  
17 datasets, and they're listed here under this panel here  
18 called "Datasets." There's one, two, three, four, five,  
19 six datasets. The ones that you're seeing are checked.  
20 The ones that you're not seeing are not. But here's one  
21 where this was created by USGS. This is a distribution  
22 model using a statistical method, and I'm going to zoom  
23 into a spot to give you a feel for it.

24 And it was mentioned -- I remember a question  
25 earlier in the day about trying to orient yourself,

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1 like, well, where am I? Where I am in relation to  
2 Barstow? Or I'm trying to find my way. By having these  
3 different base maps at your fingertips, depending on  
4 what you're looking at -- I'm going to change it so I  
5 can see things on top. Okay. Now I know where I am,  
6 and you can get oriented much more quickly. Here's a  
7 distribution map. This is a binary output. This is a  
8 higher probability surface compared to this other one.

9 These types of data do not say exactly where  
10 the animals are going to be because we haven't surveyed  
11 everything, and these guys move around. What this is  
12 saying is that these are the kinds of environments where  
13 they are likely to occur. That's really important. It  
14 doesn't mean they're always there. And it only includes  
15 the data that we can get our hands on about the physical  
16 environment in which they prefer. These guys are pretty  
17 flashy anyway, this particular species. They come and  
18 go as part of their natural history in places. But it's  
19 important for you to realize that just because it's a  
20 colored box on this map doesn't mean they're there; it  
21 means there's a likelihood they could be there, and you  
22 should be looking for them.

23 Okay. The data that you're seeing -- so the  
24 points that you're seeing are actually occurrence data  
25 that are there. And we've got an arrangement that this

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 166</p> <p>1 might be of some interest to folks in the room if you're  2 thinking, well, you know, I have some data that I'd like  3 to share at least with some of my colleagues, and you  4 can elect to do that. You can add your own data to  5 this, and I'll show you an example of that in a moment.  6 And you can choose whether you want to share with  7 anybody or whether you want to open it up to everyone.  8 But we do have some tricks. Let me give you an  9 example. You're look the occurrences data for the  10 Mohave ground squirrel. And I know the heritage  11 database people get pretty nervous about knowing exact  12 locations of things. You'll notice when I zoomed in  13 here, this is how we handled it in this case. So you  14 can kind of see generally where they are, and we have an  15 arrangement that as soon, as you get too close -- it  16 will take a minute to refresh. Did you notice the  17 points just disappeared? They disappeared on purpose  18 because they didn't want to get people so close to drill  19 into the safety this person's back 40. It's in here  20 somewhere. It still conveys important information, but  21 it does it in a way that it protects the geographic  22 security of a particular feature. It could be a  23 favorite place to go camping; it could be a favorite  24 place to go rockhounding; it could be many different  25 kinds of things. And again it's entirely up to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 168</p> <p>1 publicly available for everyone to see. You could look  2 at this right now if you'd like.  3 MEMBER REILLY: Okay. Thanks.  4 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay.  5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Very good.  6 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay. Are there any other  7 questions before I go on?  8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: No questions.  9 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay. Very good. Okay. So  10 let me go to another map, and this is an example. I'm  11 going to fire this one up too. So here's an example. I  12 want to cover a couple of topics here. I want to go  13 over one of the tools. Like I said, we've built quite a  14 few, and I don't have time to show them all to you. But  15 I want to show you at least a couple, and I want to give  16 you a feel for the review process.  17 Now, at the close of my comments today, I do  18 have one more PowerPoint slide to show you, how we plan  19 to manage the formal public review of the plan, but I'll  20 get to that. I'm not quite ready to get there yet, but  21 right now I want to give you a feel for one of the  22 reporting tools that I mentioned earlier in my remarks.  23 So let me go back to full-screen mode so you can see it  24 a little better. I'm going to zoom in a little tighter  25 so you can kind of get where we are, and then I'll</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 167</p> <p>1 generator of the data to decide how they want that to be  2 represented.  3 Are there questions on this before I go to  4 another app?  5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Anybody, questions?  6 MEMBER REILLY: Yes.  7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Go ahead.  8 MEMBER REILLY: On the top of the screen right  9 now I don't see a security icon, so I'm wondering for  10 people who want to share this partially, what security  11 system, or what's in place?  12 MR. STRITTHOLT: For this particular map?  13 MEMBER REILLY: I think what I'm saying is that  14 you're saying that you can share the map sometimes or  15 with just a few people, but it's not public. And  16 what --  17 MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes, this one is public.  18 MEMBER REILLY: Okay. So for the others it  19 would be protected with a standard security system?  20 MR. STRITTHOLT: It has an internal security  21 system. So if I go back out of this -- hang on a  22 second. That's a really good question. So let me get  23 out of full screen, because you can't see all the icons.  24 If this were a private map, you'd have a red lock right  25 where my arrow is moving, but it's not. It's made</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p> <p>1 explain what you're looking at.  2 What you're seeing is a bunch of green boxes,  3 and I can show the legend. So here's the legend. I put  4 that over here, and I also want to change the base so I  5 can see features on top so I can get oriented a little  6 bit better. Here we go, some of the main highways and  7 mountain ranges and so on. As I am zoom in and out,  8 that text will change to give you additional  9 information, so it's already prepackaged.  10 Now, what we did is we took all 52 covered  11 species in this particular reporting tool, and we took  12 their binary predictions and stacked them all together.  13 That's why it's called the species stack. And the size  14 of these boxes are four kilometers on a side, and so the  15 darker the green, the more species are likely to be  16 there that are covered in the plan. Again it doesn't  17 mean they're all there for sure. It means these are the  18 things you should be looking for that are covered in the  19 plan if you plan to do anything in these boxes.  20 The number of covered species ranges from one,  21 and the most that co-occur in any given location is 21.  22 So we don't have all 52 species in one place. That  23 would seem kind of silly. It wouldn't be that way  24 anyway. But there's more to the story. So let me zoom  25 in one more time, and I'm going to scoot this over just</p>

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1 a touch too. There we go. Okay.  
2 So we built some tools, as I mentioned. Okay.  
3 What do I want to know about these? Well, I have a box.  
4 It's a green box here, and it says, oh, there are 12  
5 records, so there are 12 species. Well, which one? It  
6 comes up, and I can actually panel through the ones that  
7 are predicted to be there potentially. Well, here's  
8 Mohave ground squirrel. We just looked at that guy a  
9 few minutes ago. And if I can add to the map right  
10 away, well, here's the map of its probable distribution,  
11 and not only that, but it's giving me its relative  
12 habitat condition.  
13 So I have a lot more information now that took  
14 me one click. I didn't have to go and load and massage  
15 and do color coding. It's just one click. And now I  
16 have a whole new perspective on what that means, like,  
17 oh, this location is on an isthmus between these two  
18 places, and the condition is pretty good. And you get a  
19 much better understanding when you have things that kind  
20 of help you along the way to interpret all this stuff.  
21 It gets quite complicated, but the trick is to  
22 make the complicated digestible for people so they can  
23 understand it better. You can't take all of the  
24 complexity out because it's impossible, but you can at  
25 least make it easier for people to get a better sense of

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1 what's going on.  
2 Here's an example of a reporting tool that  
3 could be updated regularly that will allow people to  
4 really see what's going on in a given place or what's  
5 likely to be going on in a given place. We will be  
6 attaching other information. For example, let me go  
7 back to my little icon dude here and click on this  
8 again. We have quick loads for the distribution and so  
9 on.  
10 Here's one that we will click, and it won't go  
11 to the encyclopedia of life; it will go to the appendix  
12 that describes everything what you want to know about  
13 about the Burrowing owl. It will open up a new panel.  
14 If you didn't know anything about your Burrowing owls,  
15 you can learn something.  
16 Another thing you will have is a hot link where  
17 you can go back to those BGO's and CMA's that I showed  
18 you earlier. If you're looking at the species and  
19 you're trying to figure out, well, what are my  
20 biological goals and objectives for these species, you  
21 have a one-stop place to get it. You click, it opens up  
22 a new panel, and it tells you about it. You go, okay.  
23 Now I have an understanding. So it's more than the  
24 data; it's aiding a flow of learning and a way to go  
25 back the other way. So it's presentation as well as

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1 communication.  
2 And let me show you the communication part that  
3 I'm talking about. I'll show you the one way. We have  
4 other functions. Here's one I'm going to show you. I'm  
5 going to open up this. I'm going to close this, make  
6 this a little less clunky. Let me get rid of this too.  
7 I want to add a comment now. Now I can add a general  
8 comment.  
9 I could say, you know, "This map is really  
10 great." I could say, "I'm going to add a drawing to my  
11 thing." I want to say something about that. So I'm  
12 going to say something about this blob out here. I can  
13 even put a little transparency on if I want, submit that  
14 and say, "If these guys haven't been here since 1920, I  
15 don't know why they're on the map." And there's that.  
16 Now, anybody who is on this map can be doing  
17 this at the same time. So picture yourselves working in  
18 different locations. You're at your office or home  
19 office or wherever you happen to be, and now you're  
20 working together collaboratively about a map that you're  
21 all looking at and saying, you know what? And these are  
22 saved and shared to the people who you want to share it  
23 with. If this map is private and it's in a group that  
24 you create, just the members of the group get to see it  
25 and get to see these comments. You could essentially

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1 work on your own interpretation and dive in a little  
2 deeper, which is far better than having a PDF and a hard  
3 paper map and you get 90 days to say something relevant  
4 about it.  
5 You can do some homework and really think  
6 through it critically with some colleagues to come up  
7 with a better suggestion or idea or some other concerns  
8 or, "Hey, I have new data," whatever it happens to be.  
9 It will be better than the current way things are  
10 normally done. And these are all safe, by the way.  
11 Now, one last thing I'll say about this. I'm  
12 the creator of the map. Here's my picture right here.  
13 I don't want to have to keep coming back to my map to  
14 see if anybody comments on it. If I click this little  
15 button every time I log into the system, it will say,  
16 "By the way, Jim, Terry and Robin and Bill have  
17 commented on your map called 'Raw,'" whatever it is.  
18 And that way it gives me these cues to go back and see  
19 what they have had to say.  
20 You can go back to and say, "Yeah, I agree with  
21 you," or, "What do you think about down here?" or  
22 whatever it is you want to mention to each other. It's  
23 available to you.  
24 Now, this particular function was built for the  
25 kinds of workflows that I just described where you're in

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<p>1 a group with people and you're trying to work something 2 out. As you'll see later in my presentation, I'll show 3 you how we are building something that's quite a bit 4 more streamlined to facilitate a public-review process. 5 We're not assuming that everybody is going to want to 6 get into this level of detail, but we found a way to 7 make this pretty straightforward, very easy for people 8 to gain access to this, make the comments they think are 9 relevant and then contribute it into their formal review 10 process. 11 So I'll get to that last. Let me take a breath 12 see if there are any questions before I go on to the 13 final map. 14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Just one moment, please. 15 Jim, I didn't mention our DAC meetings have a court 16 reporter present recording things. May I confirm with 17 you that this general information, this demonstration 18 you're doing, is information that can be also obtained 19 through your Webinars and your online resources? 20 MR. STRITTHOLT: Absolutely. 21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Then is there 22 an objection from the council that we go off record for 23 the stenographer, and we'll put her back on record when 24 it comes to questions and answers? 25 MEMBER MUTH: No objection.</p>		<p>1 my iPad. 2 So we're going to whatever the resolution of 3 your screen is, is the way it's going to go. So the 4 default is going to be full screen all the time, and 5 we're going to have drawers on the side that are going 6 to pull out instead of drop-downs that will make it even 7 simpler. And it's in there that we can embed the help 8 menus of, how do you arrange layers? how do you style? 9 how do you do transparencies? For folks who have never 10 done that, they're not sure what that is. 11 And then we are recording. We have about half 12 a dozen ones now of recordings on how to do certain 13 things, because it's more than just -- for example, we 14 have little things like we're adding like this. So here 15 is a little help guide, and you hit the play button. 16 What do all these buttons mean for people who have never 17 seen buttons like this as examples? 18 These work great to kind of tell people what 19 these things are, but it doesn't do a very good job of 20 trying to describe a logical workflow, which I think is 21 far more important and powerful. For those we need to 22 do small, little vignette tutorials that run anywhere 23 from two to five minutes, and those icons will be placed 24 in multiple places for people to find them. It's tricky 25 to do because you want to make sure that it is well</p>	
<p>1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Thank you. 2 Diane, you can take a little bit of a break here. I 3 think it's harder when you can't see somebody. So very 4 good. We're going off the record. 5 But continue, Jim, unless there's questions. 6 We have a question. We do have a question. 7 THE REPORTER: I will go ahead and report the 8 questions and answers. 9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes. We will record the 10 questions and answers. Jess? 11 MEMBER REILLY: So first of all, this tool is 12 really fun and really cool. Congratulations. And 13 second, as a GIS user, I have been playing with it and 14 figured out how to order the layering of the maps and 15 how to turn the transparency on and off. And I'm 16 wondering for people who are not familiar with GIS where 17 the help button is. 18 MR. STRITTHOLT: Good question, because we've 19 held off building the viewer help buttons because we're 20 rebuilding the viewer. What you're going see when it 21 comes out in probably six weeks or so is, we're moving 22 the platform so it will operate on iPads. We've had a 23 lot of requests from people who want to use it with 24 iPads. And you'll notice when I go back and forth 25 between the full and partial screen, it really messes up</p>	Page 175	<p>1 organized, and you use multiple ways to access that 2 because people have different ways they learn. 3 MEMBER REILLY: Great. Thank you. 4 MR. STRITTHOLT: You're welcome. 5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: No further questions. 6 MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Can we ask questions 7 from the floor? 8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We'll go a little bit 9 longer, and I'll take some. 10 (Mr. Strittholt completed presenting 11 the Gateway tool demonstration.) 12 (Applause.) 13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Jim. You're 14 getting a round of applause, and we have a room full of 15 probably about 50 people who came straight to this 16 presentation after lunch, and the only one that fell 17 asleep was the computer. Very good job. 18 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay. Thank you. Everybody 19 has to stand up and take a breath, and then we can talk 20 some more. 21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: DAC members, if there's no 22 objection, how many people in the audience have a 23 question for Jim? Very good. Is there an objection to 24 taking questions for Jim while we have him here at the 25 audience?</p>	Page 177

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1 Young lady, would you mind taking the  
2 microphone, and state your name, and Jim, I'm sure, will  
3 do his best.

4 MS. FLANAGAN: Hi, Jim. That was a great  
5 demonstration. I can hardly wait to --

6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Your name?

7 MS. FLANAGAN: Pat Flanagan -- thank you --  
8 from 29 Palms area. I'm curious, when I start to look  
9 at the base levels of the map and I went to know  
10 elevations, will I be able to, for instance, generate a  
11 map that shows me the elevations that are between one  
12 and three feet that are good for solar placement, for  
13 instance?

14 MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes.

15 MS. FLANAGAN: I will. Will I be able to look  
16 at the soils? I particularly am interested in looking  
17 at soils which are vulnerable to wind and water erosion.

18 MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes. Here is soils data.  
19 Here's elevation data. If I want to open it, I just do  
20 this.

21 MEMBER REILLY: The resolution of the elevation  
22 data, the DEM's, is it the 30 meter?

23 MR. STRITTHOLT: It's 30 meter and 90 meter.  
24 We have both. I'm not sure. This is the 30-meter data  
25 that is coming up.

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1 MEMBER REILLY: Can you quickly explain what  
2 that 30 means.

3 MS. FLANAGAN: I'm looking at where they'd  
4 really like to put solar as opposed to where it's too  
5 steep or wherever, so you're looking at the contour  
6 lines?

7 MR. STRITTHOLT: These are not contour lines  
8 per se. These are "Rasterized" elevations, so the  
9 resolution, think of it as little boxes. You can see  
10 the little icon on there on the left. If you hover over  
11 stuff, it will tell you. It's a Raster dataset. These  
12 are squares, and the squares take the average elevation  
13 at 30 meters and tell you what it is.

14 I want to show you something else that may be  
15 more pertinent to what you're getting at. This is one  
16 tool you can use to get a sense of elevation. Another  
17 thing you can do is, on some of the base maps we have  
18 actually one called terrain now. Well, I have -- sorry.  
19 I have another one, terrain with labels, which I like  
20 better. If you zoom in really far, you'll begin to get  
21 a feel -- and I think I went too far. It just broke.  
22 Hold on. It's not happy with me. I think I just broke  
23 the base map. Here we go. That's the map I want. See  
24 the contour line?

25 MS. FLANAGAN: Yes.

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1 MR. STRITTHOLT: So you can get to that. It  
2 will be labeled "contour line." I had the wrong base  
3 map. It had to be the topography one. So you have that  
4 access. You also have the digital elevation model  
5 itself that sits on top of it. It's pretty hefty.

6 Okay?

7 MS. FLANAGAN: Great. And the soils will be on  
8 there too so I know these ones are sand, et cetera?

9 MR. STRITTHOLT: Yeah, and we have some soils  
10 now. Here are the soils data. We have sand and dunes.  
11 We are adding a whole new set of soils right now  
12 actually. In fact it hasn't been approved yet for  
13 public display, but we do have them. And let me figure  
14 this out. I think there's nine different vulnerability  
15 classes, including wind, water, different chemistries  
16 and the like. Those will all be here in this place  
17 eventually, but they're not here just yet, but they will  
18 be very, very soon.

19 We're also doing a model for not only where do  
20 you have erodible soils due to wind, but we're also  
21 adding in a new model of where do you have the wind,  
22 because it's one thing to have the shallow, triable  
23 soils. The other thing is where you have the wind,  
24 because it's one thing to have the shallow, triable  
25 soils. It's another thing of where do you have the

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1 disturbance factors plus the wind vectors that promotes  
2 the waft of the soil in the first place. All of these  
3 products will be here soon, but they're not here just  
4 yet.

5 MS. FLANAGAN: So the USGS has generated some  
6 data on the threshold friction velocity of winds, so  
7 when you can get what it takes to get the material up  
8 into the atmosphere and how often it happens in a month,  
9 is that sort of thing available?

10 MR. STRITTHOLT: If they have been available  
11 and it's mappable, we can get it in.

12 MS. FLANAGAN: Perfect. Thank you.

13 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: John, you had a quick  
15 question for Jim?

16 MR. STEWART: Yes. John Stewart, California  
17 Association of Four-Wheel-Drive Clubs. Jim, I enjoyed  
18 your presentation and appreciate the fact that you have  
19 made it a cross-browser's application and that you did  
20 mention iPad, you know, soon to be on iPad.

21 My question is, is it going to be across all  
22 variants of the iPad, all three versions? And not only  
23 with the iPad, but how about with the smart phone, like  
24 the iPhone and the Android?

25 MR. STRITTHOLT: So those are great questions.

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1 It's about portability on different platforms, is the  
2 main question. So we will be moving on all the main  
3 features for iPad. That's in the works right now. I  
4 don't know when that's going to be released. What  
5 happens, when you go to phones, whether it's Androids or  
6 iPhones and the like, you're working with really  
7 different levels of real estate; right? We're looking  
8 at a lot of stuff here. We're moving a lot of data.  
9 All of the data that you're seeing are living on  
10 computers someplace. The data that we host ourselves  
11 are living on Amazon computers. They call it the Cloud.  
12 They're not in the sky. They're in servers in Denver  
13 and Portland and wherever, but the idea is, its's in a  
14 different place.  
15 The limitations for the system, since we are  
16 moving so much data, is your connection. If your  
17 connection is really lousy, it won't perform as snappy  
18 as you'd like it to. We spent a couple of years working  
19 on performance. For example, we want to service a lot  
20 of places that are remote. Well, that gets problematic  
21 in some cases because there's no access to your phone's  
22 remote, so that doesn't work very well.  
23 This does work very well on satellite. With  
24 satellite technology there's always a two-second delay  
25 of feed. It takes a second to the get to the satellite

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1 and a second down, and that could amplify when you're  
2 moving data around. I won't get into the details, but  
3 it does add complexity. It does work quite well with  
4 satellites, because people are using it in Africa right  
5 now with elephants.  
6 So but the cell phone part, they are such small  
7 real estate. We are working towards it, but what we  
8 think we are going to do with the cell phone technology  
9 is use it more as a data creator system. Like here's  
10 where I am. Provided you have access to the towers or  
11 the satellites where you are, you can actually be  
12 mapping on the fly, and then you could just feed it in.  
13 We do have functions now. I can't show it to  
14 you now. We don't have time. But we can read Excel  
15 spreadsheets or GPS records, and we can download it into  
16 the system -- right? -- with one step, so that does  
17 work. Now, I made it sound really easy. There's  
18 nothing easy about doing this stuff. There is always  
19 complexities. Those of you who do this know that's  
20 true, but it's getting pretty good.  
21 I really want to make this a useful tool for  
22 people who are collecting in the field who don't have  
23 all the GIS knowledge, nor do they want to, but they've  
24 got a lot to share. I wanted find a way to get it in  
25 here so other people can benefit from what they know and

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1 what they've learned. But we are going to move to cell  
2 phones but not in the full-blown system you see here.  
3 MR. STEWART: Thank you.  
4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Time for one more question.  
5 Do you have a question, Ed? And then we'll move into  
6 public comments so everybody will get another shot.  
7 MR. WALDHEIM: My name is Ed Waldheim, Friends  
8 of Jawbone, Friends of El Mirage. The West Mojave is my  
9 playground that we work on those Public Lands. It's  
10 staying on designated trails that triggers my interest  
11 of what you are going to do in there. Is there a way we  
12 can really highlight the importance of staying on  
13 designated trails and show the designated trails on the  
14 layers so the public can easily access it, Jim?  
15 MR. STRITTHOLT: Randy, you might want to take  
16 that. How is that for a punt? But I mean, that's  
17 something near and dear to your heart. It's something  
18 you're working really hard on far more than I am. We  
19 can certainly make that available, but I can show you  
20 one more thing that might -- I'll take my thing back.  
21 Sorry, Randy. You can comment in a minute.  
22 We don't have it built into this Gateway just  
23 yet because it hasn't been requested, but let me show  
24 you something else that we have in Data Basin and that  
25 we may want to use at some point in time. What we were

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1 told by our users is that they said, "Well, you know,  
2 this is really great. The layers are really great, but  
3 I don't know how to use any of this stuff. From a  
4 technical level I don't understand how do you do that."  
5 So we've actually created new things called guide and  
6 case studies to help people with that, and I'm going to  
7 show you a whole bunch of them.  
8 So if I didn't know anything about what is  
9 dynamic global vegetation modeling, how do you do that?  
10 It describes it for people. It shows you how it's done  
11 then shows you the actual data on what it does. So  
12 you're not left like, what do I do? Now, you can  
13 picture this for off-road vehicles. Here's the trails.  
14 This is why it's important to stay on the trails, and  
15 here are some extra data, so on and so forth. It be can  
16 be highlighted in a more -- let's find a heady way that  
17 people can read it and go, "Oh, wow. I didn't realize  
18 that, and here's some evidence," or, "Here's some  
19 supporting documents."  
20 By the way, the system will also handle other  
21 formats, like Excel spreadsheets, pictures, PDF's and  
22 the like. I just didn't show you that feature yet, but  
23 it has all that there, and it could be a way of teaching  
24 people why something is important.  
25 So Randy, do you want to answer something with

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1 that?

2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: All I wanted to do was

3 alert you and others that I also was remiss in not

4 crediting and thanking Ed Waldheim, the speaker. As

5 president of Friends of Jawbone, he believed in this

6 project and believed in the Owlshead GPS project several

7 years ago. And it was Friends of Jawbone and Ed that

8 stepped up and allowed their organization to be the

9 vehicle by which we could apply for the grants to

10 aggregate this data. So let me just say that about Ed.

11 And Ed and I work together on a daily basis, and we'll

12 make sure we can connect and see how we can achieve

13 that.

14 I do have to move on, though. We are behind,

15 and we have DAC members who wish to ask questions. Who

16 is first? Jess? April?

17 MEMBER REILLY: Go ahead first.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don.

19 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: I've got one too.

20 MEMBER SALL: Thank you, Jim. That was

21 incredibly informative, and I think it's going to be an

22 amazing asset, so thank you for your presentation.

23 I had a couple of questions and kind of

24 clarifying questions as well. So in the desert in

25 particular we have a lot of data gaps, and one of the

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1 very obvious ones that came up early in DRECP is the

2 lack of recent and complete vegetation maps for the

3 desert. And there were efforts by the CEC and others to

4 fill some of those gaps.

5 What is the, I guess, sort of level of

6 disclaimer, if you will, in terms of how recent data is

7 that's used in the program, as well as where the data

8 gaps rely? How can people understand, you know, the

9 sort of current snapshot of the quality of the data, I

10 guess? Does that make sense?

11 MR. STRITTHOLT: It certainly does. So there

12 was quite an extensive effort to improve the mapping on

13 desert communities. Todd Keeler-Wolf and others were

14 working on that. We have all that data in now. It's

15 now available for you to look at as well, so you'll see.

16 Here's a full description of it. I have an overview of

17 it, and we have it in great detail, as you can see. And

18 this is true for all the individual data layers.

19 There's going to be information on everything. You're

20 not going to be wondering what's going on, and there

21 will be attachments.

22 This is a Word document describing everything

23 that was done and how it was done so you're not left

24 wondering well, gee, what did they do and what didn't

25 they do? You can even see it on this map. Do you see

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1 the line? I'm going to open it up. It might be easier.

2 They got the western side of the desert in great detail.

3 As you move towards the east, they didn't finish it. I

4 don't know what the plan is to continue to refine the

5 modeling in the mapping.

6 You see the kind of the line that I'm kind of

7 highlighting, so it's kind of like an olive green versus

8 yellow out here? That's the demarkation of where they

9 have the real detailed modeling done. West of that line

10 is where it's very detailed. East of that line, less

11 so. I think the plan is to do it still. The majority

12 of the DFA's are located not entirely but most are

13 located in this more detailed region, and that's why the

14 priority was to map it there first. But I believe

15 they're going to now continue and move it further east,

16 although I don't know that for sure, and it's quite

17 detailed.

18 MEMBER SALL: Great. Thank you.

19 MR. STRITTHOLT: Yep.

20 MEMBER SALL: One of my concerns, I guess,

21 would be -- and it's an amazingly helpful feature to be

22 able to save maps and import those or use them in

23 PowerPoints for other sources. One of my concerns with

24 that is that, if people are taking a snapshot of a map

25 and saving it and utilizing it in whatever format,

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1 whether that's in group discussion or PowerPoint or

2 distributing it on paper, et cetera, that the background

3 information of that map and thus, for example, in this

4 question the data gaps, that piece is lost. So I'm just

5 wondering -- I'm sure you thought about this before, and

6 it's probably been a topic of discussion in your other

7 presentations -- is there anything more you can add to

8 that aspect?

9 MR. STRITTHOLT: That's a good question too,

10 and the answer is not going to be satisfactory, but I'm

11 going to try. So here's the best thing we could do.

12 Whenever we export this in any of its forms, PDF is

13 pretty straightforward. We've made it clear. Are you

14 there?

15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes.

16 MR. STRITTHOLT: I heard a beep. I didn't know

17 if I got disconnected or not. Sorry. So I went to PDF.

18 It's going to give you all that detail. You can't

19 really break it apart. It's impossible to do that, but

20 with PowerPoint, that's not the case. We provide it

21 all, including all the information and the URL that has

22 all that description about how this is done. We can't

23 make people show all that when they're doing a

24 PowerPoint presentation, but we made sure they got it

25 when they downloaded it.

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1 MEMBER SALL: Perfect. Thank you. And my last  
 2 similar question is, for instance the OHV route data  
 3 could be an example, but I have several others. As  
 4 entities update information and datasets, obviously you  
 5 can't control how they share that with you, but what has  
 6 been sort of the agreement or the communication in  
 7 launching this feature that agencies or OHV entities or  
 8 whoever comes back to you and updates that information  
 9 and dataset whenever changes are made so that you are  
 10 projecting the most current or accurate information  
 11 possible?  
 12 MR. STRITTHOLT: That's an excellent question.  
 13 So here's two ways to think about it. And you're  
 14 getting at the topic of dynamic mapping and versioning,  
 15 and both have value. And let me explain what I mean by  
 16 that. So we can go to any dataset, but we'll pick roads  
 17 for an example. I won't show you because it will take  
 18 too much time. You have a roads dataset, and you want  
 19 the most recent one. You don't want the old one for  
 20 many applications. In that case you want to be hooked  
 21 up to something that's updated regularly, and it just  
 22 either -- it's live, and so we have systems like that  
 23 right now, where you're getting the latest because it's  
 24 coming from a feed.  
 25 For example all of the latest fires anywhere in

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1 the United States are a map made available every hour,  
 2 almost like a weather map, but it's a fire map managed  
 3 by multiple agencies. We have access to it. We pull it  
 4 in. That's realtime, and that's one way you'd want to  
 5 receive data.  
 6 But on the other side, that would be true for  
 7 the most recent OHV trails, for example. But also I  
 8 could see a case where you would want to know the  
 9 history of it. I can remember when I first started GIS.  
 10 I was doing a project in India, actually, and we were  
 11 getting data. And it was like I wanted to know the  
 12 history of the roads. I didn't want the current roads.  
 13 I wanted to know what happened over time, and what  
 14 happened is they kept throwing away the old data and  
 15 just kept replacing it with new, better data.  
 16 Well, the old data has value because I wanted  
 17 to figure out what was the roading pattern like and can  
 18 I predict with that what's going to happen next, because  
 19 that was valuable to me. In that case you want to go  
 20 through something where it's versioned. So this is what  
 21 the OHV trails looked like in 2013. Here's the next.  
 22 Every year it's updated. Here's 2014. You can begin to  
 23 piece together a story that has value. So depending on  
 24 what dataset you're talking about, you want one or the  
 25 other, or in many cases you want both. You'd want a

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1 versioned example as well as realtime current.  
 2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Thank you.  
 3 MEMBER SALL: Thank you.  
 4 MR. STRITTHOLT: Okay.  
 5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don?  
 6 MEMBER HOUSTON: Hi, Jim. This is Don Houston.  
 7 This will be real quick. It's just a yes-or-no  
 8 question. This morning the BLM during their DRECP  
 9 presentation said that they were going to have new and  
 10 expanded land use designations during when the draft EIR  
 11 came out. Will the tool allow us to compare the old and  
 12 new and expanded land use designations?  
 13 MR. STRITTHOLT: What do you mean by "compare"?  
 14 Let's see. I know what you mean by "compare." Yes and  
 15 no. We can certainly compare in a similar geography.  
 16 We can't compare region-wide. It's too much heavy  
 17 lifting on the system. I haven't shown you all the  
 18 things this does, but I do have analytical tools that  
 19 operate on the fly where you can actually evaluate a  
 20 polygon, let's say, with things that are opened in your  
 21 map, and it works realtime, and it's downloadable. That  
 22 gets you part of the way there, but it isn't going to do  
 23 the full thing you're talking about, where you look at  
 24 here's Plan A, Plan B or a new plan you might want to  
 25 put forth and you really compare them in great detail in

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1 one fell swoop. That's too much processing, but site by  
 2 site or collection of smaller sites, at times you can do  
 3 it.  
 4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. I have Jess,  
 5 Seth then Kim.  
 6 MEMBER REILLY: Thank you. I have a couple of  
 7 sort of specific questions. I would imagine this is in  
 8 here, but I couldn't find it. I'm looking for land  
 9 boundaries, like BLM management boundaries,  
 10 Forest Service, private land. Are those maps available?  
 11 MR. STRITTHOLT: It's under "ancillary data"  
 12 right now. If you go to land use, this is essentially  
 13 ownership layer. Here's national easements. We have  
 14 others that are coming. Here's state lands, for  
 15 example. They are there now, but it has to be updated  
 16 because it doesn't have all the latest plans in it.  
 17 It's just got the designations as it currently exists.  
 18 This was back in 2012, I believe.  
 19 MEMBER REILLY: Okay. Great. Thanks. And  
 20 then as far as the file format supported for both  
 21 uploading and downloading, are you also able to upload  
 22 or download shapefiles and KML files?  
 23 MR. STRITTHOLT: The KML files, not yet.  
 24 They're a totally different format. In the background  
 25 map you saw, if you're familiar with the difference

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1 between Google-based and ESRI-based maps, this all sits  
 2 on top of our server that we've built. Everything that  
 3 you see is on top of it. None of this is ESRI on top.  
 4 Only the very basic supporting file structure below is  
 5 ESRI supported. Google is totally different in the way  
 6 they engineer that, and therefore KML's, which operate  
 7 on top of Google maps, are totally different than  
 8 anything you get from ESRI.

9       So we are moving towards KML's. We even have a  
 10 number of different source formats we supported.  
 11 They're a tricky lot, actually. But in terms of  
 12 shapefiles, we -- our import -- I'll show you an import  
 13 real quick. It will give you a whole description of the  
 14 kind of file we're after there. The new terminology is  
 15 "layer packages," but we can convert shapefiles to shape  
 16 packages very, very quickly and easily. In fact you can  
 17 do a drawing and import it as shapefile and import it to  
 18 dataset if you want. They're very basic at this point.  
 19 We will improve that later, but you can today.

20       You can draw a drawing and say, "I don't want  
 21 it to be a drawing. I want it to be a dataset," and it  
 22 takes you through the process of doing it. It's pretty  
 23 simple.

24       MEMBER REILLY: Great. Thanks. Final  
 25 question.

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1       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes.

2       MEMBER REILLY: Is there a place to submit  
 3 questions if you are unable to find something?

4       MR. STRITTHOLT: Submit questions to us?

5       MEMBER REILLY: Yeah. I don't know who the  
 6 back-end support will be for people who are searching  
 7 for something and just can't figure it out. I guess my  
 8 question would be, can they submit questions, and to  
 9 whom?

10       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yeah. So you would just go  
 11 down to "Contact us," and you send us a message, and we  
 12 will get it.

13       MEMBER REILLY: Great. Thank you.

14       MR. STRITTHOLT: And we usually respond within  
 15 a half a day or less.

16       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Jess. Seth then  
 17 Kim.

18       MEMBER SHTEIR: Hi, Jim. Seth Shteir, and  
 19 wondered if you would include Citizens Science Data such  
 20 as eBird, that type of data, for maps and files.

21       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes and yes. So we are  
 22 accepting Citizens Science Data, in fact encouraging it,  
 23 and building tools to help support it. And we are  
 24 working with a number of other entities, including  
 25 eBird. We do have some eBird data in there now, for

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1 example. Now, this is not set up to replace it. On the  
 2 contrary we don't want those other systems to go away.  
 3 Their servicing is different. They're focusing on a  
 4 very important topic in their own way, and we want them  
 5 to be really happy and strong.

6       What we want to do is, we want to take that  
 7 information and to be able to pull it into the system to  
 8 allow it to be integrated with other kinds of data. So  
 9 that's kind of model we're working with. And so you if  
 10 talk to the folks up in Cornell, we're actually building  
 11 a new one for all of the boreal for Canada with their  
 12 bird group now, actually. So it's going to get bigger.

13       We really want to do more from watershed groups  
 14 to friends groups, because I think they have a lot to  
 15 offer. And it often gets overlooked or not even  
 16 considered at all as if it has any value, and it has  
 17 tremendous value.

18       MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you very much.

19       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yep.

20       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Kim?

21       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: This is Kim Campbell-Erb.  
 22 If we create a group and we allow our data that we share  
 23 with the group to be edited, will it keep our original  
 24 file so we know where we started?

25       MR. STRITTHOLT: Yes. Any map -- well, first

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1 of all, the datasets you find in here are not editable  
 2 yet. We had a couple of requests to service that.  
 3 They're called map feature services. They're different  
 4 than map services. They allow you to actually make  
 5 changes to them. We will support that at some point in  
 6 time, but it's not the highest demand right now.

7       But to look at any particular dataset or, more  
 8 importantly, a map -- let's say I made a map, any of the  
 9 maps I showed you today, and let's say I made it public  
 10 and you looked at my map, and you went, "Oh, that's a  
 11 pretty good map, Jim, but I got something else I want to  
 12 add to it." You cannot write over my map. You can save  
 13 it as a new name. In fact what it will do is keep track  
 14 of the lineage.

15       So I made my map off of Jim's map, and this is  
 16 what I added. So Jim's map stays secure, doesn't get  
 17 degraded, and your new map now states it's yours and  
 18 doesn't get degraded, and the person looking at your map  
 19 knows your map was originally based on mine. And it  
 20 does it all automatically. You don't have to type in  
 21 anything.

22       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Okay. Thank you.

23       CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. That concludes  
 24 questions from the DAC. Jim, would you mind hanging  
 25 with us for a few more minutes?

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1 MR. STRITTHOLT: Sure.

2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We need to take a quick

3 break before we go into public comment so we have some

4 fresh hands on the stenographer's tools and a quick

5 break for the DAC members. And we want to be wide-eyed

6 and ready for public comment. So if there's no

7 objection, we're going to take a ten-minute break.

8 We'll be back at 3:20.

9 MR. STRITTHOLT: Very good. Thank you.

10 (An afternoon break was taken.)

11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks, everybody. I'll be

12 calling the meeting back to order here. It's 3:26.

13 Could we have the mics back?

14 So Jim, there may or may not be anything for

15 you, but just this is the public comment period on the

16 DRECP presentations that we've received today, so I

17 appreciate your hanging on there for us just in case.

18 MR. STRITTHOLT: No problem at all.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: So we're going to roll

20 through, please. Lorelei, would you like to open up our

21 public comment, please. Thank you.

22 MS. OVIATT: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: This is Lorelei Oviatt, the

24 Kern County Planning Director.

25 MS. OVIATT: Thank you so much. Supervisor

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1 Scrivner, a Kern County Board Member, who is on your

2 DAC, who could not be here today, did ask me to come. I

3 have been the stakeholder for Kern County since the

4 beginning of the DRECP plan in 2009. We provided you

5 with a letter that gives you some more details about our

6 thoughts on this matter.

7 And of course Kern County leads California in

8 renewable energy of solar photovoltaic and wind not just

9 in the desert but in the Central Valley. We have over

10 8,142 megawatts of both rooftop solar and

11 commercial-scale solar wind, as well as accessory solar,

12 which powers our industrial plants.

13 I'm going to give you a slightly contrary

14 review of the DRECP. We're very excited about what CBI

15 has done, and if we stopped with the CBI process, I'm

16 sure Kern County would completely support this plan.

17 The problem is the implementation of where they want to

18 go with the plan.

19 MEMBER SHUMWAY: What is CBI?

20 MS. OVIATT: Conservation Biology Institute.

21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Thank you.

22 MS. OVIATT: This is not a Bureau of Land

23 Management land plan. The California Energy Commission

24 started a regional conversation and invited the Bureau

25 of Land Management into the regional conversation to

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1 look at siting and biological issues on the 24 million

2 acres, now down to 22 million acres of the desert. The

3 California Energy Commission has invested a lot of time

4 and effort, and we appreciate that. However they have

5 absolutely no jurisdiction on private land, on wind or

6 solar photovoltaic. They do have jurisdiction over

7 solar thermal. However there are no solar thermal

8 projects being proposed now anymore. And most of the

9 projects that have made the 33-percent utilities, which

10 were already there -- they already have subscribed --

11 very little of it is solar thermal.

12 Therefore the participation of the counties is

13 critical to this plan, and we are concerned that the

14 Bureau of Land Management's land use plan anticipates

15 putting renewable energy on public land and using

16 private land for mitigation. That is the fundamental

17 tenets of this Conservation Plan that we object to.

18 Second we object to the fact -- and the

19 Kern County Board has taken a formal position on this --

20 that Public Lands should be for mining, they should be

21 for the species, they should be for recreation, they

22 should be for OHV. They have enough multiple uses to

23 deal with. Kern County has permitted all of this with

24 very, very little BLM land. So our renewable energy is

25 not on BLM. It's all on private land. So we would like

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1 your DAC to take into account the many conflicts that

2 you already have --

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Continue.

4 MS. OVIATT: -- and take into account the fact

5 that this plan was going to be done in two years, which

6 would have been the height of renewable energy, and it's

7 taken six years, and we're already able to make our

8 33 percent.

9 I think that the California Energy Commission

10 should re-examine the tools that they designed in this

11 plan. Many of these tools are very, very useful going

12 forward, but at this point Kern County is not signatory

13 to the DRECP, and our issues have not been resolved.

14 And I'm certainly -- Supervisor Scrivner asked me to say

15 I'm happy to answer any questions the DAC members have.

16 Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Of course. Are there any

18 questions? Dinah.

19 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I have a question. You

20 mentioned that your own production is 8100 megawatts,

21 but you said we're exceeding the 33,000 megawatts.

22 Where did you get that data?

23 MS. OVIATT: Well, with the amount that we've

24 already subscribed to, if you check with California

25 Energy Commission, the utilities have already subscribed

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1 and met their 33 percent. Not all of it is built, but  
 2 they have certainly subscribed. They are now  
 3 oversubscribing. There are more projects than they  
 4 actually have been able to identify transmission for.

5 MEMBER SHUMWAY: You mean contracted to, middle  
 6 contracts?

7 MS. OVIATT: Correct. Our limit is  
 8 transmission.

9 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don? I'm sorry. Paul and  
 11 then Don. Okay. Sorry.

12 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Thank you. As with most  
 13 things, it's always about the money. And I actually  
 14 understand the way the county is coming from on this,  
 15 where the way it's set up right now, they could have  
 16 impacts on Public Lands. They would then mitigate by  
 17 taking land out of private circulation, thus hurting the  
 18 tax flows. And I think that's the gist of why the  
 19 county is opposed.

20 If the impact to take place on Public Lands  
 21 were mitigated on Public Lands, would the County of  
 22 Kern -- at least would they be more willing to go along  
 23 with the DRECP, or are there more fundamental issues?

24 MS. OVIATT: We are interested in that.  
 25 However we are interested in the loss of species,

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1 recreation, minerals, mining. Are those things going to  
 2 be mitigated? And although the team has said they will,  
 3 I have to tell you, aggregate is wherever it is, and  
 4 gems are wherever they are, and it's hard to mitigate.

5 And given the dire collapse of our desert  
 6 tortoise due to disease, it is hard to support the idea  
 7 that we're going to take desert tortoise off of lands  
 8 where they're supposed to be protected on Public Lands  
 9 merely to go to marginal private land, where we may have  
 10 only a few desert tortoises. That just doesn't make  
 11 sense to us.

12 We have used for our projects disturbed lands,  
 13 lands in the Central Valley that have been, you know, no  
 14 water, so there's really no way to encroach on them,  
 15 we've used those kinds of lands. We've used already  
 16 disturbed fallow lands in the desert, and we have done  
 17 our best to avoid those areas that already have the  
 18 species. So while we're not averse to obviously  
 19 development mitigating for their impacts, our concern is  
 20 that that's the mission of Public Lands, multiple use  
 21 and species and conservation for the future. It doesn't  
 22 make sense to us to put renewable energy there if we  
 23 could put it on private lands.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don?  
 25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. I have quite a few

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1 questions. I hope you can follow this. So my questions  
 2 are, 8,000 megawatts is a lot of megawatts, and I assume  
 3 there's multiple project applicants that got you there.  
 4 And so how did you comply with Kern County local land  
 5 use and development ordinances? I'm guessing a  
 6 conditional use permit. How did you comply with CEQA  
 7 and the Endangered Species Act when there was potential  
 8 for take? And finally how did you mitigate?

9 MS. OVIATT: Well, let's talk about three  
 10 different categories that are in the 8100 megawatts. So  
 11 obviously we have rooftop. Bakersfield is third in  
 12 California for rooftop solar. We have more rooftop  
 13 solar than a lot of other places that say they support  
 14 renewable energy.

15 And then the second category is that we allow  
 16 without a conditional use permit as much solar on the  
 17 ground as you would like to use for your own use. So we  
 18 have some of the largest fruit and nut processors in  
 19 the Central Valley -- Primex, for example, has two  
 20 megawatts of solar to power their own production. We  
 21 are also leading the way with that.

22 Now, commercial-scale wind and solar. We've  
 23 done 71 EIR's in the last six years. That is the  
 24 requirement of CEQA. We've done no mitigated neg decs.  
 25 We've done no exemptions and have cut no corners. And

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1 every single one of them has worked with the Department  
 2 of Fish and Wildlife California, and if there is a  
 3 federal nexus, which sometimes there is, we've worked  
 4 with them and mitigated. In some cases they have bought  
 5 mitigation land, and in that case it's mostly in the  
 6 Desert Tortoise Natural Area; for example, Joshua Tree  
 7 Woodlands.

8 For those of you who know the desert well, you  
 9 know that there is no coming back. Once we take a  
 10 Joshua Tree Woodland that took hundreds of years to  
 11 grow, it's not coming back. So we've been especially  
 12 sensitive and either left it, which you can do with  
 13 wind, or we have actually had them contribute money to  
 14 the City of Lancaster, who has a very healthy Joshua  
 15 Tree Woodlands program, and we have actually added over  
 16 a hundred acres to their preserve. We thought it was  
 17 just simpler than us starting our own program to support  
 18 programs like that.

19 Would we like streamlined permitting? Yes, but  
 20 not at the expense of multiple use or all these others.  
 21 We know the DRECP is working harder, but I will leave  
 22 you with this one thought: for my department as the  
 23 planning director to recommend to the board that we sign  
 24 on for this, I need developers to stand up behind me. I  
 25 don't have one renewable energy developer telling me

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1 that this project would be a benefit to them in  
 2 Kern County, and without that, I don't have a reason to  
 3 recommend. These are the answers that I need in the  
 4 draft Environmental Impact Report.

5 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Good. April?

6 MEMBER SALL: Thank you very much for your  
 7 comments, and I think that this would be a very helpful  
 8 discussion to have other counties hear and participate  
 9 in. So I'm hoping we can help facilitate a way for more  
 10 public and other counties to benefit from Lorelei's  
 11 expertise and the information she shared today.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Are we okay?  
 13 Jess.

14 MEMBER REILLY: It sounds like you've been very  
 15 successful, and I think I just wanted to piggyback on  
 16 what April was saying in that it would be great to have  
 17 other counties represented, both for us to hear from  
 18 them and also in a sort of more potential collaborative  
 19 process, which may be happening now. We don't know. I  
 20 don't know, but it seems like this should be something  
 21 that should be a part of this planning process.

22 MS. OVIATT: Thank you. Could I respond to  
 23 that?

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Please.

25 MS. OVIATT: The counties are talking. We are

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1 all talking and collaborating since the beginning of  
 2 this plan. We would really like this plan to be a  
 3 success, but from the very beginning based on our  
 4 experience with the West Mojave Plan, the very same  
 5 counties participated for 14 years in developing a  
 6 nine-million-acre HCP, which was unsuccessful. So right  
 7 from the beginning our belief is that it's just too big  
 8 and there's too many moving parts.

9 And we are very supportive of the California  
 10 Energy Commission and the BLM looking at using the  
 11 excellent information that they have put together with  
 12 this extraordinary tool into sub-areas, and perhaps that  
 13 would be a better direction at figuring out what works  
 14 for the different counties rather than this large-scale  
 15 operation with seven counties.

16 MEMBER REILLY: And just to be clear, so what  
 17 you're looking for is, there's the overall picture,  
 18 which would be the DRECP, and then to divide it into  
 19 subgroups or -- excuse me -- into sub-areas, to have  
 20 this also be a part of the DRECP, that would satisfy the  
 21 county's interest in it or help to?

22 MS. OVIATT: Well, let me put it this way:  
 23 they may be able to find solutions in a smaller area  
 24 than they can now. They're trying to find a  
 25 one-size-fits-all for 22 million acres. I have no

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1 objection if San Bernardino County or Inyo County can  
 2 find a way.

3 Let me also point out for Paul, it's not just  
 4 the mitigation land. We actually are supportive of  
 5 renewable energy on Public Lands, you know, if it works.  
 6 We would rather not because counties get a proprietary  
 7 property tax for renewable energy, at least wind, that  
 8 goes on BLM land. So it is taxed differently, and we  
 9 actually get a tax.

10 The issue is going to be that all of the  
 11 renewable energy will be in one county, and all the  
 12 mitigation land will be in another county, because those  
 13 darn species, they just don't watch those signs saying,  
 14 "Please go over there," or, "Please come over here."  
 15 And there's no way of guaranteeing where the free market  
 16 for this -- this is a free market. There's  
 17 15-and-a-half billion dollars of money invested in  
 18 Kern County in renewable energy.

19 These are not inexpensive projects. These are  
 20 not \$300,000 projects. And so we have no way of saying,  
 21 "Well, I'll tell you what, renewable energies, invest a  
 22 billion dollars in San Bernardino and a billion in  
 23 Kern." It's whatever they want to do. It's whatever  
 24 works for them and whatever land leases they come up  
 25 with.

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Well, thank you.

2 MS. OVIATT: Thank you so much, and thank you  
 3 for the time.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And give our best to Zack  
 5 and for delivering what we would have heard from Zack.  
 6 And we look forward to seeing him at the upcoming  
 7 meetings.

8 MS. OVIATT: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks. I have  
 10 Stephanie Dashiell followed by Ed Waldheim. Stephanie?

11 MS. DASHIELL: Hi.

12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Hi. Welcome. Three  
 13 minutes, please.

14 MS. DASHIELL: Sure, Yeah. Stephanie Dashiell  
 15 with Defenders of Wildlife. I'm based here in  
 16 Joshua Tree. And I just wanted to point out a few  
 17 things related to the public outreach specifically. I  
 18 thought it was a really great conversation this morning,  
 19 and you all had some excellent ideas about public  
 20 outreach and messaging for the DRECP.

21 I for one have been using Data Basin for a long  
 22 time and have created groups and find it to be a very  
 23 useful tool, and I think that the more we can encourage  
 24 the agencies to hold hands-on public workshops to  
 25 actually get people using this thing while Jim is

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1 explaining, I think it would be really, really useful  
 2 because you can send out a link and say, hey, look at  
 3 these maps online. Maybe people will, and maybe they  
 4 won't. But if you get them in a room and they can be  
 5 asking questions to people who can be responding to  
 6 that, I think you're going to have a lot more success  
 7 with people understanding the information that is out  
 8 there and available on the desert.

9 And that leads me to another point of which I  
 10 think a lot of people aren't aware, that sometimes in my  
 11 mind I think the DRECP has already been a success  
 12 because it has generated so much money for research and  
 13 different projects to learn more about the desert. And  
 14 I know vegetation mapping hasn't been done for the whole  
 15 desert, but we have it in the West Mojave, in the  
 16 Riverside East SEZ, and now BLM is looking to fund more  
 17 vegetation mapping in different areas. There's been  
 18 research related to plants, Mohave ground squirrel,  
 19 climate change, cumulative impacts.

20 And I don't think the public is aware of this  
 21 information that is available. It's my job. I get paid  
 22 to track this stuff and make sure that I know what's  
 23 going on, but I don't think there's a synthesis out  
 24 there about the information that's available that people  
 25 can be using to actually inform their comments, and I

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1 think that would be hugely beneficial. And then I think  
 2 that's all I had on public outreach.

3 And then just for the BLM, I mean, being  
 4 Defenders of Wildlife, we're very concerned with the  
 5 fact that this is a Natural Communities Conservation  
 6 Plan and what that means in terms of the conservation  
 7 standards that they're required to meet. And I know the  
 8 BLM doesn't do NCCP's, so we're very interested in  
 9 tracking this process of how the BLM is going to be able  
 10 to meet the full mitigation standards which is required  
 11 by the state under the NCCP Act.

12 So I just wanted to flag that as well, and with  
 13 that I'll just finish. If you guys have any questions,  
 14 I'd be happy to answer them.

15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Stephanie. Very  
 16 good. Thanks for coming in today. I appreciate your  
 17 comments.

18 MS. DASHIELL: Sure. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Did you have something,  
 20 April?

21 MEMBER SALL: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Sure, please, absolutely.

23 MEMBER SALL: So Stephanie, just to be clear,  
 24 you're suggesting it would be helpful to host some  
 25 public workshops on the presentation we just had on how

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1 to use the Data Basin and the CBI?

2 MS. DASHIELL: Definitely, in a place where  
 3 maybe you can have a collaboration with one of the  
 4 community colleges in the area where they have a  
 5 computer lab where people can actually come in and get  
 6 some hands-on experience using it. Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Next speaker is  
 8 Ed followed by Claudia Sall.

9 MR. WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, Friends of Jawbone,  
 10 Friends of El Mirage. I would like to again ask the DAC  
 11 and the DRECP --

12 Is Jim still on the line?

13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes.

14 MR. WALDHEIM: -- to really highlight the  
 15 recreational element within the West Mojave Plan,  
 16 especially with East Kern. Recreation is one of the  
 17 most important elements that we have in the California  
 18 desert. That is a jewel. That's why we come out to  
 19 recreate. We love our trails, but we also have the  
 20 respect of the land, and so the two go hand in hand. I  
 21 don't want to see everything locked up, because that  
 22 goes totally contrary to what we want to do out there,  
 23 but I want us also to respect what's on the left side  
 24 and the right side of the trail.

25 All I need is my little trail. Once I have my

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1 West Mojave trail, don't you dare mess around with my  
 2 trail, because that's what gives me access to where I  
 3 go. But you better darn well respect what's on the  
 4 right side and the left side when you go and recreate.  
 5 And I think everybody will agree with me on that, and so  
 6 I want to make sure that there's some way possible --  
 7 Jim, can really possibly -- Jim can highlight that that  
 8 is our biggest threat out there.

9 Our biggest threat is the public doesn't quite  
 10 understand what it means to go off that trail, and that  
 11 has to be really highlighted. It should just, boom, hit  
 12 you in the face. You open that up, you're going to go  
 13 see your favorite hiking area, you're going to see your  
 14 favorite flying area, your favorite shooting area, your  
 15 favorite bird-watching area. The only way you're going  
 16 to get there is off-roading. Everybody in this room is  
 17 an off-roader. I don't care what you drive, you are an  
 18 off-roader, clear and simple, you're an off-roader.

19 So now you do your favorite thing. Mine is  
 20 motorcycle riding. I have to be able to stay on that  
 21 trail. The California desert is very, very well  
 22 designated, the limited use areas, those are the  
 23 Conservation Areas. The DRECP is coming up along. And,  
 24 thank God, Randy has been working very hard to make sure  
 25 that those designated routes in the back country stay

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1 alive. We do not want to lose those. We don't want to  
 2 lose it.  
 3 Yesterday I got the shock of my life. They  
 4 tell me West Mojave is in the urban area. I never  
 5 expected somebody to tell me the West Mojave Plan is in  
 6 the urban area, but they're right. An hour and a half  
 7 away or two hours away from the 20 million people, I  
 8 guess we are in an urban area. It's a complete  
 9 different management that we have to have on the  
 10 West Mojave Plan. And Friends of Jawbone is doing it.  
 11 We're proving it. We know how to do that.  
 12 And I invite any of you guys to please come and  
 13 see me. I will show you what it takes to manage the  
 14 Public Lands for recreational opportunities. I'll be  
 15 happy to show you what we're doing. We're very, very  
 16 successful at it. Our only weakness is law enforcement.  
 17 That's where it's killing us.  
 18 So on this with Jim there, he's got an  
 19 incredible program. Please highlight that. That's  
 20 what's going to save us, whatever we do, is staying on  
 21 the designated trails. Thanks.  
 22 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you for coming, Ed.  
 23 Claudia Sall followed by John Stewart and then Gerry.  
 24 MS. CLAUDIA SALL: Good afternoon.  
 25 Claudia Sall from California Desert Coalition. I'd like

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1 to ask Randy to make sure in the future that we get  
 2 water on this DRECP. I know we've talked a lot about  
 3 it, but really as a subject we can explore with this new  
 4 emerging science coming out or information, I should  
 5 say, about the half acre foot of water for every acre  
 6 developed with solar and make sure that gets  
 7 incorporated so we can at some point get that in the  
 8 DRECP.  
 9 And also in the meetings that we talked about  
 10 some of the stuff, a few of us would like to get some  
 11 location ideas forwarded to you, some ideas for some of  
 12 the desert meetings. And I think the Board of  
 13 Supervisors of San Bernardino County, the desert ones,  
 14 the desert ones, Supervisors Ramos and Lovingood were  
 15 very adamant these take place in these desert areas.  
 16 We're living within results of these.  
 17 And so we have been doing -- as citizens we've  
 18 been active in our desert and we a lot of information  
 19 that we've been trying for -- if the DRECP has been  
 20 going for six years and the "READY" before that, we've  
 21 been working on it nine years or something. And for  
 22 nine years a lot of this information, both the  
 23 assumptions of where we had renewable energy in this  
 24 outline of the California desert and some of the  
 25 megawatts, has really just been ignored.

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1 And now we're getting down to a draft coming  
 2 out, and it sounds like, well, maybe this is new  
 3 information, and it still won't get incorporated. So  
 4 there's a real frustration there has not been adaptive  
 5 management and proactive work done with the information  
 6 citizens have brought to here.  
 7 So assuming that adaptive management being new  
 8 information coming, which beside what I just brought up  
 9 with new technology that sort of pushes some of the  
 10 previous thoughts and "READY" that we could not do  
 11 renewable energy on rooftop and also the fact that there  
 12 is not an update on the megawatts. And I know  
 13 Karen Douglas. We've talked to her about that, and if  
 14 it takes two or three years, why haven't they started  
 15 doing that in the six years we've been doing it?  
 16 So from a citizens' point of view we don't see  
 17 adaptive management and proactive work being done of  
 18 which those practices is being prided upon in the DRECP,  
 19 and there really is a shortfall in that.  
 20 And I also think that we're probably at the  
 21 DRECP process because what citizens said before  
 22 Solar PEIS was, we need to look at some cumulative  
 23 effects here in the desert. And we then started a  
 24 Solar PEIS, and that got folded in from information from  
 25 "READY" that has some assumptions that became outdated

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1 in the Solar PEIS. And now we're back getting some of  
 2 those Solar PEIS's fold the into DRECP, and that  
 3 question of variance lands, we just can't make that bad  
 4 thing go away.  
 5 We have megawatts that are related to acreage,  
 6 and we don't understand why that variance lands keeps  
 7 coming in, because it really excused the whole purpose  
 8 and mission to us of DRECP, which was refining, you  
 9 know, for DFA. So putting variance lands doesn't  
 10 refine. Thank you.  
 11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very true. Thank you,  
 12 Claudia. Good. John Stewart followed by Gerry.  
 13 MR. STEWART: Good afternoon, council.  
 14 John Stewart, California Association of Four-Wheel-Drive  
 15 Clubs. Lorelei is not the only one that's going to be a  
 16 little contrarian on this. Looking at this, I have to  
 17 question, is there a real need for large-scale  
 18 developments of renewable energy developments in the  
 19 desert? One has only to look at the advances in  
 20 technology that have taken place over the last few  
 21 years.  
 22 And I also want to ask you to look at the  
 23 advances in the marketing of rooftop solar that has been  
 24 ongoing in the urban areas over the last few years.  
 25 These are adding an incredible amount of renewable

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1 energy capacity into the system as it sits. I'd like to  
2 see how this renewable development of the urban is  
3 actually contributing to the overall requirement that  
4 the state has mandated for the 33 percent.

5 I think when the numbers come down to it,  
6 you'll find that the amount necessary to use up on  
7 Public Lands, which multiple-use lands is actually on  
8 the decrease, and it is ultimately not going to be  
9 needed.

10 Then you have to look at the concept here, as I  
11 have to challenge the BLM as to -- you have this  
12 National Lands Conservation system or landscape system  
13 creating new designation for land. Now you're looking  
14 at this DRECP process in order to validate those new  
15 land designations. I submit that just creating a new  
16 land designation really does nothing but add to the  
17 complexity and the bureaucratic morass of the management  
18 process overall. We have enough. We have more than  
19 enough land use designations from the DWMA's to Habitat  
20 Conservation Areas, you name it, we've got more than  
21 enough necessary, and adding to that complexity is  
22 really an overkill.

23 Again to stress the need for the process, the  
24 fact is that question, how much do we really need to  
25 build these megawatt large-scale processes on Public

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1 Lands? Other considerations have to be taken into  
2 account. Number one, the transmission systems to move  
3 that electricity from the site where it's generated on  
4 Public Lands miles away from the urban centers where it  
5 will be consumed, that creates another infrastructure  
6 that has to be built, has to use additional land,  
7 additional planning and additional funding to compensate  
8 for the increased cost.

9 And then you have the added water system and  
10 the impact to the water. Water is already a scarce  
11 commodity in the desert areas, and it is something that  
12 is of a high value and high interest throughout the  
13 entire southwest with the landscape conservation systems  
14 which are looking to ensure that the quality and  
15 quantity of water is available throughout the -- you  
16 know, to support the current population.

17 So please take this into various consideration.  
18 It is more than just building new solar plants. Thank  
19 you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, John. Gerry,  
21 you have the floor.

22 MR. HILLIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good  
23 afternoon. I had two comment cards in there, and I'm  
24 not asking for double time, but I just wonder there --

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You've got another period

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1 at the end too.

2 MR. HILLIER: Okay. That will keep me in the  
3 room there until the last one. Okay. On the DRECP, Al  
4 already made my comment for me, so but just for the  
5 record there, so that he doesn't appear in absentia.

6 The use of private land for mitigation for  
7 these large projects is a continuing issue. The loss of  
8 the tax base, I think you've already been reminded of  
9 it. I speak for a nine-county organization that  
10 includes four counties here in California. We  
11 collaborated on two major resolutions several years ago  
12 in terms of attempting to state a general policy of  
13 finding other ways to mitigate for these projects other  
14 than buying remaining private land in areas and also to  
15 mitigate when the large projects cut off access to back  
16 country and Public Lands and other opportunities and to  
17 seek mitigation for those.

18 We were successful in convincing the National  
19 Association of Counties to pass these resolutions on a  
20 national basis, so we're not just operating in  
21 expressing these positions for a single county or even a  
22 group of counties. It represents a formal position of  
23 the National Association of Counties. San Bernardino  
24 County, though, is probably -- and it's a client of  
25 mine; I've been associated with them for almost 20

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1 years -- is really the poster child. They have over the  
2 last dozen years lost over 830,000 private land acres,  
3 which is more than what -- I mean, there's whole  
4 counties, whole collaborations of counties that aren't  
5 that big. And that's how much private land they've  
6 lost.

7 There's an assumption among some people that,  
8 well, the counties get payment in lieu of taxes, a  
9 federal program called PILT. The problem is that  
10 San Bernardino County, as is Inyo County, as is  
11 Riverside County, are all capped. They can only get so  
12 much. And San Bernardino County falls so far under the  
13 with the cap that they do not get a penny more for PILT,  
14 with one minor exception that has nothing to do with  
15 renewable energy. When the Park Service acquires land,  
16 they get property tax for five years, but the Park  
17 Service is the only exception built into the PILT  
18 legislation.

19 So San Bernardino County has lost mightily and  
20 with no offset funding so that we are really concerned  
21 about it. We continue to be concerned. And the easy  
22 pickings of private land in the county have basically  
23 disappeared, so it's becoming a greater and greater  
24 problem for developers to acquire private lands. That's  
25 why they turned to the ranches recently.

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<p>1 One final point there, just quickly. Lorelei 2 mentioned the use of private lands for mitigation for 3 public land development. It was interesting, the 4 concept of the WEMO Plan, the Western Mojave Plan, was 5 exactly the opposite. That was the tradeoff that the 6 counties and BLM made for that plan, that the private 7 land could be developed in exchange for a major part of 8 the mitigation occurring on the Public Lands. So this 9 turns that on its ear.</p> <p>10 And ironically that plan is still in 11 litigation, and who knows when that litigation -- now 12 you've got the DRECP coming behind, which could open up 13 a whole new can of worms relative to further litigation. 14 And I'm not sure that that integration of those two 15 plans and the litigation associated with it has ever 16 been thought through, even by BLM. Thank you.</p> <p>17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Thank you, 18 Gerry.</p> <p>19 MR. HILLIER: No questions? I answered all 20 your questions.</p> <p>21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I think we're good. Thank 22 you. I have Sam Merk followed by Joan Taylor and then 23 Jay Erb.</p> <p>24 MS. MERK: Everybody is tall. My name is 25 Sophia Merk, and I live in Ridgecrest, California. I'm</p>		<p>1 county's planning and all that kind of stuff and, as 2 Gerry just mentioned, the Mojave Plan. Subject area 3 crosses multiple BLM offices that have their own land 4 use plan and allocations that will be disrupted by a new 5 layer of planning. This will not work because it is not 6 site specific. It will need EIA's and EIS's in the 7 future because the decisions that will come out from the 8 DRECP are broad and regional in nature.</p> <p>9 Many of the new solar projects are combining 10 water rights with their projects. Is this a new 11 fast-track procedure to attract and start allocating 12 water away from indigenous historic peoples, natural 13 springs, aquifers and streams? I'm going to submit this 14 letter to April because she's going to be the new person 15 taking on this task.</p> <p>16 I also wanted to comment a little bit about 17 some of the procedures if I don't run out of time. I 18 really want to compliment this. This is great. This is 19 wonderful. I can't wait to get home and get started on 20 it. But that's going to be a good, good tool for 21 everybody. Everybody needs to learn how to do that. 22 But I do want to say that.</p> <p>23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Continue.</p> <p>24 MS. MERK: Most of the meetings should be held 25 in the desert. Sure, the metropolitan areas need to</p>	
<p>1 basically handing a letter to you guys that I've written 2 to Kern County. I've written previous letters to 3 San Bernardino County and to many other counties, and 4 I'm just going to go over briefly the talking points in 5 that letter because it's a four-page letter, and I know 6 you don't want to hear that.</p> <p>7 DRECP is basically a single-use land planning 8 effort focused on wind and solar and does not take into 9 account any other resources. An RMP, Resource 10 Management Plan, EIS includes alternative management of 11 the subject lands, more conservation, level or less 12 conservation level. DRECP is a landscape regional 13 planning effort.</p> <p>14 The Forest Service tried that approach with the 15 Sierra Nevada Forest planning and the Southern 16 California Forest planning in the early 2000s. The 17 Forest Service process did not work. The Forest Service 18 was sued and lost. Amendments to each RMP in the 19 region -- that would mean the California Desert 20 Conservation Area Plan, Bishop, Coachella, et cetera -- 21 and county general plans need to be completed before the 22 DRECP, which includes many land use plans in the 23 affected areas.</p> <p>24 The DRECP does not take into account other 25 planning decisions from the past. That includes all the</p>	Page 223	<p>1 be -- you need to have it. But what has happened in the 2 past with the DRECP, they've been holding many, many 3 meetings in Sacramento, and the desert people have not 4 had a voice. They have not listened to us. I have read 5 and wrote numerous letters, and you know, it's still out 6 there. And there's a lot more people that need to talk, 7 so I'm not going to take any more of your time. Thank 8 you very much.</p> <p>9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Sam. Joan 10 followed by Jay followed by Terry.</p> <p>11 MS. TAYLOR: It's counting. I haven't started. 12 Joan Taylor.</p> <p>13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: It's we'll make sure you 14 finish your thoughts.</p> <p>15 MS. TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you. I'm chair for 16 California-Nevada Energy Desert Committee for 17 Sierra Club. And Sierra Club supports greenhouse gas 18 reductions. I won't give you the whole spiel, but we 19 are very concerned that renewable energy be done 20 appropriately. However we do have serious concerns 21 about DRECP. We certainly support it, but there are 22 some grave concerns.</p> <p>23 One is the purpose and need for DRECP. It's 24 supposed to meet a 60-percent greenhouse gas reduction 25 by 2040. However the CEC calculator to determine how</p>	Page 225

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1 many acres are needed is immensely bloated. It has huge  
 2 demand drivers, retirement of all nuclear, millions of  
 3 EV's, bloated population projections that need to be  
 4 corrected, and so far they have resisted doing so. They  
 5 might change it. They'll change it back. They've come  
 6 up with tens of thousands of acres -- I mean tens of  
 7 thousands of megawatts, which translates into hundreds  
 8 of thousands of acres of development and  
 9 industrialization in the desert that affects all  
 10 stakeholders.

11 They have done minimal projections for  
 12 distributed generation. Sierra Club has taken them on  
 13 with this and have shown that they're a tenth of the  
 14 acreage they're talking about might be needed. In fact  
 15 the CEC consultant acknowledged that, when they  
 16 corrected their errors and kept a reasonable energy  
 17 efficiency projection, that virtually no large mega  
 18 projects were needed in the desert. We are counting on  
 19 the DAC to be a voice to tell BLM they must do an  
 20 independent assessment of need.

21 We question BLM's intent to roll out millions  
 22 of acres of National Conservation Land System  
 23 designations simultaneously with DRECP. In many if not  
 24 most cases the designations will not be appropriate to  
 25 meet the DRECP goals, and it confuses the issue. BLM

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1 needs to designate lands further. There needs to be a  
 2 mechanism to preserve lands to mitigate for the hundreds  
 3 if not thousands of years of impacts of industrial  
 4 projects. You cannot just put a land amendment on that  
 5 could be amended in 20 or 30 years. Even layered land  
 6 amendments do not work.

7 The concept of an umbrella plan wherein DRECP  
 8 would be primarily a Public Lands plan then later fold  
 9 in counties has yet to be shown to work. DAC ought to  
 10 be asking questions about that. This should not be a  
 11 Public Lands only plan or we will get nothing about  
 12 renewable development on Public Lands.

13 In addition the BLM is continuing to approve  
 14 projects that could preclude conservation options under  
 15 the DRECP. Such projects as Ivanpah have been shown to  
 16 be extremely destructive. Recently approved Stateline,  
 17 Palen, Soda Mountains and Silurian are other Public  
 18 Lands projects that will preclude options under the  
 19 DRECP and to be scrutinized by you all. Thanks very  
 20 much.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks for coming, Joan.  
 22 Questions? Good. Very good. Thank you, Joan.

23 MEMBER SALL: I have a question.

24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We do have a question.  
 25 Sorry, April. Go right ahead.

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1 MEMBER SALL: Hi, Joan. A question in regards  
 2 to the Sierra Club's comments on the California Energy  
 3 Commission calculator.

4 MS. TAYLOR: Yes.

5 MEMBER SALL: Those comments are public and  
 6 posted on the DRECP website?

7 MS. TAYLOR: We've sent them in, but I'm not  
 8 sure they're posted, and I don't know why.

9 MEMBER SALL: You should look into that.

10 MS. TAYLOR: There have been some corrections,  
 11 and then they'll correct them back -- or miscorrect them  
 12 back. Basically, for instance, for energy efficiency  
 13 they're using very low historical levels of energy  
 14 efficiency that have nothing to do with and are not  
 15 nearly as good as the current ten-year CEC projections.  
 16 They should use current projections for population, for  
 17 energy efficiency. If they just do those two things, we  
 18 will see thousands of megawatts drop off this alleged  
 19 demand.

20 And also they have not adhered to state  
 21 policies for zero net energy buildings, which were  
 22 requiring a minimum amount of PB's. That's part of a  
 23 zero net energy building. They are not meeting those  
 24 standards.

25 MEMBER SALL: Great. Thank you. Just for the

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1 record she made a comment earlier about EV's. That's  
 2 electric vehicles.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Jay and  
 4 followed by Terry.

5 MR. ERB: All right. Good afternoon,  
 6 Mr. Chairman and council members. My name is Jay Erb,  
 7 and I'm a rockhound. This is not in regards to the  
 8 DRECP. This is regarding the subgroup Connecting People  
 9 With the Desert. The expertise sought for this subgroup  
 10 is very informative as to what the subgroup is expected  
 11 to accomplish. There is no expertise sought for any  
 12 type of recreation. How can you connect to the desert  
 13 without that? There is no expertise sought for hard  
 14 rock geology, for mineral resources nor for my special  
 15 interest, hobby collecting. These are people who  
 16 typically support public access to Public Lands.

17 The expertise that is sought as stated are  
 18 almost entirely liberal arts, along with  
 19 conservation-oriented positions. This advice is from  
 20 people who in general traditionally want to further  
 21 limit or deny public access by closing routes formerly  
 22 opened and published in books.

23 To clarify one thing, let me state that while a  
 24 paleontologist may have training in geology, the  
 25 specialty is in sediments and fossils and not in

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1 identifying mineral resources sourced from igneous  
 2 processes, the volcanic activity that occurred  
 3 throughout the desert.  
 4 I would suggest that if the end product of the  
 5 subgroup is really to bring the public to connect with  
 6 the desert, the best way to create the emotional  
 7 connection to the desert would be to allow the public to  
 8 experience the desert. Allow vehicular access, even if  
 9 it's limited, to Wilderness Areas, and allow vehicular  
 10 access, even if it's limited, to historic sites of  
 11 interest.  
 12 Last month I was on a rockhound trip to the  
 13 Baxter Wash with a club from Whittier. Amongst the  
 14 rockhounds looking for specimens there was an elderly  
 15 lady with a walker and several gentlemen who were  
 16 70-plus hiking up and down the washes with walking  
 17 sticks. It was a powerful sight, let me tell you.  
 18 Other than by car, there is no other way that these  
 19 disabled citizens could get close enough to the  
 20 collecting site to enjoy their hobby. Thank you for  
 21 your time.  
 22 MEMBER SHTEIR: Mr. Chairman?  
 23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Seth, of course.  
 24 MEMBER SHTEIR: Jay, I want to thank you for  
 25 your comments, and I would support a revision of the

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1 description to include geology and recreation. I think  
 2 that's very important. And if you do know anybody who's  
 3 a rockhound who wants to be on this, I would encourage  
 4 you to send in their application, and we'd review it,  
 5 because I would like to work with them. So thank you.  
 6 MR. ERB: Okay. Thank you. I'll poll some of  
 7 my club members. Anybody else?  
 8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Anyone else?  
 9 Good. Thank you. Seth, here's a few notes.  
 10 MEMBER SHTEIR: I appreciate it.  
 11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Okay. Terry, you have the  
 12 last word in this comment session.  
 13 MS. WEINER: Hi. Terry Weiner, Imperial County  
 14 for the Desert Protective Council. A lot of my comments  
 15 have been already covered by the public. I do want to  
 16 thank the DAC for their great input into what needs to  
 17 be done on the DRECP this morning. And I want to  
 18 particularly thank them for instituting a subgroup,  
 19 which I hope to help them with in terms of how to do the  
 20 outreach -- and I'll work with Teri Raml too -- to the  
 21 public through local communities and organizations of  
 22 all sorts so that we have way more of a public involved  
 23 in this process than we have so far. It's really  
 24 important.  
 25 I do want to say that DRECP, it seems to the

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1 Desert Protective Council that it's a subset really of  
 2 the Solar PEIS for which we have sued the Department of  
 3 Interior, calling it wrong from the start. It seems  
 4 that this is a subset of a corporate land grab of our  
 5 Public Lands ultimately for private profit, and I really  
 6 want to emphasize the need to include all alternatives  
 7 in the document which NEPA requires, and the  
 8 not-too-often-cited requirement is to consider all -- to  
 9 analyze all reasonable alternatives, including those  
 10 outside the jurisdiction of the agency, which goes back  
 11 to April's comment that not only do we need people to be  
 12 brought up to date -- and Joan mentioned it too, about  
 13 how much we've already produced and where the demand  
 14 is -- but also that the alternative, that it be fully  
 15 analyzed, local distributed generation and rooftop  
 16 solar.  
 17 Also I'd like to see the Environmental  
 18 Protection Agency's alternative included, which is to  
 19 analyze the contaminated lands, waste dumps, the  
 20 abandoned landfills and mines, of which they say there's  
 21 12 to 15 million acres available of already ruined lands  
 22 in this country, and they're often next to transmission  
 23 lines already.  
 24 I really wanted to say that Imperial County is  
 25 really the most underrepresented as far as public

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1 outreach, public involvement goes. So I want to make  
 2 sure we have at least two meetings at either end of  
 3 Imperial Valley. They're very heavily impacted already  
 4 buy solar proposals and solar projects that have already  
 5 gone forward. There's Salton Sea, a flyway for birds.  
 6 And you know, along with other solar projects throughout  
 7 the desert, bird deaths are being recorded around solar  
 8 projects on farm lands. Thank you.  
 9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Terry. Thanks  
 10 for coming. Seth, yep.  
 11 MEMBER SHTEIR: This is just in relation to the  
 12 comment made by Mr. Erb, and we certainly want to  
 13 provide a broad range of perspectives on the Connecting  
 14 People With the Desert, but just to clarify, the intent  
 15 or the direction of the committee isn't to make  
 16 recommendations about routes or anything else. The real  
 17 issue that the committee is going to be tackling is how  
 18 to educate people about the desert in a variety of ways.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thanks for adding that.  
 20 That's good. We're moving now into the reports. The  
 21 Dumont Dunes Subgroup met on March 11th and assisted the  
 22 BLM with their staffing schedule and their holiday  
 23 schedule for this year. Last year there were concerns  
 24 about the staffing on particular big weekends. That's  
 25 going to be definitely fixed this year because we're

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1 cooperating, communicating and letting each other know  
 2 what to expect on those big holidays. So that's what  
 3 the Dumont group worked on at its last meeting.  
 4 Report from the SRP Subgroup. Kim, do you have  
 5 anything to add?  
 6 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I think we're still kind  
 7 of getting our arms around when an SRP permit is  
 8 required for a group event that is non-commercial,  
 9 non-competitive, and I believe our next meeting is on  
 10 April 23rd.  
 11 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Any questions  
 12 for Kim? The ISDRA Subgroup Report is a printed report  
 13 that's in your packets from chairman Tom Acuna, former  
 14 DAC chairman.  
 15 A little bit of housekeeping. There are  
 16 applications in your packet for Imperial Sand Dunes  
 17 Recreation Area Subgroup positions. There are three  
 18 positions that are open. We have three applications  
 19 that were received. After reviewing with the chairman,  
 20 Tom Acuna, the applications, Tom and I are in agreement  
 21 that we'd like to move forward for the DAC's approval  
 22 applications for Chuck Hattaway and the application for  
 23 Karen Brindley.  
 24 Comments, questions?  
 25 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Do you need a motion?

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Are there any objections?  
 2 It's all right. I'm letting them look. Okay. I am not  
 3 seeing any objections. Al is still reviewing.  
 4 MEMBER MUTH: I'm noting some are more much  
 5 more complete than others, and again if we could have  
 6 this information sooner, I'd appreciate that. No  
 7 objections.  
 8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Hearing and seeing no  
 9 objections, thank you, Al, and so noted. And we will  
 10 submit the Connecting People to the Desert applications  
 11 moving forward into the DAC in advance. So thank you.  
 12 The next item is Council Comments and Questions  
 13 on State Office, District Manager and Field Office  
 14 Subgroup Reports. Your reports were posted online in  
 15 advance, and we have copies in our packets. Why don't  
 16 we start on this side with Kim. Any comments or  
 17 questions for the reports?  
 18 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I have more of a general  
 19 comment, and it is a comment that I want you to know I  
 20 appreciate the reports on the SRP permits. That's very  
 21 helpful to me. And I probably will start sending you  
 22 e-mails asking you more specific questions before future  
 23 meetings so that we can have even more information for  
 24 possible discussion. Thank you.  
 25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Al, do you have anybody in

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1 your sights?  
 2 MEMBER MUTH: Stop wincing over there, John.  
 3 No. I'm remarkably calm today.  
 4 (Applause.)  
 5 MEMBER SHUMWAY: That is remarkable.  
 6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Puts the pressure on you,  
 7 Dinah. Jess?  
 8 MEMBER REILLY: My comment is a general  
 9 comment, which is that with an increasing state focus on  
 10 water resources, that it would be great to have more  
 11 information available from the different field offices  
 12 as to what information you do have as far as what  
 13 resources are available for renewable or for any other  
 14 user. So in future reports, if possible, or in future  
 15 meetings it would be great to have more information  
 16 about water, what exists, how you obtained that  
 17 information, things like that. Thank you.  
 18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Of course. Seth, any  
 19 comments, questions? Paul?  
 20 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Yes. I have one question, and  
 21 it's from Palm Springs. On Page 2 of the report --  
 22 thanks -- it talks about -- hold on. Here it is right  
 23 here. On Page 2 on wind energy it talks about in the  
 24 second paragraph, second-to-the-last sentence, proposing  
 25 to use new shrouded technology which may have a positive

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1 effect on reducing avian mortality. Basically it's  
 2 birds dying because of windmills. I'm unfamiliar with  
 3 the shrouding technology. Do you have any information  
 4 on that? What does that consist of? How do you shroud  
 5 a windmill?  
 6 MR. KALISH: John Kalish, Field Manager,  
 7 Palm Springs. We've had a meeting with Brookfield  
 8 Energy in which they described their new shrouded  
 9 turbine technology, and it's still in development. We  
 10 really haven't seen any detailed designs. It's all  
 11 forthcoming. But one of the goals of that technology is  
 12 to lessen or potentially eliminate avian deaths due to  
 13 wind energy. So it's yet to be really assessed as far  
 14 as the BLM's standpoint. At some point they will submit  
 15 a plan of development for us to take a look at, and at  
 16 that time we'll know much more about it.  
 17 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Just to summarize, then, you  
 18 don't know exactly what they mean by "shrouded  
 19 technology." I mean, I don't even know what that means.  
 20 MR. KALISH: Well, it's been described that  
 21 instead of the -- the typical turbine has three blades,  
 22 but on the outside of the blade there's a ring that kind  
 23 of sucks the air in, kind of almost causing a Venturi  
 24 effect, is the way I understand it. So it's really  
 25 doing two things. One is that it increases the

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1 efficiency of the wind turbine itself, and the second is  
2 that birds will have a much more of a difficult time  
3 flying into the -- I mean, they may get sucked in  
4 through the wind turbines, the blades, but they, if  
5 they're flying, say, perpendicular to the blades  
6 themselves, then they wouldn't actually hit the blades  
7 or fly right into the blades. I mean, that's the  
8 theory, but we really haven't seen very much about it.  
9 I wish I could talk to you in detail about this  
10 new technology, but it's something that they've been  
11 working on. They think it's a lot more efficient and it  
12 will be an answer to the avian issue, but it's yet to be  
13 determined whether all of that is going to be workable,  
14 at least from our standpoint. So maybe by the next  
15 meeting or before, I'll have more information.  
16 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Okay. Thank you.  
17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Any other  
18 questions for John while he's at the mic? No. We're  
19 doing good. Thank you, John. Don?  
20 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay.  
21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You're on.  
22 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah, just three or four. The  
23 first one is the Needles office. I'd just like Mike --  
24 you can sit down, Mike. Just give us as much heads-up  
25 on the opening of the Route 66 Interpretive Center as

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1 you can. I know it's scheduled for March, but maybe it  
2 will bleed into April. So send an e-mail to Randy so he  
3 can distribute it to the DAC members, so if we can  
4 schedule attending, I know that I'll certainly try to  
5 attend if I can.  
6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Great.  
7 MR. AHRENS: The opening of that facility  
8 certainly will go into April. Construction should be  
9 concluded this month, in March, so it will be sometime  
10 in, I'm sure, April.  
11 MEMBER HOUSTON: Just give us as much lead time  
12 as you can.  
13 MR. AHRENS: Absolutely will.  
14 MEMBER HOUSTON: The next three are for  
15 Barstow. Are you going to ask about WEMO?  
16 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I'm going to ask about WEMO's.  
17 That's okay. Katrina can answer yours first.  
18 MEMBER HOUSTON: Actually the first one I was  
19 supposed to talk to Carl about, but I'll just jump down  
20 to the next one. Desert Express, your status report  
21 says that construction is going to begin at the end of  
22 this year. Really?  
23 MS. SYMONS: So the company has yet to secure  
24 the funding. Theoretically on paper by the  
25 authorization that's been provided, construction is

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1 supposed to start before the end of 2014, but funding  
2 has not been secured.  
3 MEMBER HOUSTON: Does the right-of-way grant  
4 extinguish if they don't?  
5 MS. SYMONS: I will give you an update at the  
6 next DAC. We are talking with the state office and the  
7 Washington office right now on that exact subject.  
8 MEMBER HOUSTON: Fair enough. So the last one  
9 for Barstow is the Desert Managers' Oversight Group and  
10 the Recovery Implementation Team meeting that occurred  
11 just a few days ago in Las Vegas, so I just wanted to  
12 hear what happened there.  
13 MS. SYMONS: So my wildlife biologist attended  
14 that meeting. I did not because I was at the  
15 Dumont Dunes Subgroup meeting, so I will defer to the  
16 Ridgecrest Field Manager.  
17 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.  
18 MR. SYMONS: Yeah. The meeting was held this  
19 past Tuesday in Las Vegas, and basically the first phase  
20 of the implementation plan is supposed to be being  
21 disseminated to the public in short order a month or  
22 two, and one of the things that they wanted to made an  
23 emphasis of is that this is a working document, that it  
24 won't be the end. There will be another phase to it,  
25 that they know that it's not perfect as it is, that

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1 they'll go and try to go through it.  
2 There were some different ideas that came  
3 across in the meeting. There were some at the meeting  
4 that felt that there hasn't been -- certainly the plan  
5 hasn't been implemented and implemented soon enough.  
6 There was also some issues that some people brought up  
7 that thought the plan should be vetted more to the  
8 public. So that was, you know, kind of the back and  
9 forth as to how quick do you start implementing, and how  
10 long do you take to vet it? So those were some of the  
11 issues that were brought up and that there will  
12 definitely be a Phase 2 to it, and I'm not sure exactly  
13 when that will come out.  
14 And then it did have a list of different topics  
15 prioritized for the six regions that were there. And  
16 then they had specific items or projects to do by  
17 category that were listed in the back that will becoming  
18 out in the meeting. Other than that, then there was  
19 some discussion as far as the MOG itself as to where and  
20 who should be part of that as far as the planning and  
21 then also involved in the actual making of the plan, how  
22 much scientific as opposed to management. And as far as  
23 I could tell, there wasn't a determination on that. It  
24 was just brought up, and they were going to be taking  
25 that into consideration as they were going forward to

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1 how the final makeup is going to be.  
 2 The MOG started out, I guess, as state  
 3 directors, and then it went down, and there were field  
 4 managers and staff there that were at the meeting. So  
 5 I'm not sure where that's going to end, when they  
 6 finally reconvene to talk, as to who is going to be part  
 7 of the MOG.  
 8 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.  
 9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Great. Any other  
 10 questions? You're good?  
 11 MEMBER HOUSTON: I defer to Dinah.  
 12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Why don't we go back to  
 13 April. Do you have anything?  
 14 MEMBER SHUMWAY: She was late.  
 15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I know.  
 16 MEMBER SALL: Sorry. One quick question for  
 17 Katrina. On the Barstow report it mentions the Silurian  
 18 Valley Wind and Solar facilities and that there will be  
 19 a public meeting on March 27th.  
 20 MS. SYMONS: Correct.  
 21 MEMBER SALL: Is there a time and location yet  
 22 for that meeting?  
 23 MS. SYMONS: I sure do have it right now. A  
 24 flier went out earlier, so hopefully since you're on our  
 25 mailing list, you would have already received that

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1 flier. We also have the news release that's also been  
 2 posted on the website as well this week. So the meeting  
 3 is going to be held at the Hampton Inn on March 27th.  
 4 The timeframe for that is 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and then  
 5 again at 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and that is specifically for  
 6 receiving comments on our variance process.  
 7 MEMBER SALL: Thank you. That's it.  
 8 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Dinah.  
 9 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay. I have a couple of  
 10 questions for Katrina first. One is North Peak Wind  
 11 Farm.  
 12 MS. SYMONS: Yes.  
 13 MEMBER SHUMWAY: For all of you, that's at  
 14 Juniper Flats, which is really kind of a hotbed as far  
 15 as off-road vehicle incursions. "Violations," I guess,  
 16 is a better word.  
 17 MS. SYMONS: We do have some off-route travel.  
 18 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Off-route travel?  
 19 MS. SYMONS: Yes.  
 20 MEMBER SHUMWAY: In that area I notice what  
 21 you're considering, but is there any consideration of  
 22 this site for the impacts on mining claims in that area?  
 23 I mean, they're considering almost everything else.  
 24 MS. SYMONS: Yes. Ultimately, Dinah, you know,  
 25 we certainly -- we got the POD. That particular item

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1 we're getting ready to hand that off to the RICO team in  
 2 order to wind up moving forward it through the NEPA and  
 3 ESA process. So with that one we will be then going out  
 4 for the public comment on it, and at that time we will  
 5 wind up trying to narrow the scope of the impacts of  
 6 that. So certainly mining is one of them, because we do  
 7 have a bunch of mining claims up there, absolutely. And  
 8 there's a whole host of other items. I didn't just list  
 9 it out yet because we're not to the scoping phase yet.  
 10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So that will be part of the  
 11 NEPA thing?  
 12 MS. SYMONS: Yes.  
 13 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Maybe Jessica can work on  
 14 that. Okay. Did I have another question? Yeah, I  
 15 think I had another question. Oh, yes, my question  
 16 about WEMO. Could you give us a brief update of the  
 17 WEMO process -- yes, the WEMO process -- where it is and  
 18 the inclusion of the DAC's WEMO report into the process,  
 19 please.  
 20 MS. SYMONS: Okay. So for purposes of  
 21 clarification, so WEMO right now is being co-managed  
 22 between the Ridgecrest and Barstow Field Offices. So to  
 23 that extent, Carl, if I miss anything, please step in on  
 24 the WEMO question.  
 25 For at least half a year we have been in the

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1 process of developing the alternatives. It has taken a  
 2 considerable amount of time because, you know, we've got  
 3 about 300,000 segments. Each route is broken out into  
 4 various segments depending upon the minimization  
 5 criteria issue that might be present on-site. So when  
 6 you multiply 3,000 segments by the four alternatives  
 7 that we're currently looking at and you're having to go  
 8 line by line and populate an Excel spreadsheet -- so  
 9 there is some analysis that can be done as well as  
 10 documentation -- it's taking a considerable amount of  
 11 time in a disciplinary team. With that being said, yes,  
 12 the DAC subgroup comments are being used in the  
 13 development of those alternatives.  
 14 Our contractor is and has started the analysis  
 15 process of some of the alternatives, including the  
 16 no-action alternative. We have recently -- and that is  
 17 on February 11th and 12th -- presented live testimony in  
 18 District Court. There were seven of us from the federal  
 19 defendant standpoint, and then the plaintiffs had two  
 20 live witnesses.  
 21 What came out of that hearing is the judge  
 22 provided us a 30-day turnaround time to either come up  
 23 with a joint proposed order or to have the plaintiffs  
 24 and the defendants come up with our own orders. That  
 25 task was due to the submitted on March 12th. As it

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1 turns out, there were two different orders that were  
2 proposed, one for the plaintiffs, one for the  
3 defendants. So we are now in the wait-and-see mode as  
4 to what the judge is actually going to order for  
5 remedies.

6 There was one agreement, and that was on the  
7 extension of the deadline for the completion of the  
8 environmental document. And so we are now -- I believe  
9 it will ultimately be extended through March of 2015.  
10 We're expecting the draft environmental impact statement  
11 to be out on the street by July of this year. So stay  
12 tuned. It's coming.

13 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So July of this year, so 2014?  
14 MS. SYMONS: Affirmative. Carl.  
15 MR. SYMONS: Do you want to talk about the fact  
16 that we're starting the process of the --  
17 MS. SYMONS: Come on up.  
18 MR. SYMONS: Also another issue that we're  
19 working through is, we're starting to do a programmatic  
20 agreement with the SHPO in order to analyze --  
21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: SHPO?  
22 MR. SYMONS: I'm sorry. The State Historic  
23 Preservation Office. And because there's been some  
24 recent court rulings in regards to cultural resources  
25 and the surveys and what needs to be done in order to do

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1 the travel management plan, and so based on those court  
2 decisions, someone came out, and we thought originally  
3 maybe we'd have to do a Class III survey, which is  
4 basically walking. And with 17,000 miles, it would take  
5 decades and millions and millions of dollars to do that  
6 and just wouldn't be feasible.

7 So our cultural staff is entering into  
8 discussions to do a programmatic agreement with SHPO in  
9 order to help satisfy those needs, so that's another  
10 part of the process that we're going to have to do. And  
11 that one will probably make pretty much the entire year  
12 to try to get finalized based on the estimates from both  
13 Ridgecrest and Barstow's cultural staff.

14 MEMBER SHUMWAY: This will be an additional  
15 study that has to go on top of the transportation study,  
16 or it's separate, a separate entity?  
17 MR. SYMONS: Go ahead.  
18 MS. SYMONS: It will actually wind up getting  
19 us to the 106 compliance standpoint for cultural  
20 resources. We've already started discussions with the  
21 tribes on trying to frame up that programmatic  
22 agreement. We've also begun discussions with State  
23 Historic Preservation Office, so it will ultimately be  
24 more procedural, but there will be some modeling  
25 involved in order to provide for what's the highest

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1 probability of where cultural sites might exist in  
2 relationship to routes of travel.

3 The other item is, we've already started  
4 discussions with United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
5 for a consultation on WEMO as well.

6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay. Thank you.  
7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.  
8 MEMBER SHUMWAY: But I have a couple of other  
9 questions.  
10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You bet.  
11 MEMBER SHUMWAY: This is a probably question  
12 for Carl. Then I have a comment. The Golden Queen, I  
13 thought that L.A. County was a lead agency on the Golden  
14 Queen. At least it was on its first permit.  
15 MR. SYMONS: Yeah. Well, part of it is on  
16 federal land, in which its bid was permitted back in the  
17 early '90s.  
18 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Right. It was fully  
19 permitted.  
20 MR. SYMONS: Yeah, from the BLM side. And I'm  
21 learning about these things that happened, as I say,  
22 B.C., before Carl, that they're starting up now. I  
23 guess they have the funding, and they're starting to  
24 produce. So the state has contacted the state office,  
25 and they have had negotiations. Apparently this will be

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1 one of the first ones that will be going through under  
2 the backfill regulations for the mines.

3 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Right.  
4 MR. SYMONS: One of the key interests that I  
5 have is as between the time of this permit and now  
6 there's been a discovery of a snail out on the site, and  
7 there's been a petition for emergency listing of the  
8 snail. And one of the things that I have been -- and  
9 that has to do with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLM  
10 doesn't have anything to do with that. They filed with  
11 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

12 But I will actually be meeting with the mine on  
13 the 19th, first of all, to get familiar with their  
14 operation and introduce myself and things that they're  
15 starting up. And the second thing is just trying to see  
16 what opportunities and what the feeling is going back.  
17 Right now the snail has no status for anything because  
18 they haven't ruled on it yet. But you know, being  
19 proactive in trying to say what possibilities are there,  
20 is there any avoidance or whatever, knowing the mine  
21 still needs to operate without jeopardizing that is  
22 something we can do.

23 MEMBER SHUMWAY: It sounds like there's not  
24 enough data on the snail to make a decision one way or  
25 the other.

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1 MR. SYMONS: I don't know. They did actually  
2 file a petition, and I've got a copy of it that was sent  
3 to me.  
4 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Who is "they"?  
5 MR. SYMONS: Center for Biological Diversity.  
6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Of course.  
7 MR. SYMONS: And Fish and Wildlife Service.  
8 I've had a couple of conversations with them and  
9 conversations where they were going to go about the  
10 business on their end and just as a steward of the land  
11 just discussing, trying to see what we can do to get as  
12 much harmony between the two as we can without the  
13 regulations.  
14 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Between L.A. County and the --  
15 MR. SYMONS: Between the mine and just  
16 discussions with the mine, just least amount of impacts  
17 without affecting the mine's operation.  
18 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So they're going to go forward  
19 with the plan of operations?  
20 MR. SYMONS: Yes, as far as --  
21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So is there a Memorandum of  
22 Understanding between L.A. County and the BLM as far as  
23 managing the operations?  
24 MR. SYMONS: As far as there was in the  
25 original one, but now the state office has taken over

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1 those negotiations, and I would have to go and --  
2 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So the county has relinquished  
3 authority to the state?  
4 MR. SYMONS: No. Our state office and the  
5 environmental state agency that was concerned about --  
6 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Surface Mining and Reclamation  
7 Act.  
8 MR. SYMONS: As I said, this was just brought  
9 up to me roughly three weeks ago or so that they were  
10 starting to have those discussions and starting to go,  
11 that it was permitted, so now I'm just trying to get up  
12 to speed. Like I had said, I'll be going out for the  
13 first time Wednesday to meet them and see their  
14 operation and go from there.  
15 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Okay. Thank you. Okay. I'm  
16 sorry. Now I have to say this because sometimes I feel  
17 like I'm living in alternate universe. So here we are  
18 taking about this little critter, the vole, the vole, a  
19 hamster with a tail. It's very cute.  
20 MS. SYMONS: Looks like a mouse.  
21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: So I'm sure that AI could say  
22 this thing started like 65 million years ago or  
23 something and those little mammals survived. But here  
24 we are. They've got a disease, so Betty White --  
25 everybody knows Betty white. She's a critter person.

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1 So she has a fund, and they get funds from the  
2 Betty White -- Betty White funds the Morris Foundation.  
3 I get that. But now to study the vole, we have a  
4 \$24,000 grant through the National Landscape  
5 Conservation System. Now, I'm sorry. Diseased vole,  
6 national landscape doesn't compute for me. To study  
7 genetics. Now, this is a disease funded to study by  
8 Betty White under the National Landscape Conservation  
9 Program for genetics work. Is this a genetic disease?  
10 Not only that, the project has expanded, the  
11 genetics program, to now look at potential predator  
12 influences. Now, I'm sure the genetics of the vole make  
13 it a good target for coyotes. Is that predator  
14 influences by genetics? I don't know, but I had to make  
15 a comment. This kinds of stuff makes people like me  
16 nuts. This is just -- I'm sorry. There just doesn't  
17 seem to be any logic to this. Thank you. I'm done now.  
18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Voles get their disease  
19 from tics that are carried by birds.  
20 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Is that caused by genetics?  
21 MS. SYMONS: There's more to the story. There  
22 are a whole bunch of items.  
23 MEMBER SHUMWAY: I'm sure it is, but on the  
24 surface it's like reading a novel. It just doesn't  
25 compute. National Landscape Plan?

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1 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Any further questions,  
2 comments? That was the ending we were looking for.  
3 MEMBER SHUMWAY: Good.  
4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We do have additional  
5 comments from our members of the public. I apologize to  
6 the DAC. I was unable to rudder this ship into port on  
7 time, but we have cards. If they're still interested,  
8 we have cards of comments and questions for those  
9 reports. For Ed?  
10 MR. WALDHEIM: Thank you for all your time. I  
11 pass.  
12 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Gerry? Happy to take you.  
13 MR. HILLIER: I realize that I'm the only thing  
14 standing between you and a cold beer or something there,  
15 but --  
16 MEMBER MUTH: I have a couple.  
17 MR. HILLIER: I actually handed in the card  
18 hoping I would be able speak this morning when it was on  
19 topic. I did want to say a few words for the record on  
20 the new subgroup that you've chartered on the outreach  
21 and connection with the desert.  
22 And I really need to raise a question: to what  
23 end? I think it's good. It's actually something -- and  
24 I'm going to sound like a really old guy here, but this  
25 is something really that has troubled BLM for the

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1 last -- bedeviled BLM for the last 50 years, frankly.  
2 And so just so that you don't reinvent the wheel, I  
3 think it's well to kind of put things in perspective.  
4 BLM always looked at the volume of traffic  
5 going out I-15 to Las Vegas, and whether it's five  
6 million or ten million or 20 million people, there's a  
7 lot of folks out there that drive to Vegas and drive  
8 through the desert at 80 miles an hour and view it as a  
9 hardship. And back even before the Desert Conservation  
10 Area existed, there were attempts at outreach to get to  
11 these people and have them slow down, stop in, find out  
12 more about the desert.  
13 The BLM actually sponsored what was going to be  
14 a network of way stations. One on Highway 14, one on  
15 395, one on I-15, one on I-10 and one on I-8. The only  
16 one that ever got built was at Barstow. That's the  
17 origin of the Barstow Visitor Center and Desert  
18 Information Center. The program was collapsed after the  
19 one on Interstate 8 at Ocotillo Wells ran way over  
20 budget and decided that it really wasn't worth it, that  
21 you couldn't get people to stop and actually go in. And  
22 BLM struggled for years what to do with the Barstow  
23 center, and it's had various lives.  
24 I think it's well, though, to reflect and, I  
25 think, you know, to take another look. The fact of the

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1 matter is, the communication with the public has  
2 changed. You've got a whole new public now 50 years  
3 later, social media, a lot of other things going on. In  
4 terms of outreach, bricks and mortar probably won't  
5 capture people, but maybe there are other ways. And I  
6 think it's well that you're going to look at the current  
7 demographics and the current culture and see whether  
8 there still might be ways to get to those folks.  
9 I had an experience driving here yesterday,  
10 though. I've been in Las Vegas for the week on some  
11 other meetings, and I drove down through the Mojave  
12 National Preserve. And of course it bothers me as in a  
13 former life I was a BLM person to come down through that  
14 area, but that's another story.  
15 The fact of the matter is, I probably passed 50  
16 cars driving down Ivanpah Road, Cima Road, Kelbaker Road  
17 to Amboy. All of them were driving 80 miles an hour.  
18 Even though you were in a designated National Park  
19 Service area, which is supposed to be special, still  
20 people just were using it as a right-of-way, and the  
21 desert is something to be endured to get to whatever  
22 else they want to get to. That's probably Stateline or  
23 Las Vegas.  
24 And so you know, if you can find a way to get  
25 those people to slow down, by God, more power to you; I

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1 endorse your efforts. But I do think what you need to  
2 do to start with is do a very careful inventory of all  
3 the bricks and mortar places that we have in the desert  
4 already that are already helping with this educational  
5 process for those folks who have already deemed that  
6 there are aspects. You've got the Patton. Right here  
7 in Riverside County, you've got the Patton Museum;  
8 you've got the Desert Museum here in Palm Springs;  
9 you've got the Living Desert Reserve. Up in  
10 San Bernardino County you've got the Goffs facility that  
11 Dennis Casebier has assembled. There's a history out  
12 there. The whole mining grazing history and the oral  
13 history is there from the deserts there. That's just a  
14 marvelous thing to visit. You've got the Maturango  
15 Museum up in Ridgecrest. I could go on and name a  
16 number of other facilities that are out there and  
17 capture them and what they are doing.  
18 And I know that the visitation on all of these  
19 things is dropping, and so the key is to really sit down  
20 and brainstorm a deliverable. What do you want to  
21 actually accomplish? And I think that's probably the  
22 best way to state it is, start with your end product.  
23 We will increase people stopping and enjoying the desert  
24 by a hundred thousand people in a year. How can we best  
25 do that? And it may be a combination of techniques and

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1 social media and what have you, but I really think we  
2 need to do an inventory. And I really think that, you  
3 know, getting these interest groups -- liberal arts, I  
4 think, is really secondary to bringing together a group  
5 of people who know the desert, appreciate the desert  
6 from a variety of different viewpoints and who have a  
7 history of communicating.  
8 Zzyzx, for example, Desert Study Center, you  
9 have people there that have been doing extension  
10 programs. Those are people who want to go to the  
11 desert. They're motivated. Do interviews with those  
12 people moving out to Zzyzx and taking their desert  
13 classes, the Desert Study Center, through the state  
14 university, and capture what attracted them to the  
15 desert.  
16 So that's all I wanted to say; that is, that I  
17 really think it's a good program, but you need to be  
18 aware of the frustrating history that has really gone on  
19 longer probably than many of you around the table have  
20 even been here. So I hate to sound like a really old  
21 guy, but I hate to see people reinvent the wheel when  
22 there's a bastion of history out there. Thank you.  
23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: You bet. Well, if you were  
24 passing 50 people on the highway doing 80, I wonder how  
25 fast you were going. Just kidding.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HILLIER: No, no, no. I was going the

3 opposite direction.

4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And one way to get people

5 stopped, the old way to stop was to put a bucket of

6 nails out in the road.

7 We didn't mention this, but one of the

8 deliverables we did talk about at our planning meeting

9 was a way to bring those museums to the person while

10 they're in the car, potentially through a geo-aware app

11 so as they're driving past things and driving by things,

12 they hear the sounds, they see the sites, they get

13 narration. If they pass a place that had musical

14 history, you see musical history. You pass a place a

15 great movie was filmed, maybe get a clip from that

16 movie. So it alleviates the need for someone to have to

17 pull over, slow down and stop. We'll deliver the

18 message while they're on the road.

19 MEMBER SHUMWAY: There are apps like that

20 already.

21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: That's right. So that was

22 one of the ideas.

23 MEMBER SHTEIR: I wanted to thank Gerry Hillier

24 for his comments. I thought they were really -- and

25 certainly you have to have a good sense of your history

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1 before you can even attempt to move forward. But just

2 wanted to say that the purpose of the committee as I see

3 it and as I understand it as it's evolving is to really

4 tap into some traditional and less traditional groups

5 that BLM could possibly engage both from an educational

6 standpoint and volunteer standpoint.

7 I think at our last meeting Dinah brought up a

8 really interesting point that there hadn't been a lot of

9 or there wasn't a lot of apparent interpretation about

10 minerals and mining in the desert, and yet we get many

11 things from this. That would be one example. Another

12 example comes from Mr. Erb. Certainly you want

13 rockhounding and that type of recreation. And a third

14 type of group that hasn't, I don't think, been too

15 represented is sort of a history of the arts in the

16 desert.

17 So that's not the only groups that will be

18 focused on, of course, but those are three examples of

19 things that haven't been represented. And as we move

20 forward with this, it's going to be very much a working

21 document. And you know, I think that the end product

22 will contain some relevant recommendations for BLM, but

23 they won't be the end. I think education is an evolving

24 process. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I have a last card, if

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1 there's comments on the reports. Sam, Sophia, do you

2 have any questions or comments on the reports?

3 MS. MERK: Not on the reports, but I would like

4 to invite everybody to Trona for their 100-year

5 anniversary on mining.

6 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And is that when?

7 MS. MERK: That's Saturday the end of the

8 month. I don't have the flier with me. It's in my car.

9 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.

10 MEMBER SHUMWAY: You can Google it, though, I

11 think.

12 MS. MERK: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Well, thank you. Again a

14 long day, a productive day. We had some good

15 presentations. Our next meeting will be May 9th and 10.

16 Oh, I'm sorry. Al, you had a question.

17 MEMBER MUTH: It's a wrap-up and summary.

18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes.

19 MEMBER MUTH: I would like to see at our

20 September meeting if we could add the water and water

21 issues to those discussions of working landscapes and

22 geological processes. And beyond that I would like to

23 encourage the Barstow Field Office to keep working on

24 the voles and the other field office on land snails or

25 whatever snail it was just so we can push my good buddy

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1 Dinah over the edge.

2 MEMBER SHUMWAY: To another universe, yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We had topics suggested for

4 future meetings, including the Tortoise Recovery Plan

5 update, law enforcement in OHV, staffing on the BLM, and

6 we had issues of water resources and management brought

7 up multiple times. So those are the four issues that

8 were brought up for our attention.

9 And our next meeting is May 9th and 10th, and

10 that will be in the Needles area. So Michael will

11 welcome us there. Last comment, Kim?

12 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: A couple of comments.

13 Gerry, I'm glad you're still here. I wanted to let

14 Gerry know how much I appreciate and am inspired by his

15 continued involvement on the DAC. It truly does inspire

16 me. And my very first meeting, the very first DAC

17 meeting that I attended was in Needles, out of Needles

18 in 2010, and I was so happy to have been put in his car

19 because I couldn't go with the DAC because I wasn't a

20 DAC member, and he graciously allowed me to ride along

21 with him that day. And it was so enlightening because

22 he has so much history.

23 And then I wanted to tell everybody, a lot of

24 people became rockhounds when they were training for the

25 military in the desert in the forties. A lot of people,

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1 a lot of rockhounds started there. Then there were  
 2 other generations that came along after them because  
 3 they took their families out to the desert after they  
 4 got out of the service. There's a lot of history there  
 5 for a lot of people. If you put people on the ground in  
 6 the desert, they're going to learn to appreciate it.  
 7 That is one point.  
 8 And then one final thing. There was a comment  
 9 today about how alternative energy is a free market.  
 10 No, it is not a free market when the government is  
 11 giving -- there are government-guaranteed loans funding  
 12 these projects. If you want them to really be free  
 13 market, if they're really going to work and be good for  
 14 us, there will be private money funding them. We don't  
 15 need government loans. If we get rid of government  
 16 loans, we'll find out what's really going to work for  
 17 alternative energy. Thank you.  
 18 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Do we have any  
 19 motions or comment?  
 20 MEMBER SALL: One more thing.  
 21 MEMBER SHUMWAY: It's okay.  
 22 MEMBER SALL: I just wanted to make one more  
 23 comment that I forgot to make earlier, and I wish Mike  
 24 was still here, but obviously we've had a lot of  
 25 discussion in the last two days about the significant

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1 and often unmitigatable impacts from utility-scale  
 2 renewable energy projects on Public Lands. And one of  
 3 the things that has been advocated by many members of  
 4 the public and DRECP stakeholders -- and I would like  
 5 the DAC to engage in this conversation with BLM -- is  
 6 that there has yet to date been any real discussion  
 7 provided in the DRECP documents about doing a phased  
 8 approach, meaning we obviously have certain numbers of  
 9 acres for development, and thus the higher that number  
 10 of acres of development, the more new conservation, if  
 11 you will, is likely going to be added.  
 12 And so instead of just looking at Alternatives  
 13 1 through 6 as they've been spelled out or a no-action  
 14 alternative, looking at various thresholds of  
 15 development and how that would be able to further the  
 16 analysis of protecting places that people use and  
 17 multiple uses in the desert from a different  
 18 perspective.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Don?  
 20 MEMBER HOUSTON: I just have one parting  
 21 comment and that is, given that it's a snail, my  
 22 expectation is the review of the petition will not go  
 23 quickly.  
 24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Tim, thank you for filling  
 25 in for Teri in the final hour. Do I have a motion to

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1 adjourn from anybody?  
 2 MEMBER CAMPBELL-ERB: So moved.  
 3 MEMBER MUTH: Second.  
 4 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Motion from Kim. Second by  
 5 Al. All those in favor say, aye. Opposed?  
 6 (A voice vote was taken.)  
 7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Meeting adjourned at 4:59.  
 8  
 9 (Following the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed  
 10 upon among the council members that two documents would  
 11 be attached to the meeting transcript.)  
 12  
 13 (The meeting was concluded at 4:59 p.m.)  
 14  
 15 ---o0o---

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MOTIONS

1  
 2  
 3 A. Maker: Sall  
 4 Secunder: Shteir  
 5 Motion: To approve the transcript from the  
 6 December, 2013 DAC meeting  
 7 Result: Motion carried  
 8  
 9 B. Maker: Muth  
 10 Secunder: Houston  
 11 Motion: To engage in election of officers  
 12 today, March 15, 2014  
 13 Result: Motion failed  
 14  
 15 C. Maker: Sall  
 16 Secunder: Reilly  
 17 Motion: To conduct election of officers at  
 18 the May meeting  
 19 Result: Motion carried  
 20  
 21 D. Maker: Campbell-Erb  
 22 Secunder: Muth  
 23 Motion: To adjourn the meeting  
 24 Result: Motion carried  
 25

TOPICS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

17 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan update  
 18 Law enforcement in OHV areas  
 19 Staffing on the BLM  
 20 Water resources and management  
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CERTIFICATE

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

That the foregoing \_\_\_-page proceedings were  
taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place  
stated herein, and represent a true and correct  
transcript of the proceedings.

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

Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certified Shorthand  
Reporter in and for the  
State of California