

In the Matter of:

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

Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings

05/10/2014

Job #: 31058



(818)988-1900

---

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

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014

FILE NO. 31058

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



Page 6

1 NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA; SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2014  
2 8:07 A.M.  
3 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S  
4  
5 ---o0o---  
6  
7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Ladies and gentlemen, thank  
8 you for coming to the Desert Advisory Council meeting  
9 today. I call the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. My  
10 name is Randy Banis, chairman of the DAC, and I'd like  
11 to start with the Pledge of Allegiance, please. And I'd  
12 like to ask DAC member Kim Erb to lead us in the Pledge  
13 of Allegiance. All rise.  
14 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)  
15 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Kim. Ladies and  
16 gentlemen, if you could take a moment and switch off  
17 your cell phone, which I'm about to do right now my, if  
18 I can find it. Well, if anybody hears my phone ring,  
19 that's where it is.  
20 MEMBER MUTH: Do you want me to call you?  
21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: It's probably still in the  
22 car. All right. The restrooms are in through that  
23 swinging door that says "No Smoking." So there's a  
24 men's room and a ladies' room there. Oh, here's my  
25 phone. There we go. Too many pockets.

Page 7

1 And the next item on the agenda would be  
2 approval of the March, 2014 meeting transcripts. I'm  
3 sure everybody has had an opportunity to read the  
4 transcripts from beginning to end. Are there any  
5 changes or comments or additions? Hearing and seeing  
6 none, is there any opposition to approving the March  
7 transcripts? Hearing and seeing none, March transcripts  
8 are approved.  
9 The agenda hopefully you have before you. Are  
10 there any items or changes, deletions, adds to our  
11 agenda today? Hearing and seeing none, this will be our  
12 agenda for moving forward today.  
13 For all members of the public who wish to  
14 address the DAC, we have public comment periods  
15 throughout the day. The first public comment period is  
16 for items that are not on the agenda, and then the rest  
17 of the public comment periods are regarding items that  
18 are on our agenda. So if you could take a minute and  
19 look and see if the item you wish to speak on today,  
20 whether or not that's on the agenda and obtain a speaker  
21 card from -- Steve?  
22 MR. RAZO: They're on the table.  
23 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: They're on the back table.  
24 If you could obtain a speaker card and bring it to  
25 Steve, he'll bring it to the chair and mark the topic

Page 8

1 that you wish to speak on. Speakers will be limited to  
2 three minutes today, and we're looking forward to  
3 hearing everything that you have to say. Thank you.  
4 The next item on the agenda is election of  
5 chair and vice-chair. No objections? I'll start by  
6 calling for nominations for the chair. Do I hear  
7 nominations for the chair? Al?  
8 MEMBER MUTH: I nominate April Sall for  
9 position of chair.  
10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We have a nomination for  
11 April Sall. April, do you accept?  
12 MEMBER SALL: Yes.  
13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Are there any further  
14 nominations for chair? Kim?  
15 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I nominate you to continue  
16 to be chair for the remainder of the year.  
17 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, and I'm happy to  
18 serve. Are there any further nominations for chair?  
19 Since there are none, any objections to closing  
20 nominations for chair? No objections? Nominations are  
21 closed. If there's no objection, would the board like  
22 to hear from the candidates?  
23 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Yes. Some of us would.  
24 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. April, you're  
25 nominated first. Anything you would like to say for the

Page 9

1 council?  
2 MEMBER SALL: No, I don't think so. Sorry.  
3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My statement is simply that  
4 chairing the council is something that's been very  
5 important to me and a priority for me in my life, and  
6 I've made sure to make room for it so that I can do the  
7 best job that I can on behalf of all DAC members in  
8 helping you bring your issues forward and obtain support  
9 from the council for those issues. And if there's  
10 anything I can do going forward as chair, I'll continue  
11 to exercise that leadership and put in the amount of  
12 time that I've been doing in the past. So I appreciate  
13 your support, and that's what I have to say today.  
14 Are there any other comments? Don?  
15 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yes. I'd like to make a  
16 comment. Randy, you certainly have set the gold  
17 standard for a chairman of this council in terms of your  
18 participation, in terms of your commitment, your  
19 enthusiasm, I think most importantly your expression of  
20 courtesy to the members of the public who come and  
21 provide testimony to this council.  
22 But it's the mandate of this council to  
23 represent a diversity of views from the occupants and  
24 users of the desert, and I think our leadership should  
25 be an expression of that diversity. You've been chair

Page 10

1 for three years, I think, and I think it's time to hit  
 2 the refresh button.  
 3 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Further comments? No other  
 4 comments?  
 5 MEMBER SCRIVNER: I'll make a comment. Randy,  
 6 you've put your heart and soul into this commission.  
 7 You run the meetings tremendously well, and if you would  
 8 like to serve out the rest of the calendar year, is that  
 9 what you're --  
 10 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yes. It would be this  
 11 meeting and the two next meetings, and then I'm termed  
 12 out of the Desert Advisory Council.  
 13 MEMBER SCRIVNER: I would like to support your  
 14 desire to serve out for the remainder of the calendar  
 15 year. At that point we can look at new leadership, but  
 16 I just think because of everything that you have done,  
 17 that you have earned the supported for that request. So  
 18 I'll be supporting your nomination.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Zach. Kim?  
 20 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: There aren't a lot of the  
 21 members of the public out there, but for the members of  
 22 the public, Randy puts not only his heart and soul into  
 23 it but an enormous amount of time, and this year is the  
 24 last year of his term, and then we will lose him. And I  
 25 also want to express that I have a huge amount of

Page 11

1 respect for April, and I think she'll make a great  
 2 chairman, but I would prefer to have Randy just for the  
 3 remainder of this term continue to be chairman,  
 4 especially considering the number of really major issues  
 5 that we will be addressing for the rest of his term, for  
 6 the rest of the year.  
 7 And Randy has got a rapport with -- he's  
 8 developed a rapport with everyone. He's really truly  
 9 amazing. I cannot say enough about what he has done for  
 10 this group and for the public in general. I give him my  
 11 wholehearted support.  
 12 MEMBER SHTEIR: May I say something?  
 13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Seth, please.  
 14 MEMBER SHTEIR: Randy, and fellow DAC members,  
 15 whichever way the election falls, I just want to say to  
 16 Randy that I have tremendous respect for the job he's  
 17 done. It's been inclusive, it's considered a wide  
 18 variety of many times competing demands, and his  
 19 diligence is reflected in the work he's done on each and  
 20 every meeting. Thank you, Randy.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Further  
 22 comments? Al.  
 23 MEMBER MUTH: Although I did nominate another  
 24 person, I do concur with the accolades that have been  
 25 laid at your feet, if you would. My motivation is that

Page 12

1 we have -- the big issues coming up are the Desert  
 2 Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. There are  
 3 significant biological issues in that plan, and I know  
 4 you've been deeply involved, as has April, but I think  
 5 the nuance of how we should address the plan as such is  
 6 best served by a biological representative. And that  
 7 coupled with -- as you say, you've got three more  
 8 meetings. Then you're off the council. To me, that  
 9 would be time to bring April up to speed.  
 10 I know she's been the vice-chair for -- three  
 11 years, two years? -- a fair amount of time. But that  
 12 doesn't mean that she's up to speed with things as you  
 13 are. So there would be an opportunity for mentoring and  
 14 getting her up to speed. So those are my motivations,  
 15 and let's get on with the election.  
 16 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Al. Further  
 17 comments? If I may, April, on behalf of April and  
 18 myself, thank you for everybody's kind comments. Very  
 19 nice of you all, and we both look forward to continuing  
 20 as the meetings move forward in whatever capacity the  
 21 DAC allows.  
 22 With that, those in favor of April Sall as  
 23 chair of the DAC, please signify by raising your hand.  
 24 One, two, three and four, one more count, one, two,  
 25 three, four and five.

Page 13

1 (A vote was taken.)  
 2 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Five votes for April.  
 3 Those in favor of Randy Banis, myself for chair, please  
 4 raise your hand, one, two, three, four. Randy, myself  
 5 receives four votes.  
 6 (A vote was taken.)  
 7 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: The vote is five to four in  
 8 favor of April Sall. Congratulations, Desert Advisory  
 9 Council, you have a new chair. Congratulations, April.  
 10 We need to switch seats.  
 11 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Thank you, everybody.  
 12 (Applause.)  
 13 CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.  
 14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Good morning. We're going  
 15 to continue our elections here. If I could please have  
 16 nominations for vice-chair. Al?  
 17 MEMBER MUTH: Nominate Don Houston for  
 18 vice-chair.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Do I  
 20 have any other nominations for vice-chair? Randy.  
 21 MEMBER BANIS: Sorry to sound greedy, but I'd  
 22 like to put my name into the hat for vice-chair so I can  
 23 be working closer with April in a position of mentor and  
 24 supporter.  
 25 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Any

1 other nominations for vice-chair? Any discussion by the  
2 DAC for the nominations on vice-chair? We're all out of  
3 discussion already? Okay. Can I have a vote for --  
4 let's see. Don was first. We'll be voting for Don  
5 first. Can I get a vote for Don as vice-chair. All in  
6 favor? Okay. I have four votes for Don as vice-chair.  
7 Can I get a vote for Randy as vice-chair. Five.  
8 (A vote was taken.)  
9 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Votes carry five to four.  
10 Randy is our vice-chair.  
11 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, April.  
12 Looking forward to working with you.  
13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Continued.  
14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. Thank you.  
15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: AI?  
16 MEMBER MUTH: What happens when Randy terms out  
17 in three meetings? We have another election for the one  
18 office?  
19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes. I believe after our  
20 December meeting, whenever the first meeting of 2015 is,  
21 we will hopefully have our new seats by then.  
22 DIRECTOR RAML: Let me make a comment. I sent  
23 you a sheet of paper that said what the bylaws said and  
24 how it worked in the past. Obviously that lack of  
25 definition has caused kind of a mid-calendar change,

1 which would not have been my preference, but I had my  
2 opportunity last meeting to make that clear, but I  
3 didn't. We've had an election, and you're good, but I  
4 would like to take a serious look at the bylaws so we  
5 don't find ourselves at a meeting at the first of the  
6 year saying, "Why isn't it after new members are  
7 seated?" So I don't want to put you guys through that  
8 again. We'll be looking at the bylaws and putting more  
9 structure to them so we know how it works related to the  
10 full membership and timing and all that sort of stuff.  
11 So I will help on that.  
12 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Teri.  
13 And will that also give us clarification as to how the  
14 DAC continues in general with that?  
15 DIRECTOR RAML: Of course. We'll circulate  
16 them for your comments. You'll have an opportunity of  
17 what if, what if, what if. I tried to put in that  
18 one-pager, the clarification on what happens to people  
19 when their term runs out if we don't have a full seat  
20 and all of that. Hopefully, when we get that  
21 circulated, you can raise questions so we've got the  
22 what-ifs answered. Obviously it was that elections will  
23 be held, and they have been, so we'll go from there.  
24 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Next  
25 item on the agenda is the State Director and District

1 Manager Report.  
2 So Teri, I will turn the microphone back to  
3 you.  
4 DIRECTOR RAML: First off I would like to -- my  
5 team is scattered throughout the comfortable seats this  
6 time. So I'd like to start by introducing the BLM  
7 personnel presence with us, starting clear in the back  
8 there with Brad. Then we'll come forward. So Brad  
9 Baron, would you just stand up.  
10 MR. BARON: Brad Baron, Chief Area Ranger for  
11 Needles Field Office here.  
12 DIRECTOR RAML: Okay. Doran? I should have  
13 gone from front to back because you guys don't look  
14 back. Doran?  
15 MR. SANCHEZ: Hi. I'm Doran Sanchez, and I'm  
16 BLM Project Lead for the Route 66 Corridor Management  
17 Plan.  
18 MS. SYMONS: Hi. Katrina Symons, Barstow Field  
19 Manager.  
20 MR. SYMONS: Carl Symons, Ridgecrest Field  
21 Manager.  
22 MR. ZALE: Tom Zale, El Centro Field Manager.  
23 MR. AHRENS: Mike Ahrens, Needles Field  
24 Manager. Welcome to the Needles Field Office.  
25 MR. WAKEFIELD: Tim Wakefield, Associate

1 District Manager.  
2 MR. KALISH: Good morning. John Kalish, Field  
3 Manager, Palm Springs South Coast Field Office.  
4 MS. WOHLGEMUTH Jennifer Wohlgemuth, Staff  
5 Assistant to District Manager.  
6 MR. RAZO: Steve Razo, External Affairs, Desert  
7 District.  
8 DIRECTOR RAML: I think this will be a little  
9 bit difficult for me, but I also want to say a few words  
10 about Rusty Lee, who was the former field manager here  
11 in Needles. In the last couple of days, of course,  
12 being in Needles and working with the DAC, we're  
13 grieving Rusty. He passed away on April 20th, Easter  
14 morning, of natural causes. So it's been difficult as  
15 it is, and then to be here in Needles has also made it a  
16 little bit difficult. And it's given me more sympathy  
17 for the field office employees, who I know walk by his  
18 office, and he had a tremendous run as field manager.  
19 So Mike, I extend even greater heartfelt appreciation of  
20 how your team has worked so hard in the unexpected death  
21 of Rusty.  
22 So let me say a word about Rusty, though.  
23 Nicely, he just received his 30-year letter from our  
24 State Director. And that letter usually is a very nice  
25 letter that's written by our state office and lays out a

1 person's career path and the contributions they've made  
 2 in public service. So we have that letter. So it added  
 3 some highlights about Rusty. A lot of those of you know  
 4 him. He was a graduate of the Naval Academy, and he has  
 5 five years in the Navy. Then I tease about it, because  
 6 natural resource professionals move. That's how we rise  
 7 in the organization. That's how we gain experience. So  
 8 Rusty couldn't hold a job.

9 He started as a mining engineer in Nevada in  
 10 1992 as a GS-7. Then he worked as a geologist for the  
 11 Forest Service for a few years then came back to the BLM  
 12 in Nevada for a few years then went back to Utah for a  
 13 few years. And in every case he performed exemplarily  
 14 in his roles as a geologist then as a planner. Then he  
 15 also had time in Utah as the field station manager for  
 16 the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

17 He began his term here in Needles in 2009, and  
 18 you know, there were a lot of things -- you know, you  
 19 read the reports, so you know how hard our field office  
 20 and field managers work. And Rusty, a couple of  
 21 notables, during his tenure was -- the first solar  
 22 energy plan on public land in California was approved,  
 23 the Ivanpah Project. And I think, no matter how you  
 24 feel about that, it took a tremendous amount of effort.  
 25 And Rusty's background as a planning PNEC, his attention

1 to a lot of those details really made it -- we did as  
 2 well as we could in terms of that project in terms of  
 3 mitigation.

4 Rusty also paid special attention to the  
 5 recreation conflicts and the recreation opportunities at  
 6 Ivanpah Dry Lake, and I think we're going to have an  
 7 opportunity as we go on to really even recognize Rusty's  
 8 singular contributions to kind of working closely with  
 9 BrightSource to see what we could do in terms of  
 10 recreation opportunities at Ivanpah Dry Lake.

11 I'll say something about him. He was a very  
 12 intelligent man, and he was very analytical and also --  
 13 and this is the personal part -- I think he was a very  
 14 shy -- kind of a shy person and somewhat private. But  
 15 he was thoughtful in the best sense of the word. In  
 16 some ways because of his shyness and also his analytical  
 17 nature, he liked to meet people individually, and I  
 18 pretty much can say I think for every one of the DAC  
 19 members he would try to make time to get to know you and  
 20 learn a little about you and take that personal time,  
 21 and that was kind of what he was like.

22 He cared about the DAC as a whole. He cared  
 23 about his field office as a whole. But one of the  
 24 contributions that he made is that he cared about people  
 25 individually and made a real point to get to know people

1 individually. So those of us that knew him -- and I  
 2 will move on quickly now -- really grieve his passing,  
 3 and we were privileged to know him and work with him.  
 4 Okay.

5 Okay. So I have been busy, as has everybody.  
 6 This week was a particularly busy week. We were  
 7 fortunate enough to have Secretary of Interior,  
 8 Sally Jewell, with us. She came down to participate in  
 9 California Fire Awareness Week, so I think you saw -- if  
 10 you're at all kind of a blogger or media person, you  
 11 might have seen some of the coverage of her with  
 12 CAL FIRE and talking about the extreme fire danger in  
 13 California this year.

14 So our BLM firefighters had an opportunity to  
 15 get what we like for our pictures, and we got a BLM fire  
 16 truck in our pictures, and she took pictures and was  
 17 very gracious. And our firefighters have some great  
 18 pictures with the secretary.

19 She also participated in the Eighth Federal  
 20 Tribal Leadership Conference. And those of you that  
 21 follow, since Jim Kent has been the State Director, he's  
 22 made a particularly significant effort to reach out to  
 23 tribal leadership when it comes to the Desert Renewable  
 24 Conservation Plan. Seven times we've met and worked  
 25 closely with the tribes to incorporate their concerns,

1 comments, input into the DRECP, and one of the requests  
 2 the tribes has made is to have an opportunity to meet  
 3 the secretary. So she was here. I think that was  
 4 Palm Springs on Tuesday.

5 And Tom Zale and -- let's see -- John Kalish,  
 6 Russ Scofield and I were fortunate enough to be in the  
 7 room, and it was Secretary Jewell, Deputy Secretary -- a  
 8 Secretary of Natural Resources for California,  
 9 John Laird, Karen Douglas from the CEC. If I don't get  
 10 these names right, I'll have to correct them. But it  
 11 was quite an impressive group of leaders that had a good  
 12 session.

13 These secretarial visits, because of the nature  
 14 of high-level cabinet visits, they come up quickly. You  
 15 don't announce for months that someone of that nature is  
 16 coming to your backyard. They come up quick, so we  
 17 didn't have quite the turnout we hoped from the tribes,  
 18 but we had a significant number of tribal chairmen. And  
 19 her demeanor was wonderful, and everyone in the room had  
 20 a chance to say some things and then express their  
 21 concerns or express their views, and then she responded,  
 22 along with all the other people, to everything that was  
 23 said.

24 While I'm on personal notes, it is always such  
 25 a pleasure when people are -- you know, she was very

Page 22

1 personable, and I think between the firefighters and  
2 John and Tom and I, she is an excellent speaker. She  
3 speaks in clear English, which is very good, you know.  
4 And she was very friendly, and her schedulers do a very  
5 wonderful job of making time for her to work the room.

6 And for those of you that attend those sort of  
7 things, it's really important when you meet someone like  
8 that and they shake your hand and look you in the eye  
9 and say a few words and not looking past you. And she  
10 made a wonderful impression on her employees, us, and  
11 then also on all tribal leaders. She was also great  
12 with names. We appreciated it. She kept track and  
13 called on people by name, so we were quite in awe of our  
14 leader. That's always a good thing, because sometimes  
15 there's the alternative.

16 Also I will talk a little bit about WEMO. Next  
17 Wednesday we will be meeting with our plaintiffs and  
18 perhaps our intervenors. It's called a meet-and-confer.  
19 And the focus of our meet-and-confer session with the  
20 plaintiffs and maybe some intervenors is focused on  
21 compliance of keeping people on the routes. I've got to  
22 figure out a smoother way to say that, but we're looking  
23 at enforcement and compliance. Obviously there's great  
24 concern in a lot of areas that we have off-road travel  
25 that causes damage to resources. And the plaintiffs and

Page 23

1 the BLM are going to continue in dialogue to see if  
2 there's strategies that we can come up with to better  
3 address those issues.

4 I'll mention one more thing. Mike Ahrens and I  
5 had a chance to work with our colleagues in the Colorado  
6 River District on trying to address the burro issues  
7 along the Parker Strip. The BLM is challenged to  
8 continue to gather animals, and if we don't gather them,  
9 they continue to do what animals do and make more  
10 animals. And so the herd numbers for burros in the  
11 Chimahuevi HMA have gotten pretty high. The management  
12 level should be a hundred burros. We figure there's  
13 maybe six or 700 burros. That means there's a lot of  
14 burros on Parker Strip Road and a lot of human-burro  
15 interaction. That doesn't go well for the burro. It  
16 doesn't go well for the car that hits them.

17 We're going to try to work together. It's  
18 shared responsibility. We're going to try to come up  
19 with strategies to see if we can prioritize gathering of  
20 burros then keep them off Parker Strip Road, which is  
21 obviously a grave challenge, and I think with that I  
22 will stop.

23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Teri.  
24 Moving on, the next item on our agenda is Advisory  
25 Council member reports. I'm going to go ahead and start

Page 24

1 on this side. Jessica, do you have anything you would  
2 like to report on?

3 MEMBER REILLY: I have nothing to report.  
4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Don?  
5 MEMBER HOUSTON: I just have a couple of items.  
6 But first I want to say thanks to Mike Ahrens and his  
7 team for a tremendous field trip yesterday. I was  
8 especially impressed by the Goffs Schoolhouse  
9 presentation. That was terrific. So thank you for  
10 that.

11 I've been doing a little traveling as well.  
12 And one of the places I visited, I had to meet with some  
13 tribal representatives at the Imperial Valley Desert  
14 Museum, and my expectations were low just because it's  
15 in Ocotillo. And I had driven by that facility several  
16 times. It's off the I-8, right at the turnoff to  
17 Ocotillo at the bottom of the In-Ko-Pah Grade. It's  
18 kind of a stark setting. I've driven by it many times.  
19 This was the first time I actually went inside, and I  
20 have to tell you all that I was very impressed. It's  
21 quite a nice display, and it houses a lot of the  
22 artifacts that were recovered during the construction of  
23 all the renewable energy projects in that area. And so  
24 it's kind of, you know, new and neat to see the history,  
25 prehistoric history and the life that went on there for

Page 25

1 thousands and thousands of years before the Europeans  
2 showed up. So I encourage all of you to pay a visit and  
3 take in a lot of information that's available there.

4 Also I took a little vacation and went to the  
5 Grand Canyon, and I think it defines the word "awesome"  
6 when you visit. I was very impressed with the  
7 National Park Service's ability to handle such large  
8 amounts of people in a very efficient manner. And also  
9 I encourage you to visit the Grand Canyon if you haven't  
10 been or if you haven't been for a long time. So that's  
11 the end of my report.

12 MEMBER MUTH: I'd like to echo Don's comments  
13 about the field trip. That was a good trip. It was  
14 fun. We saw a lot. Having been on the other side of  
15 those sorts of things, there's a lot of work that  
16 people -- unless you've done it, you don't know what  
17 goes into it. So thank you and your staff.

18 MR. AHRENS: You're welcome.  
19 MEMBER MUTH: I also have this wonderful pile  
20 of maps provided by Ed, and I trust a little later you  
21 will say something about this?

22 MR. WALDHEIM: I'd be happy to.  
23 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. And I too did a bit of  
24 traveling, not much, but over Easter I was in the Mojave  
25 National Preserve, and we were on the Mojave Road, and

Page 26

1 we went through the site that we previously visited, the  
2 Soda Mountains Project, the proposed solar project. As  
3 we were driving through there, Kim's concerns about  
4 public access just really hit home, you know. It's  
5 quite possible that I won't be able to do that again.  
6 And so Kim has made her point with me that the public  
7 access, we really need to be aware of it and to protect  
8 it. So with that --  
9 CHAIRPERSON SALL: I'm going to skip through  
10 and go to Kim.  
11 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: I'd like to start by  
12 thanking the BLM for the field trip yesterday. I too  
13 appreciate all the work that goes into that. And for  
14 those members of the public who may never have been on a  
15 field trip -- and yes, they are open to the public.  
16 Also you need to participate in a private vehicle, but  
17 when we go on those field trips, we're not just having  
18 fun. We're being educated. We're having an opportunity  
19 to network and discuss the issues that we'll be  
20 addressing during the meetings and to develop a  
21 working -- more of a deep working relationship with each  
22 other, and they're really very valuable. And I have a  
23 very different perspective of them now than I did before  
24 I was appointed to the DAC. So I encourage all of the  
25 members of the public to attend those if you can.

Page 27

1 They're very helpful.  
2 Thank you for your kind words about my comments  
3 about the access. It's very important to me also that  
4 everyone understand my perspective that, when you allow  
5 more access, when more people are able to get on open  
6 routes to get into the desert, they learn to love the  
7 desert more. And they become -- they become more  
8 protectors of the desert. They love the species that  
9 they see. They get more interested and want to know  
10 more about what there is and how they survive.  
11 And I do believe that the key to having a  
12 healthier desert is to have more people learn to love  
13 the desert, as I have. So access, I think, is extremely  
14 critical. And there's less and less open land for a  
15 variety of reasons with open routes, and I do think it's  
16 important to keep as much of those routes open as  
17 possible.  
18 And one other thing. There's a lot of  
19 important issues that the DAC and the BLM is currently  
20 working on. And I wanted to express appreciation for  
21 every member on the DAC for all the time and effort that  
22 I know you have been putting into the DRECP, the  
23 West Mojave Route Plan, the SRP permits. I really  
24 appreciate it. It is a lot of work. There is so much  
25 of an effort that's going to be ongoing in the next

Page 28

1 months and years. And these people work for free. It's  
2 really an amazing thing. Anyway, thank you, everyone.  
3 MEMBER SCRIVNER: No report, madam chair.  
4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Seth?  
5 MEMBER SHTEIR: Good morning. I'd like to also  
6 thank the California Desert BLM staff for a great tour  
7 yesterday. Particularly enjoyed the interpretation at  
8 Camp Ibis, really an eye-opener and really interesting  
9 to think about those who came before us in the desert  
10 and about our legacy of military history and the history  
11 along Route 66. So thank you.  
12 I do have an issue as your environmental  
13 protection person, and I just wanted to introduce it by  
14 saying I think, from talking to most members on the DAC,  
15 that most of us see the need and the importance of  
16 investing in renewable energy to help buffer us from the  
17 worst impacts of climate change but also to help make us  
18 an energy-independent nation and create jobs.  
19 But I think that we, all or most of us, would  
20 agree that there's a right way and a wrong way of doing  
21 this sort of thing. And one project I am very concerned  
22 about is Silurian Valley Solar. That project is located  
23 north of Baker on the east side of Route 127 in  
24 San Bernardino County, and the project would be located  
25 on -- the proposed project would be located on variance

Page 29

1 lands, and these are lands identified in the solar  
2 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. They're  
3 not lands that were identified as areas that were  
4 necessarily suitable for solar, but companies are  
5 allowed to apply under a certain rubric criteria.  
6 You know, this is a valley that is very  
7 pristine. It's got a lot of biological importance, and  
8 it's got a lot of historical importance as well. In  
9 fact the Old Spanish Trail and Tonopah Tidewater  
10 Railroad is right nearby. It also has some recreational  
11 value to offer off-road vehicle folks and things like  
12 that. And I really probably wouldn't be bringing this  
13 up before the DAC, except that, you know, the U.S. Fish  
14 and Wildlife Service has recommended that, you know,  
15 Director Kenna reject this company's proposal for solar.  
16 And I'm just going to read a few things about  
17 why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service thinks this is an  
18 inappropriate site for solar energy.  
19 So to quote the letter, "The U.S. Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service. We recommend the bureau reject the  
21 variance application and not proceed with the  
22 environmental review of the proposed project." And why  
23 they say that is basically under three basic reasons.  
24 No. 1 reason has to do with golden eagles  
25 within a ten-mile radius of the project area. There are

Page 30

1 several pairs of nesting golden eagles, some of which  
 2 were even observed during aerial surveys.  
 3 No. 2 reason is migrating birds, the inclusion  
 4 of about 7,000 and that 7,000 acres of photovoltaic  
 5 panels would attract migrating birds and cause  
 6 collisions, mortality and injury. And the reason for  
 7 that really is that Silurian is kind of in the golden  
 8 triangle there, to quote some other people who know the  
 9 desert well. And it's near the Amargosa River, which  
 10 attracts a lot of birds. It's near Saratoga Springs in  
 11 Death Valley National Park, which is a series of ponds  
 12 that attract a lot of birds, and it's near Salt Creek,  
 13 which attracts a lot of migrating birds, along with  
 14 Death Valley, Mojave, the Avawatz and Kingston Range  
 15 Wildernesses. So it's a very important area there and,  
 16 in my mind, not suitable.  
 17 And the last reason is really desert tortoise  
 18 values, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talks  
 19 about that, that tortoises have been viewed on the site.  
 20 But as if that weren't enough, the area is an important  
 21 linkage between the Superior-Cronese Desert Conservation  
 22 Area and Ivanpah Conservation Area over to the east. So  
 23 this is a really significant area in terms of biology.  
 24 It's pristine. It has some off-road recreational values  
 25 and some historic values.

Page 31

1 And I would like to open this up for  
 2 discussion, but I would like to make a motion.  
 3 Currently the BLM is accepting comments through  
 4 May 27th. And I'd like to make a motion that the DAC  
 5 recommend that this project not move forward, that the  
 6 BLM reject the variance application. And I would like  
 7 to open it up to discussion first, though, out of  
 8 respect for DAC members. Thank you.  
 9 CHAIRPERSON SALL: AI?  
 10 MEMBER MUTH: Is this appropriate during the  
 11 member reports? I'm just saying can we defer this ten  
 12 minutes until the rest of the reports are done?  
 13 MEMBER SHTEIR: Oh, the action?  
 14 MEMBER MUTH: The motion you're proposing.  
 15 It's up to you.  
 16 MEMBER SHTEIR: Fine with me.  
 17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: We'll table this for a few  
 18 minutes.  
 19 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: May I just add a  
 20 second, make the motion live, make it on the table.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Sounds good.  
 22 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: And madam Chair, I  
 23 strongly second that motion. Thank you, Seth.  
 24 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Motion  
 25 made and seconded. We'll table it for a few minutes.

Page 32

1 Any further comments?  
 2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My turn. No. Further  
 3 comments.  
 4 MEMBER SHTEIR: No. Please go ahead.  
 5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Randy.  
 6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, April.  
 7 First I would like to recognize and thank Mayor Paget  
 8 from Needles for spending two days of his week with our  
 9 Desert Advisory Council. We're honored to be in  
 10 Needles. I'm sure we all appreciated your presence at  
 11 the tour of the El Garces Hotel yesterday, and it is a  
 12 pleasure to see you here as well. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.  
 13 (Applause.)  
 14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'd like to speak  
 15 today on a piece of legislation labeled H.R. 4458. I'd  
 16 like to thank the Bureau of Land Management for its  
 17 response, for its testimony in opposition to H.R. 4458,  
 18 particularly the expansion that would remove  
 19 approximately 50 miles of designated routes and a  
 20 popular back-country chukar hunting and camping area  
 21 from public access and public use.  
 22 H.R. 4458 addresses an expansion of the  
 23 China Lake Naval Weapons Center, but it is more than  
 24 that. It also proposes a permanent withdrawal of the  
 25 Naval Weapons Center. That particular base is forced to

Page 33

1 undergo a -- what is it? -- a renewal of the withdrawal  
 2 every 25 years. And the community of Ridgecrest every  
 3 25 years has to go through the what-ifs. The community  
 4 of Ridgecrest, I believe, contributes greatly to not  
 5 only East Kern County but to the whole California desert  
 6 on the whole. And Ridgecrest's dependence on the Naval  
 7 Weapons Center being there cannot be understated.  
 8 I don't oppose a permanent withdrawal of the  
 9 base, but the expansion that's included with the  
 10 withdrawal troubles me. So I'd like to thank the BLM  
 11 for its comments. And as this bill moves forward,  
 12 perhaps there will be more conversations, negotiations  
 13 and ways to make all of this work in some way that's  
 14 best for the public. So thank you for the opportunity  
 15 to comment on that. Thank you.  
 16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Paul?  
 17 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Thank you. First of all, I do  
 18 want to thank you. The field trip yesterday was great.  
 19 The historic references to the Mother Road 66, as well  
 20 as the Mojave Road, I thought it was very interesting.  
 21 A lot of things I was very unaware of, especially  
 22 Mojave Road and the history behind that. I appreciate  
 23 that.  
 24 One area that I would like to see the DAC  
 25 explore a little bit more, besides getting people to the

Page 34

1 desert, is our use of water in the desert. I know  
 2 there's a lot of aqueducts and Metropolitan Water  
 3 District facilities that come through the desert area.  
 4 We all know how important people are to the desert.  
 5 Water is even more important. It's used on solar panel  
 6 projects and things like that are real important.  
 7 Recharging the groundwater is very important. So I  
 8 think to the extent the DAC can get more educated on  
 9 that at a future meeting would be really -- I would like  
 10 to see that.

11 And then the second thing I would like to say  
 12 is, when we looked at a number of rest stops, the new  
 13 rest stop yesterday I thought was great. I think those  
 14 are quick fixes. And what I mean by that is that you  
 15 get a lot of pop for very short money. Someone told me  
 16 it cost about \$4,000 to remodel that rest stop. I'm  
 17 sure that's going to generate more than \$4,000 of  
 18 interest in the desert just from people stopping there.  
 19 I think that's what we should be looking at, is getting  
 20 more bang for our buck in trying to get people out to  
 21 the desert. So I want to thank you for that as well.  
 22 That's it.

23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. I would  
 24 also like to thank the Needles Field Office for the tour  
 25 we had yesterday. It was a really great field trip, and

Page 35

1 we got to cover a lot of ground yesterday and see a  
 2 diversity of things. So it was really a very  
 3 exceptional field trip. So thank you again for your  
 4 work in organizing that.

5 Some of the highlights for me were, of course,  
 6 Camp Ibis and again talking about the Desert Training  
 7 Center and visiting the Goffs Schoolhouse. We had the  
 8 ribbon cutting at the Route 66 new rest stop that Paul  
 9 just referenced, which was really a nice event and a  
 10 good opportunity for the public to walk around and  
 11 stretch their legs and learn a little bit about the  
 12 Mother Road and also had some plant-identification signs  
 13 next to some local native flora, so I think that was a  
 14 good opportunity as well.

15 We took the drive basically from Needles all  
 16 the way to the town of Amboy. We weren't able to make  
 17 it to the Amboy Crater, unfortunately, which is another  
 18 exceptional BLM property. But I think it was a nice  
 19 opportunity for folks, members of the public and the  
 20 DAC, on that field trip to experience that stretch of  
 21 the Mother Road and Route 66. I understand from the  
 22 Route 66 Association that is the longest undeveloped  
 23 stretch of Route 66 from Barstow to Needles, and that's  
 24 obviously a really important part of California's  
 25 history as well Route 66 history and certainly a great

Page 36

1 resource for the California BLM offices in the Desert  
 2 District.

3 And that stretch of the Mother Road is also  
 4 included in a proposal for a proposed National Monument,  
 5 and I think that the scenic corridor is really what's  
 6 going to be addressed in that Route 66 Corridor  
 7 Management Plan. So I think it's really exciting that  
 8 this stretch of Route 66, even though there are some  
 9 transportation challenges in terms of infrastructure  
 10 needs, it's, I think, really a great opportunity to  
 11 connect people to the desert and to that stretch of  
 12 Route 66. So I look forward to hearing about the  
 13 Corridor Management Plan in our later agenda items.

14 I'd also like to comment and report on at our  
 15 last meeting we had a lot of discussion about the DRECP  
 16 and public participation in the DRECP as well as forming  
 17 a DAC DRECP subcommittee, which we have formed. And we  
 18 had a preliminary set of planning calls to try and set  
 19 some meeting dates and talk about a little bit of our  
 20 plan moving forward, since we don't have a hard release  
 21 date yet on the draft DRECP.

22 And during that discussion at our last meeting  
 23 in March, we as a DAC subcommittee put together some  
 24 thoughts and recommendations. And Randy so kindly  
 25 consolidated that into a consent calendar item regarding

Page 37

1 public participation in future DRECP meetings. And I  
 2 would like to turn it over to Randy to read that consent  
 3 calendar, unless all the DAC members already have that  
 4 in front of them, and we can just move forward with  
 5 that.

6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: There we are. It  
 7 works. Thank you, April. I really enjoyed very much  
 8 working with the new members of the subcommittee on  
 9 this. And what we did was, you recall at the last  
 10 meeting we received presentations on the DRECP  
 11 specifically with regard to public participation. The  
 12 presenters, which was loosely the agencies who are  
 13 managing this project, this plan, the agencies requested  
 14 specific comments from the DAC on an array of subjects  
 15 related to public participation.

16 And so what we did is, Don and I went through  
 17 the transcripts of the last meeting, and we pulled all  
 18 the comments from the DAC with regard to DRECP and  
 19 public participation, and then I combined them into  
 20 general topics. And I also put the name of the  
 21 commenter or commenters following each one of the  
 22 suggestions. There's a lot of suggestions, as you see,  
 23 "A" through "K" on Item 1, "A" through "J" on Item 2;  
 24 "A" through "J" on Item 3; and "A" through "M" on  
 25 Item 4.

	Page 38		Page 40
<p>1 And so my thought was, it in my opinion would 2 be difficult to craft a motion, one singular motion that 3 could incorporate all of this. And I also feared that 4 we would get tied up or lost in negotiating that motion 5 and discussing pieces of that motion, when there were 6 many parts of it that we probably all agreed on. So I 7 proposed moving this forward in a consent calendar 8 style.</p> <p>9 All of the DAC members have received this 10 document in advance of the meeting. And my suggestion 11 is for a DAC members who have reviewed this -- and again 12 we'll keep it on the screen. I don't know that we need 13 to read them all, but what I would suggest is that, if 14 there are items on this list that a DAC member would 15 like to discuss further or has concerns about, that you 16 raise your hand and give us like, "1-E or 2-F I would 17 like to be pulled," and we'll pull those that everyone 18 has a problem with or wishes to discuss. And then 19 whatever is left on this list, perhaps we can move 20 forward as a unanimous vote on behalf of the DAC to 21 constitute formal advice to the BLM. And then we can go 22 back and touch on the individual items.</p> <p>23 And so are there any objections? Is that okay? 24 So I'd like to call for members to express any concerns 25 about items on here that would like to be pulled. Are</p>		<p>1 on items prior to taking action. So we'll conduct our 2 discussions first then seek public comment, and then 3 we'd take action after that.</p> <p>4 Is that how we'll proceed? 5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Correct. 6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Okay. Any other 7 comments? Any other items you would like to have pulled 8 from this? 9 MEMBER REILLY: I think I'd like to add 10 something specifically with the language that is used 11 when talking about public participation. And I think I 12 would like the BLM and the DAC to consider environmental 13 justice and social justice, which I think we have danced 14 around but not specifically addressed as part of the 15 DRECP. So I just wanted that to be noted on this list 16 and perhaps developed in further discussion. That's 17 all. 18 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Do you have a 19 suggestion where you'd like to toss that? Maybe under 20 documentation? 21 MEMBER REILLY: I think so. I think 22 documentation would be the right spot. 23 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is there any 24 objections to me just typing it in and adding it right 25 here?</p>	
<p>1 there any items that you would like to add at the last 2 minute or perhaps some that you wish to revise? April, 3 Don, want me to continue?</p> <p>4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: It's good with me. 5 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don? 6 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. Just a comment gained 7 from some bad experiences. Anytime you have a compound 8 sentence in something like this, it can pose a problem. 9 I'm speaking of 1-B. So it says, "Hold information-only 10 meetings (could begin before draft EIR/EIS is published) 11 and meetings dedicated to receiving oral public 12 comments." I would suggest that we add, you, know, 13 "hold meetings," because if anyone objects to either one 14 of those two things, then you lose both of them. So 15 just separate the two. That's my comment. 16 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Are there any 17 objections to that? How about it? 18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. 19 MS. LOPEZ: What about the public? We don't 20 get to comment? 21 DIRECTOR RAML: Not yet. 22 MS. LOPEZ: This is not under the Brown Act 23 laws of our state? 24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: No. And it's the 25 practice of the Desert Advisory Council to seek comment</p>	Page 39	<p>1 MEMBER O'BOYLE: I just have a question. I 2 don't understand what that means. 3 MEMBER REILLY: Sure. What that means is -- 4 I'll give you an example. If you are developing energy 5 on Public Lands in a rural area and that energy is 6 exported to an urban area, then that might not be 7 considered environmental or social justice because 8 you're taking land away from public and a different area 9 to provide resources for another. You're potentially 10 damaging one area to provide positive goods for another 11 area. So that's just one example. 12 So it's that kind of awareness of -- I think 13 that's the environmental justice movement. Specifically 14 it came out of a lot of emissions from coal and oil 15 where -- refineries, where refineries are emitting, and 16 the people who are downwind are the direct recipients of 17 that and have the health impacts, whereas the people who 18 are consuming those goods and services are not. So 19 things like that. 20 MEMBER O'BOYLE: You sound like Zach. 21 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Would you like to pull 22 that for further discussion, or are you okay? 23 MEMBER O'BOYLE: No. That's fine. 24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Don? 25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Yeah. I think we should add</p>	Page 41

Page 42

1 environmental and social justice, and I believe there's  
 2 an executive order that mandates that NEPA consider  
 3 environmental justice in their analysis, so that's great  
 4 that Jessica brought that up, because it will be a focus  
 5 of our analysis of the subcommittee.

6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Any other items the  
 7 DAC would like to pull to revise? Kim?

8 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Under 3-E, I believe it  
 9 mentions having a glossary. I believe that it should  
 10 also include an acronym glossary. Just add the word  
 11 "acronym" to it.

12 CHAIRPERSON SALL: I do believe that was the  
 13 intent.

14 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: It wasn't just  
 15 terminology?

16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Correct.

17 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I think I would want to  
 18 specify not just terminology but acronyms.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great.

20 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Turned my spellcheck  
 21 off. That's dangerous in a public forum. Any other  
 22 comments?

23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Looks good.

24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: As it looks, no DAC  
 25 member has requested that an item be pulled. So at this

Page 43

1 time, if the chair would like to consider this list, it  
 2 sounds like we may have unanimous consent on this list.

3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: It sounds like we may --

4 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Public comment?

5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes. It sounds like we have  
 6 a motion on the table, and we would like to see if there  
 7 are any public comments related to this item before we  
 8 proceed.

9 DIRECTOR RAML: Steve, help them with the  
 10 cards. Oh, you've got a card up here?

11 MS. LUND: I have a card up there but not for  
 12 this specific item.

13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Would you mind coming to the  
 14 microphone here in the front row and state your name.  
 15 We've got our three-minute clock.

16 MS. LUND: Just a quick comment. My name is  
 17 Angel Lund. Can you add a location such as either  
 18 Big River or Earp? We never hear anything over here.  
 19 We're kind of out in the middle of nowhere, which should  
 20 be a concern for the desert. That is my only concern.

21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Can you restate those two  
 22 locations.

23 MS. LUND: Big River is actually technically on  
 24 the reservation. Off of the reservation would be Earp.  
 25 Big River, I believe, has a meeting room down there at

Page 44

1 the park, which is San Bernardino County, which could be  
 2 probably arranged for a meeting.

3 MR. LUND: They've got plenty of room.

4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Do we  
 5 have another?

6 MS. LOPEZ: Yes. I didn't fill out a card.  
 7 I'm Ruth Musser Lopez from Needles, and I have two  
 8 issues, and you've kind of already answered one of them.  
 9 It appears that you're -- I have a campaign going on  
 10 about governments adopting Robert's Rules of Order,  
 11 which a lot of seem to have discarded in recent years,  
 12 and have left public out of the discussion when motions  
 13 are on the floor. But I see you've done this today, and  
 14 I appreciate that, that you have rather adopted it.

15 But I didn't get a chance to read this before  
 16 the meeting. So I don't know if that's on there or not,  
 17 but I would suggest that not just for this DRECP but for  
 18 every government meeting, that you recommend the  
 19 adoption of Robert's Rules of Order.

20 Now, I also understand that you say you don't  
 21 need to follow the Brown Act, but I thought it was the  
 22 BLM's policy to comply with state laws and directive to  
 23 comply with state laws, and I would assume that  
 24 Brown Act would also apply to this. But even so, the  
 25 Brown Act apparently does not specify that Robert's

Page 45

1 Rules of Order be engaged in. So I would just like to  
 2 make sure that gets put on the record that somebody has  
 3 requested you to do this.

4 And then the other thing is, I don't know if  
 5 you're aware, but these bus trips that the DAC has been  
 6 taking, a lot of times -- maybe this has come up before.  
 7 I don't know. But I haven't brought it up to you  
 8 directly. But these bus meetings, there's a lot of  
 9 information being handed out there, and there's a lot of  
 10 discussion between members. And the public is not  
 11 privileged to this information that's on the bus only.

12 And I know this for a fact because I tried to  
 13 get on the bus, and I did get on the bus when you were  
 14 out here in Needles last, and I was removed from the bus  
 15 because I was not a DAC member. And I think that's  
 16 pretty pathetic that you put a person through an  
 17 embarrassing position of being booted from a bus and  
 18 that in the future that there should be some sort of  
 19 statement made that the public is not going to be  
 20 allowed at this meeting on the bus, and then you take  
 21 the consequences for it.

22 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for your comments.  
 23 I'm sorry for that experience.

24 DIRECTOR RAML: Steve, did you have anything to  
 25 offer about Brown?

Page 46

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Is there anything about the  
2 Brown Act?  
3 MR. RAZO: Go ahead.  
4 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Rather  
5 than going point by point, I would be grateful if you  
6 would go to Google and search for "Desert Advisory  
7 Council," and I promise you the very first thing that  
8 comes up will be the Desert Advisory Council's web page,  
9 and there you'll find our charter and our bylaws. And I  
10 promise you you will find the answers to your questions  
11 with regard to open meetings and Roberts Rules of Order  
12 in there, I promise.  
13 MR. LUND: I have something.  
14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Another comment?  
15 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: On this agenda item?  
16 MR. LUND: My name is Mark Lund. I also live  
17 in Big River, California, which nobody knows where it  
18 is. Big River and Earp both share the same ZIP code, we  
19 are so small. When we have our public meetings and  
20 locations now, our area at least quadruples in size when  
21 the snowbirds come down. When we have a meeting during  
22 the summer, we're not fully represented. If we can have  
23 some public meetings during the wintertime, that's when  
24 people come down here to enjoy the desert, and I think  
25 there are a lot of snowbirds.

Page 47

1 I have a lot of snowbird friends that come down  
2 to go play, to go prospect, to go rockhound. And I feel  
3 they should be involved in the public meetings also  
4 because they bring the money into the area and keep our  
5 area going, really. But if we could, you know, in the  
6 public meetings have a few more during snowbird season,  
7 I guess you could call it. Thank you.  
8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Real  
9 quick, what is the distance between Big River and  
10 Needles?  
11 MR. LUND: We are about an our to an hour ten  
12 minutes.  
13 MS. LUND: It took us an hour and 15 minutes to  
14 get here.  
15 MR. LUND: Close.  
16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Gerry?  
17 MR. HILLIER: Thank you, April. And by the  
18 way, congratulations on your election, and my kind  
19 thoughts to Randy for his past service.  
20 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you.  
21 MR. HILLIER: I just had a very quick thought  
22 as I was listening to this discussion on the both the  
23 social justice part of the plan and the comments by  
24 previous people. And I look at the proposed meeting  
25 locations, and I see essentially the entire east desert

Page 48

1 is excluded from that comment, and they are the ones who  
2 are going to bear the brunt of many of these projects,  
3 and yet the power is going to be shipped off elsewhere.  
4 And I would very much suggest that you have at least one  
5 location -- whether it's Needles, whether it's  
6 Big River, Earp, which is, by the way, for point of  
7 location, on Highway 62 as you cross the river into  
8 Parker. And you have also got the Blythe community in  
9 Riverside County. So you've got really a fairly lengthy  
10 part of California that's excluded from that list, and I  
11 would recommend that somewhere along there be identified  
12 for a meeting.  
13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  
14 (Applause.)  
15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Randy, I would maybe suggest  
16 that the DAC entertain adding Needles and Blythe to that  
17 list. And I just want to clarify, these meetings --  
18 this meeting list is proposed public meetings for the  
19 DRECP draft release process, and these are meetings that  
20 the DAC was suggesting for that process. They're not  
21 DAC meetings or any other BLM public meeting and also  
22 that the California Energy Commission and U.S. Fish and  
23 Wildlife Service and California Fish and Wildlife will  
24 also likely be present or be asked to be at those  
25 meetings, and so I'm sure there will be much more

Page 49

1 discussion to come. Thank you.  
2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: So I'm sorry. What  
3 did you want to add?  
4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Needles and Blythe.  
5 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.  
6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: If there's no objections.  
7 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is there an "E" at the  
8 end?  
9 MR. LUND: "Blythy" (as pronounced).  
10 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Want to take a vote?  
11 CHAIRPERSON SALL: All right. Can I have a  
12 motion for the DAC to accept the consent calendar as we  
13 have shown on the screen? Anybody?  
14 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I move.  
15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Kim moves. Thank you.  
16 MEMBER SHTEIR: Second.  
17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Second, Seth. All in favor?  
18 Opposed?  
19 (Voice vote was taken.)  
20 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Motion carries. Thank you.  
21 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Steve, for  
22 letting me connect.  
23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: I would like to go back  
24 before we close out DAC comments to the motion that Seth  
25 had put on the table. Seth?

Page 50

1 MEMBER SHTEIR: May I just add one thing to  
 2 that motion, that DAC could draft a letter to  
 3 Director Kenna about this issue recommending the  
 4 rejection of the Silurian Valley solar proposal on  
 5 variance lands. Thank you.  
 6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: I second that. It's already  
 7 been seconded.  
 8 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: For the amendment, I  
 9 accept.  
 10 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Can we  
 11 have a vote. All in favor of the motion --  
 12 MEMBER HOUSTON: I have a comment.  
 13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Don. Sorry.  
 14 MEMBER HOUSTON: I would like to propose a  
 15 friendly amendment to the motion before us. And rather  
 16 than the language that Seth proposes, I would like to  
 17 change it a little bit, and the motion would include the  
 18 recommendation that the BLM accept the United States  
 19 Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation to reject the  
 20 application. I think that would have more weight.  
 21 MEMBER SHTEIR: Excellent suggestion.  
 22 MEMBER REILLY: I'm sorry. Before we proceed,  
 23 would it be possible for the DAC and for the public for  
 24 a representative of the BLM to summarize the reason for  
 25 siting on variance lands?

Page 51

1 DIRECTOR RAML: We received an application.  
 2 MS. SYMONS: And we're following the solar  
 3 PEIS, which lays out a process you go through for  
 4 variance lands. So we're just following an established  
 5 process.  
 6 DIRECTOR RAML: I didn't mean to be that  
 7 abrupt, but also in the Barstow Field Office Report,  
 8 there's a report on this project too. And so it is open  
 9 for public comment, I think, as Seth mentioned, until  
 10 May 27th, 28th.  
 11 MS. SYMONS: 28th.  
 12 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah. So you have an  
 13 opportunity for people to get a little more information  
 14 and provide comment on that project and the process  
 15 also.  
 16 MEMBER REILLY: Thank you.  
 17 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Madam chair.  
 18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Randy?  
 19 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: My main objection is  
 20 that under the solar PEIS, the Programmatic  
 21 Environmental Impact Statement, there were established  
 22 solar energy zones that were determined as the most  
 23 appropriate places to site renewable energy -- to site  
 24 solar energy at this time. That is, as I see it, the  
 25 first resort.

Page 52

1 The PEIS said it also designated variance areas  
 2 that projects could apply to, and since there's only two  
 3 places in the solar PEIS that allow the development, the  
 4 solar energy zones as the first resort, I have to look  
 5 at the variance areas as the last resort. And I don't  
 6 think we're at the last resort for siting solar projects  
 7 in the desert yet. Thank you for that.  
 8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Randy. Any other  
 9 amendments?  
 10 DIRECTOR RAML: I think maybe just a  
 11 clarification, too. When it comes to the Desert  
 12 Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, maybe one of the  
 13 things we can talk about is, even after that plan is  
 14 approved, people can apply for uses anywhere. And so  
 15 what these documents do, these planning documents, is  
 16 they describe the framework and the processes and the  
 17 considerations BLM will have as we consider them. I  
 18 mean, someone could apply to do something in a  
 19 Wilderness Area and be a very quick rejection, but they  
 20 can submit an application.  
 21 And I think during the DRECP process, too, we  
 22 need to clarify that. Also it doesn't prevent  
 23 proponents from applying. It just gives them what we  
 24 hope is a very clear indication of the framework that  
 25 they're going to be working in when they apply to those

Page 53

1 areas.  
 2 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Teri, for that  
 3 clarification. Seth.  
 4 MEMBER SHTEIR: One thing I wanted to mention  
 5 is that, under the current preferred alternatives for  
 6 the draft, or for the preliminary draft of the DRECP,  
 7 this area that is proposed for this variance application  
 8 would actually be an ACEC, or Area of Critical  
 9 Environmental Concern. So even by the DRECP standards,  
 10 this is an area with some significant values in terms of  
 11 resources, recreation, biology, history.  
 12 MR. LUND: Mining.  
 13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Any  
 14 other amendments to the motion? And was our last set of  
 15 amendments accepted by our seconder?  
 16 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good.  
 17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you.  
 18 MEMBER HOUSTON: Could we restate the motion,  
 19 since there's been so much discussion.  
 20 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Sure. Seth, would you do  
 21 the honors?  
 22 MEMBER HOUSTON: I think the motion should  
 23 refer to the date of the letter from the U.S. Fish and  
 24 Wildlife Service so there's no confusion.  
 25 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay. The Desert Advisory

Page 54

1 Council recommends that the Bureau of Land Management  
 2 accept the United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
 3 recommendation to the Bureau of Land Management to  
 4 reject the variance application for the Silurian Valley  
 5 Solar Project that is outlined in a letter from  
 6 February 6, 2014. Subsequently the DAC will draft a  
 7 letter to Director Kenna stating this.

8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  
 9 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Awesome.  
 10 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Can we take a vote?  
 11 MS. LUND: Can we have floor comments on this  
 12 motion?  
 13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: It's appropriate.  
 14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes, we will do floor  
 15 comments from the public.  
 16 MS. LOPEZ: Ruth Musser Lopez, Needles,  
 17 California. I just want to first of all thank  
 18 Gerry Hillier for bringing up that that list that didn't  
 19 have Needles on it. It's an outrage, number one, that  
 20 nobody is up there to represent us on this DAC. I  
 21 appreciate everything you're doing. You're going the  
 22 right direction. I give you a lot of credit. I know a  
 23 number of you. I respect you. I think you're doing  
 24 great on a lot of issues.  
 25 But there's been this ongoing problem for

Page 55

1 years, where the BLM employees make money off these  
 2 projects. Every time they drive a truck out there,  
 3 you're getting paid, you know. Some of you are getting  
 4 compensation for being here. The rest of us, the  
 5 public, we do not get paid to go to these meetings.  
 6 Okay? It costs us a fortune to keep up with this CDD  
 7 and all of these applications that are coming in on  
 8 solar projects that you're processing.

9 I cannot believe that the BLM does not have the  
 10 authority to reject applications or not process them at  
 11 this time or that there's not a policy that can be made  
 12 where these applications are not processed in these  
 13 variance areas until other places are filled up that you  
 14 have available. Why are you putting the public through  
 15 this treadmill, this horrid thing of going to meeting  
 16 after meeting, having to object over and over and over  
 17 again to the same thing? It's costing us, and it's  
 18 costing the taxpayers.

19 And you need to use our money on improvements  
 20 to our desert and safety and values that we want there,  
 21 not on processing applications that in the end are going  
 22 to get rejected or sued. You're going to get sued over.  
 23 It's a waste. Thank you.  
 24 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for your comment.  
 25 Okay. Can we please have the DAC vote on the

Page 56

1 motion on the table. All in favor? All opposed?  
 2 (A vote was taken.)  
 3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Motion carries.  
 4 Thank you again, Randy and Seth, for your work on  
 5 clarifying and, Don, for your amendments.  
 6 Great. Next on the agenda item we have public  
 7 comment for items not on the agenda, including requests  
 8 for DAC to consider for future agendas.  
 9 The first member of the public card that I have  
 10 here is Ed Waldheim.  
 11 MR. WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, California Trail  
 12 Users Coalition. Mr. Muth, AI, on the maps, I provided  
 13 to you, ten maps, the complete set of all the California  
 14 desert maps that we have from Oceano Dunes to Needles to  
 15 Palm Springs all the way up to Mammoth and further up.  
 16 The purpose of this is to educate the public on where  
 17 they can ride legally with Green Stickers. You can get  
 18 a Triple A map and get in your car and do a good job  
 19 there, but the problem is, we don't have good maps of  
 20 the OHV areas, so anything you see green that means a  
 21 Green Sticker can ride on that.  
 22 I have worked very hard U.S. Forest Service,  
 23 with Kathy Mick in Region 5 to make sure they use a  
 24 certain terminology. I'm asking anybody who makes maps,  
 25 once you put green on there, you run with the problem

Page 57

1 that it may be construed as a Green Sticker vehicle  
 2 route, so do not use green unless it is really there for  
 3 the public to use. That way we hope to get control and  
 4 get education going in the proper way. You can cut  
 5 borders, paste them together and get a big wall. I'm  
 6 going to try to see where I can find bigger walls to put  
 7 these up.  
 8 The beauty is, we have state trails from the  
 9 off-highway program from 1972, which just like the PCT,  
 10 we have our own state motorized trail system that is  
 11 connected from east and west north and south, and we  
 12 have those on the map. Some field offices are kind, and  
 13 they list the SMTS, State Motorized Trail System.  
 14 Others do not. I hope that the State of California  
 15 Off-Highway Vehicle Program will continue pushing that  
 16 issue.  
 17 Grants that you received in the years past were  
 18 so designated that you will highlight that on the maps.  
 19 And so we have put it on the map. It's already there.  
 20 We don't have to reinvent the wheel. The Off-Highway  
 21 Vehicle Commission, who met the other day in -- where  
 22 were they?  
 23 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Victorville.  
 24 MR. WALDHEIM: -- Victorville. Boy, my brain.  
 25 They have a committee working on that desert motorized

1 trail system, so we're way ahead of it. It's already on  
 2 the map. All I'm asking the desert folks to start  
 3 taking it seriously. We have signs to put up. It's a  
 4 no-brainer. Just put a sign on existing trails. No new  
 5 trails are going to be designated.

6 I provided you with a copy of the grants the  
 7 commission passed out at the last meeting for you to  
 8 look, 47 million almost or thereabouts on grants. We  
 9 only have 26 million available. The competition is  
 10 going to be very fierce because on June 2nd we'll find  
 11 out those of us who get grants and those who do not. We  
 12 will be sitting on pins and needles. Do we have the  
 13 money to do what we want to do, or don't we have the  
 14 money to do what we want to do?

15 China Lake, I agree 100 percent. On the 16th  
 16 Vincent Fong from Congressman McCarthy's office will be  
 17 at the Jawbone Station at 10:00 in the morning. Anybody  
 18 who wants to come and listen to the presentation from  
 19 Vince Fong, you're welcome to it. His point is that, if  
 20 we don't do this, Senator Feinstein will turn it into  
 21 Wilderness.

22 MEMBER HOUSTON: Question.  
 23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Ed, question from Don.  
 24 MR. WALDHEIM: The clock got me distracted.  
 25 Normally I'm on time.

1 MEMBER HOUSTON: Ed, first of all, thank you.  
 2 Very nice.

3 MR. WALDHEIM: Got to thank Mr. Banis for  
 4 helping make it possible. My dream has been there for  
 5 the last 30 years. He helped us to develop these maps.  
 6 He and his helper, C.G., they're doing an incredible  
 7 job. Needless to say, C.G., is, from a little girl,  
 8 grown to being our main case, and she's the daughter of  
 9 Mike Ahrens. So it's a family affair that we have for  
 10 the betterment of the whole desert.

11 MEMBER HOUSTON: They're obviously very  
 12 high-quality maps. I'm assuming there's a GIS layer  
 13 somewhere they're derived from.

14 MR. WALDHEIM: All these from the Forest  
 15 Service, everything comes from the agencies. I take the  
 16 privilege of cutting out. I do not add on. There's lot  
 17 lots of trails on there that could be more. The forest  
 18 supervisor up in Inyo National Forest has said, "I want  
 19 all the routes on it." You look at the map. It's  
 20 spaghetti. I would have taken half of those routes out.

21 And the area is in this area. And we have a  
 22 map for Kingston, so please look at the Kingston map.  
 23 That's a new map that's going to be developed. Go look  
 24 at it. It's on the table. Mike Ahrens doesn't like me  
 25 using the sign-up table, but anyway, if there's anything

1 you want to see on that map, if you want to change this,  
 2 now is the time to do it. And I asked April, too, on  
 3 the San Bernardino map we do. It is all official maps  
 4 from the agencies. I reserve the privilege of removing  
 5 stuff if I so feel like doing that.

6 MEMBER HOUSTON: And now to my question.  
 7 MR. WALDHEIM: Your what?  
 8 MEMBER HOUSTON: My question.  
 9 MR. WALDHEIM: What was the question? Oh, the  
 10 GIS layers?

11 MEMBER HOUSTON: No, no. The question is, the  
 12 cost of these maps, private or public?

13 MR. WALDHEIM: They are used in different,  
 14 various -- we get grants from -- Kern County Parks and  
 15 Recreation has been kind. Kern County Tourism took  
 16 part. Zach's Board of Supervisors have been very kind  
 17 to us. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have  
 18 given us money in the past. The majority comes from the  
 19 Green Funds.

20 And we sell. We give a lot of maps away, but  
 21 we have to come up with a 25-percent match. So at our  
 22 visitors centers -- Jawbone Visitor Center, at El Mirage  
 23 Visitor Center -- we sell them. At our Barstow BLM  
 24 office, we have these maps. We give them away. We give  
 25 them away so the public has them in their hands. This

1 all comes from the agencies. We're not dreaming these  
 2 routes up. Like the West Mojave, it all comes from the  
 3 supplemental rule of the West Mojave is on there.

4 As soon as the Court comes with a decision,  
 5 then we're prepared to go immediately in there and do  
 6 whatever is needed to do the thing, and I mean on the  
 7 ground. Friends of Jawbone, that's what we do for  
 8 Ridgecrest office. And now we're working with Katrina.  
 9 We're going to start doing them in the BLM office in  
 10 Ridgecrest and Bakersfield offices and Needles.

11 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  
 12 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: One more thing to add,  
 13 the Recreational Trails Program, RTP, is from Federal  
 14 Highway Fund monies that go to each of the 50 states.  
 15 Actually I would say about half of these maps were  
 16 generated with assistance from that program as well. So  
 17 I'd like to credit that RTP program because every year  
 18 in Congress there's a question of whether or not that's  
 19 important to fund, and we depend greatly on that.  
 20 Thanks.

21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Our next  
 22 public speaker is Gerry Hillier for items not on the  
 23 agenda.

24 MR. HILLIER: Good morning again, madam  
 25 chairman. And thank you very much for the time this

Page 62

1 morning. For an item not on the agenda, my goal here is  
2 to urge, first off, the Advisory Council members to  
3 become acquainted with what I'm going to talk about and  
4 a request that BLM include it on their next agenda in  
5 terms of timing.

6 I don't know how many of you know, but I  
7 suspect very few of you know that in the last month Fish  
8 and Wildlife Service issued their Version 1 of a  
9 proposed Desert Tortoise Recovery Action Plan, and it's  
10 available to the public. It's been pending for quite a  
11 while, but it's finally become public. And the reason  
12 that I raise this issue is that perhaps 90 percent of  
13 the projects that are proposed on that involve Public  
14 Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.  
15 And so to be kept in the dark or to not become aware of  
16 this document is really tragic, because they do  
17 represent at least a degree of commitment for spending  
18 money and implementing programs that biologists believe  
19 will help recovery of the desert tortoise.

20 I would be less than candid to indicate that  
21 the local governments in the desert, who I speak for in  
22 this regard, had a number of dissents on some of these  
23 projects mostly because of economic feasibility or  
24 costs. But that's another issue.

25 What I would like to do is to urge that the

Page 63

1 council members become acquainted with Version 1 and  
2 that the BLM undertake a discussion of this, because  
3 Version 2 is going to begin to be formulated during the  
4 summer. And it's timely. I have talked to Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service on past occasions about the involvement  
6 of BLM advisory councils in this discussion, and the  
7 reaction I got was, "BLM has advisory councils?" They  
8 were totally unaware that there was even a public forum  
9 that could bounce these ideas off of. And they didn't  
10 see anything inappropriate with the councils' discussing  
11 it.

12 I'm not suggesting, you know, that you get down  
13 into the weeds of specific proposals, but you certainly  
14 ought to be aware of the concepts involved. And, you  
15 know, our organization believes a fundamental part of  
16 this thing is predator control and disease addressing --  
17 and those are both -- because of the disjointed manner  
18 they were addressed, do not come through as  
19 high-priority actions because it's geographic area by  
20 geographic area.

21 And so I would like to urge that you get  
22 acquainted with the documents. And there's a single  
23 document that covers the California part of the desert  
24 and urge that you include it on a future agenda very  
25 soon, if you meet again in June, July or August there,

Page 64

1 to help BLM formulate their own management review.  
2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Gerry.  
4 MEMBER MUTH: Question, Gerry.  
5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: AI?  
6 MR. HILLIER: Yeah, AI.  
7 MEMBER MUTH: Doing some of my homework for  
8 this meeting, I did find the draft one of the recovery  
9 plans, but anytime I tried to check it, I crashed my  
10 laptop. Does it have a renewable energy chapter in it  
11 this time?

12 MR. HILLIER: No.  
13 MEMBER MUTH: Still?  
14 MR. HILLIER: Well, there's the recovery plan,  
15 and then they deferred the creation of the -- oh, what  
16 were they going to call it? -- the supplement? I think  
17 there was a supplement that was going to cover renewable  
18 energy. And as of mid-March, when the management  
19 oversight group met, they said it was still being  
20 drafted. And so it has never been created.

21 And what they have now made available -- in  
22 late 2012 and early 2013, they assembled a group of  
23 biologists and stakeholders in small group meetings.  
24 There was three in California, three in the remainder of  
25 the Mojave and one for the upper Virgin River, so there

Page 65

1 were seven of these work groups. They assembled them,  
2 and we cussed and debated. And there were proposals put  
3 out, and there was voting and dissent on some of them,  
4 and there was consensus on others. And they formulated  
5 these into a fairly substantial booklet. I would say  
6 that probably the California part of it is about  
7 three-eighths inches thick when I printed it out. It  
8 covers all of the tortoise habitat in California.

9 And so this is a subsequent document that you  
10 would have to go on the Fish and Wildlife Service desert  
11 tortoise website to be able to retrieve. And if you  
12 can't get it, give me a holler, and I'll see if I can  
13 get you led through it there. I've printed out a copy.  
14 I didn't happen to bring it with me, but it should be  
15 fairly readily available.

16 MEMBER MUTH: Okay.  
17 MR. HILLIER: There's one other aspect that I  
18 would like to mention to Seth there on his work on  
19 Connecting People to the Desert. One of the  
20 fundamentals that is recommended for almost every one of  
21 these units is education as being a primary aspect of  
22 tortoise recovery, getting people much more sensitive to  
23 desert habitat and retention of habitats and protection  
24 of the species. And so merging education and Connecting  
25 People to the Desert, to me, seems a very natural fit.

Page 66

1 So I add that to your discussion there, that I think it  
 2 would be well there for you to embrace this part of the  
 3 proposed action plan.  
 4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Gerry.  
 5 MR. HILLIER: Okay. Thank you, April.  
 6 DIRECTOR RAML: I'll just add, I do have  
 7 information from the Desert Tortoise Recovery Action  
 8 Plan. And for comments on Version 1 to be considered  
 9 for Version 2, we have a requested October 31st, 2014  
 10 date. So I'll just leave that for the DAC to deliberate  
 11 and consider. So there is a date that, if you did want  
 12 to engage in the discussion of the Desert Tortoise  
 13 Recovery Plan, it would be by October 31st.  
 14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Teri. Don?  
 15 MEMBER HOUSTON: Well, that's opportune timing  
 16 for our next meeting in September. And given Gerry's  
 17 statements, it seems appropriate that we try to get the  
 18 service in here to give us a presentation in September,  
 19 if possible, so we can make a recommendation to BLM.  
 20 But if that has to be a motion, I'll make it.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes. We can do that now. I  
 22 think generally at our 4:20 item, we'll be discussing  
 23 topics for the next meeting. Can we possibly hold it  
 24 until then?  
 25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay.

Page 67

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Our next comment  
 2 card I have here for items not on the agenda is Jay Erb.  
 3 MR. ERB: Good morning, madam chair and members  
 4 of the DAC. My name is Jay Erb, and I'm a rockhound.  
 5 And I apologize if this sounds more like a lecture, but  
 6 I'm really not used to public speaking. I understand  
 7 that you as DAC members are not part and parcel with the  
 8 BLM but are simply volunteers here to advise them. I  
 9 would like you to think about some of these ideas and  
 10 definitions when you advise them.  
 11 My cause is access to Public Lands. I do not  
 12 believe that the public, the people of the  
 13 United States, should be denied access to Public Lands  
 14 for any frivolous reason.  
 15 Recently I've heard some talk about rights and  
 16 privileges. The worrying part about this talk is that  
 17 the definitions are backwards. From my Webster's 1993  
 18 Collegiate Dictionary, definitions of rights and  
 19 privileges: "A right, something to which one has a just  
 20 claim, the power to which one is justly entitled by laws  
 21 or customs; or, something that someone may properly  
 22 claim as due; or, the cause of truth or justice," and,  
 23 if I might add, the American way.  
 24 MR. LUND: Yea.  
 25 MR. ERB: The use of Public Lands has been a

Page 68

1 couple that predates the creation of the BLM by several  
 2 centuries. These United States became populated and  
 3 strong through our expansion from the east coast to the  
 4 Pacific Ocean. Also the ingenious use of public lands,  
 5 whether in farming, ranching, hunting, fishing, mining  
 6 and, yes, recreational travel and scientific research by  
 7 our forefathers made this country a force of liberty  
 8 throughout the world. The use of public lands is a  
 9 right. Veterans like myself and many of my fellow  
 10 rockhounds have fought for these rights since colonial  
 11 times.  
 12 "Privilege, an immunity granted as a specific  
 13 benefit, advantage or favor." The use of public lands  
 14 is specific to no one individual. They are for use by  
 15 all citizens, hence the term "public." The use of  
 16 public lands advantages or favors no one. It favors all  
 17 citizens who desire to use them. The use of public  
 18 lands is not a privilege but a right. Ouch.  
 19 (Applause.)  
 20 MR. ERB: And it looks like I'm out of time.  
 21 Thank you very much.  
 22 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Jay. At this  
 23 time these are all the cards I have for items not on the  
 24 agenda. So I will close comments the public comment  
 25 period for items not on the agenda.

Page 69

1 Our next agenda item is Connecting People to  
 2 the Desert Subgroup. We have a member appointment item  
 3 for the chair position and concurrence by DFO?  
 4 Do we have one more?  
 5 MS. LUND: Yes.  
 6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: My apologies. Okay. This  
 7 is for the next agenda item. Great. We're okay.  
 8 So back to our Connecting People to the Desert  
 9 Subgroup. Seth, would you like to give us a report.  
 10 MEMBER SHTEIR: Sure. Well, "Connecting People  
 11 to the Desert" is the title of the subgroup, and it is  
 12 our aim to provide the Bureau of Land Management with  
 13 some recommendations for interpretation and education  
 14 and to reach out to populations or folks that  
 15 traditionally haven't maybe been engaged on our Public  
 16 Lands.  
 17 So we did receive, you know, some really  
 18 wonderful applications. I believe we received ten  
 19 applications, and they really range from people with,  
 20 you know, experience in film to people with experience  
 21 in off-roading and recreation, to people experienced in  
 22 environmental education, to people who have, you know,  
 23 even worked or interned with the BLM before, and  
 24 including a former DAC member. So you know, every  
 25 application, my feeling was, had something of value in

Page 70

1 this process. And I'm recommending that all ten be  
 2 considered part of this subgroup.  
 3 I'm really looking forward to this. And we are  
 4 going to have a meeting very shortly, but I would prefer  
 5 not to set that meeting at this DAC meeting because I  
 6 really want to confer with the ten members about their  
 7 availability first just to make sure we have a good  
 8 turnout.  
 9 So, you know, the first session, our first  
 10 session is really going to be looking at some goals and  
 11 objectives and process. And we are not only going to  
 12 cover, you know, how to engage people through the  
 13 various aspects of recreation, such as, you know, hiking  
 14 and off-roading and camping and stargazing and  
 15 rockhounding and things like that, but we're going to  
 16 look at some big-picture items, kind of thinking about  
 17 maybe who's not at the table right now? How can we  
 18 attract other audiences to teach them about this  
 19 marvelous place we call the desert? So that's pretty  
 20 much it for me. Thank you.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Teri, do  
 22 you have anything more to add?  
 23 DIRECTOR RAML: Seth, I appreciate that. First  
 24 of all I'm pleased that the DAC wanted to have a  
 25 subgroup on this topic, and I'm still beaming about

Page 71

1 that. And I am happy to concur with your recommendation  
 2 that all your applications be considered members of the  
 3 subgroup and we can get to work.  
 4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Paul?  
 5 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Yes. I just want to  
 6 congratulate Seth. I thought the candidates you had  
 7 were all excellent. In fact, when I was reading them, I  
 8 was going, I don't think I can even sit on this board.  
 9 They all seemed over qualified to me. With that said, I  
 10 think the movie people -- I think you have a lot of  
 11 technical expertise there. I think the movie people are  
 12 a step in the right direction.  
 13 I think what the group does need -- and you  
 14 mentioned it a little bit. What's lacking is, I think  
 15 we need more marketing people. We have hard skilled,  
 16 people hard technical people, but we need someone who  
 17 can connect to the masses, and, you know, they don't  
 18 know what they don't know, and we need someone to help  
 19 us communicate that to them. So I think if there's any  
 20 place on your board, that's where I'd recommend filling  
 21 that in.  
 22 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Paul.  
 23 Any other DAC comments? Great.  
 24 At this point in the agenda we actually have a  
 25 break scheduled, but we are running a little early. Our

Page 72

1 next item on the agenda is Route 66 Corridor Management  
 2 Plan. Does the staff need any time to set up any power  
 3 points? We do. So we need to take a short break at  
 4 this time. Is 15 minutes sufficient? We'll take a  
 5 15-minute break, and we will be back at five till.  
 6 Thank you.  
 7 (A brief recess was taken.)  
 8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. We are  
 9 going to call the meeting back to order here at about  
 10 10:58. I apologize. We need to reopen our last agenda  
 11 item, Connecting People to the Desert Subgroup, and read  
 12 off our subgroup member appointments and have  
 13 designation of the chair.  
 14 Seth, do you have the list of members? And we  
 15 can refer members of the public to the DAC to the CDD  
 16 website and under the DAC tab, there is a list of all  
 17 the subgroups and all the members as well.  
 18 MEMBER SHTEIR: Sorry. Did you want me to read  
 19 the names of them?  
 20 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes, please.  
 21 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay. Jane Laraman Brockhurst.  
 22 MR. HILLIER: Could you say where they're from,  
 23 too?  
 24 MEMBER SHTEIR: Sure, absolutely. She was from  
 25 Barstow. Another one is Lorraine Turk from Joshua Tree;

Page 73

1 Robert Reynolds from Redlands; Peter Saminski from  
 2 Palm Desert; Timothy Branning from San Pedro;  
 3 James Kenny from Ridgecrest; Kim Stringfellow from  
 4 Joshua Tree; and I think I got them all there. I think  
 5 I got them all.  
 6 MR. RAZO: Sheri Davis and Carol --  
 7 MEMBER SHTEIR: Yeah. Apologies about the  
 8 disorganization here. I have them on my computer, but I  
 9 wasn't able to plug that in. Sheri Davis, Film  
 10 Commission.  
 11 MR. RAZO: And Carolyn Conway.  
 12 MEMBER SHTEIR: Carolyn Conway, yes. She is  
 13 from Joshua Tree as well.  
 14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Seth. At  
 15 this point I would like to propose to designate you as  
 16 the chair of that subgroup.  
 17 MEMBER SHTEIR: Okay.  
 18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: And if I have concurrence  
 19 from the DFO.  
 20 DIRECTOR RAML: You do.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. We will be setting  
 22 future meeting dates, and those will be announced to the  
 23 public.  
 24 Do you have any other comments on that, Seth?  
 25 MEMBER SHTEIR: Well, just stay tuned. We

Page 74

1 should be working towards that very soon.

2 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Okay.

3 Formally shutting out this agenda item and moving on to

4 Focus Topics, Route 66 Corridor Management Plan, Barstow

5 Field Office.

6 MR. SANCHEZ: Good morning. My name is

7 Doran Sanchez. I'm with the Barstow Field Office, and

8 I'm the BLM project lead for preparation of the Route 66

9 Corridor Management Plan. I want to extend my

10 appreciation to the Advisory Council for allowing us

11 this time. We are in that process, and I am very

12 pleased to introduce Jim Klein. He is the contractor

13 that's working with BLM in association with our partners

14 with the California Historic Route 66 Association for

15 the preparation of the plan. Jim Klein.

16 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Doran. You're taller

17 than I am.

18 What I would like to do is just walk through

19 what a Corridor Management Plan is, what is being

20 proposed. And we've had some public workshops just to

21 summarize what some of the public has brought forward as

22 ideas and issues. And I want to talk a little bit about

23 the significance of Route 66 through the Mojave Desert,

24 especially, and then some of the issues and challenges

25 that we're addressing in this plan, especially related

Page 75

1 to stewardship and preservation and then also, as we

2 move into the next parts of our document, about trying

3 to translate some of these heritage qualities,

4 important, significant qualities of economic to the

5 communities through which Route 66 passes.

6 I want to also mention that, coming to this

7 presentation yesterday to take some more time to look

8 closely at Route 66, every time I look at it I find

9 something new and different and better. It's really an

10 amazing place. I get involved with a lot of these kinds

11 of efforts. I've done management plans like this for

12 about two dozen historic heritage routes throughout the

13 U.S., and Route 66 is definitely named the Mother Road

14 for a reason. It's a really impressive part of our

15 heritage, part of our American story. And I think this

16 is a great opportunity to show and demonstrate how that

17 resource can be better managed and stewarded for the

18 benefit of all.

19 As you can see by this great picture, I think

20 that Doran took, it's really a partnership effort, and

21 it's a little different than many of the things that you

22 might come through. We were delighted to take a bus

23 tour back in November, early December with this group.

24 It kind of turned into -- and I'm trying to collect an

25 ad hoc planning committee just of interested people who

Page 76

1 love Route 66 or have some responsibility with it so we

2 can develop some draft strategies with this committee

3 then put that into the draft plan that will come later

4 in the process. But you can see there's a lot of

5 different people involved with it, different agencies,

6 different stakeholders. And our effort is to involve

7 all of them in the development of this plan.

8 One of the goals of this is to generate and

9 designate the route as a National Scenic Byway. And a

10 National Scenic Byway is a designation by the Federal

11 Highway Administration. There are 150 of them in the

12 United States, including four states along Route 66,

13 that have achieved that designation already, including

14 your neighbor Arizona, Oklahoma and Illinois.

15 The route in order to be so designated has to

16 have regionally and nationally significant historic

17 qualities or intrinsic qualities. There are six of

18 those kinds of qualities, including scenic, natural,

19 historic, cultural, recreational and archaeological, all

20 of those things that the Bureau of Land Management knows

21 a lot about for sure.

22 It also has to show that it can support

23 visiting travelers. That is a little bit of a

24 challenge, I think, in this particular part of the

25 world, and we will talk a little bit about that. And

Page 77

1 then it has to have a demonstration through improved

2 Corridor Management Plan of how you intend to steward

3 and manage those resources so that, when it's marketed

4 as a National Scenic Byway, as an important national

5 route, that people have a certain degree of confidence

6 that they'll have a truly authentic experience and

7 people will recognize why it was designated in what

8 they're about to experience.

9 A Corridor Management Plan is a grass-roots

10 effort. Because a scenic corridor or historic corridor

11 like this travels through all kinds of agencies and

12 responsibilities, it has to kind of evolve from the

13 grass-roots level. It has to demonstrate how you're

14 going to conserve and enhance the qualities, how you're

15 going to manage the impacts of tourism. In some cases

16 those are positive impacts. In some cases there's been

17 challenges with increase in tourism. And then also

18 through the communities through which you pass, how you

19 intend to maintain the quality of life in those

20 communities. In this case it certainly would enhance

21 that.

22 A process we've been working through since last

23 fall is to conduct some public outreach, which again I

24 mentioned the bus tour. We had public meetings in late

25 February. Doran and his colleagues have been making

Page 78

1 various presentations in each of the communities along  
2 the route. The association has been reaching out to  
3 their members and other interested parties. And through  
4 that we've identified a list of issues that need to be  
5 addressed in the plan.

6 And we're conducting five -- it's a little bit  
7 unusual in this because the route is so spread out.  
8 We're using web-based meetings to kind of develop these  
9 draft strategies. We had one on April 28th. We had  
10 about 30 people. I should say in the public meetings we  
11 had 90 people in Barstow, 40 in Needles, both great  
12 turnouts. For those of you who have been to public  
13 meetings, you know that's a pretty impressive turnout,  
14 and a great deal of enthusiasm has been shown for it.

15 We'll have our next web-based meeting on  
16 March 22nd about the sites and places along the route  
17 and how they might be enhanced, and towards the end of  
18 this presentation I'll talk a little bit about thoughts  
19 on that. Then there will be a third meeting about the  
20 road and other visitor infrastructure on August 28th, a  
21 fourth one on heritage tourism, how you market and  
22 promote these strategies and recommendations for  
23 Route 66 in October. And then a draft plan will be  
24 released sometime in the spring for public comment and  
25 encouragement of support.

Page 79

1 The corridor itself includes really three  
2 components. It includes the road itself, and the road  
3 of historic Route 66 between Needles and Barstow is  
4 managed mostly by San Bernardino County. It's about a  
5 400-foot, plus or minus, right-of-way through there.  
6 Caltrans is responsible for 95, which is north of  
7 Needles, up to Goffs Road, and then -- yeah.

8 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Excuse me. Did you say it was  
9 a 400-foot-wide right-of-way?

10 MR. KLEIN: Roughly. Mike can clarify that,  
11 but it narrows in cities. And once you get into Barstow  
12 and Needles in the city, they are responsible for it,  
13 which are the last two partners there in terms of the  
14 road.

15 MEMBER O'BOYLE: A big right-of-way.

16 MR. KLEIN: Another part of the corridor is the  
17 experience of traveling and what you can see from the  
18 road. And these are all of the things that sort of  
19 shape the travel experience, what you see from that  
20 road. And we've kind of divided that up -- and this  
21 kind of view shows it really well -- into foreground  
22 areas roughly along the road about up to a quarter mile,  
23 mid-ground areas from a quarter mile to roughly seven  
24 miles, and then background areas out to about 20 miles.  
25 And really beyond that 20 miles can be very difficult

Page 80

1 for the casual observer to see much change in the  
2 landscape. Unless you've got a trained eye to see those  
3 things, then you don't really see them on your first  
4 time, as I mentioned. Coming out I see more every time.

5 Then the third part of the corridor are some  
6 related sites that are just off Route 66. I show Goffs  
7 Schoolhouse here. It's not that far off but clearly  
8 part of the experience. That also would be  
9 considerations for looking at some of the Kelso Visitor  
10 Center, for example, which is pretty far along.

11 And this is really how you bring in visitors  
12 from doing other things. They might be recreating, all  
13 of your connecting people to the desert, the desert to  
14 the people. This is the part of the management plan  
15 that will address those issues, how you educate people  
16 about Route 66 or how you use Route 66 to educate other  
17 visitors about the desert, and that's an important  
18 aspect of the management plan.

19 Jim Conkle, if you know him, was on our bus  
20 tour. He gave a great trip. We also had  
21 Roger Hathaway, a county consultant in cultural  
22 resources. We learned a lot about Route 66 on that  
23 trip. And you were there the other day, or yesterday --  
24 time flies -- as you were going out.

25 So we just wanted to use this kind of to

Page 81

1 highlight some of the key issues we've learned about  
2 that the plan will have to address. Heritage tourism is  
3 a concept about using history. It could also use  
4 nature, recreation, all of those good things in terms of  
5 increasing the economic activity associated with those  
6 visitors. And that is a big issue for many of the  
7 communities along Route 66 all throughout, from Chicago  
8 all the way out to Santa Monica Pier.

9 Another big issue are the features themselves.  
10 Many of them aren't as protected as this particular site  
11 in Daggett, the old garage of Seymour Alf. But other  
12 sites that are open, they get graffiti. It's very much  
13 of a challenge how to project some of these directly  
14 related resources along the route.

15 Another challenge, what you talk about a lot in  
16 your group, is that of the context itself, whether it is  
17 renewables, mining, all those kinds of things. All of  
18 those can be done well and fit into the context or done  
19 in a place where it's appropriate. But we need to just,  
20 as part of this, show how the Bureau of Land Management,  
21 San Bernardino County and others are working together to  
22 shape that. This plan won't alter how you decide how to  
23 make those decisions, but we want to show or demonstrate  
24 as part of this that is being managed well.

25 Third group of issues are related to visitor

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 facilities and infrastructure. I was at the little gas  2 stop there at Fenner and Goffs Road interchange. You  3 heard somebody say, "Well, gosh. Did you go the back  4 road?" They said, "Well, there's nothing to do there."  5 So I think, all right. So nothing to do there. That's  6 a huge issue.</p> <p>7       So I think really what you're trying to do now  8 is get better presence of these places so people see  9 them, understand them, they're open to the public and  10 that they're safe and wonderful to visit. You kind of  11 want that Good Housekeeping seal of approval, it's okay  12 to go here, and you want to put that in places where you  13 feel comfortable directing those visitors.</p> <p>14       And then the recreational aspects of this are  15 also a critical element. If you want people to stay  16 longer, they need to do more. So hopefully, if you  17 introduce them on one trip to Route 66, they see places  18 along the way that they want to go back to when they  19 learn about them. You take a little walk around  20 Amboy Crater and realize, God, there's a whole lot of  21 other places like this around. So you begin to link  22 those two things together, and that's how you generate  23 economic activity.</p> <p>24       And then probably the biggest challenge is the  25 road itself. You're probably aware there's 128 bridges</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 you remember the music, it was kind of a great song. I  2 have a version of this where the music comes on, but I  3 thought that would be a little too early in the morning  4 for that. The Bagdad Café is a place where, gosh, I  5 should go in there, but I don't know if I really feel  6 like I'm going to come out. So somehow again it's sort  7 of an issue. But it doesn't affect people from, you  8 know, France or Spain or Asian countries, anywhere.  9 They all go in there, and they all go in there because  10 of this one movie. So your thoughts about involving the  11 film office in your Connecting People to the Desert  12 really is right on, and this is a good place to start.</p> <p>13       And then the museums. Now, there's a museum in  14 Victorville. There's one out of our study area. But  15 this one is right there at the Barstow Harvey House.  16 There's a museum here in Needles, great museums. That's  17 a great way to get people to stay and spend some time,  18 and you can spend a lot of time in this particular one  19 in Barstow. But the hours -- they're all run by  20 volunteers, so you need to figure out a way to  21 communicate how and when to visit those places, because  22 sometimes you arrive, and it's closed, you're  23 disappointed and won't come back.</p> <p>24       So just briefly a little bit about the  25 significance of Route 66. A study was done back in 2011</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 along Route 66 that were built in 1920s and 30s for a  2 25-year life, but they're still there. And I think  3 members of our ad hoc committee pointed out that maybe  4 there's a reason they're still there, even though it's  5 wood and some of the wood is rotten. And as you drive  6 along the route, you begin to see what some of the  7 changes have been made to that over time. And one of  8 our biggest challenges will be to demonstrate how you  9 can treat all those bridges in a way that will respect  10 history and heritage of the area and not turn it into a  11 road just like any other road.</p> <p>12       And the pavement surface itself, if you didn't  13 get as far as the route between Ludlow and  14 Newberry Springs, if you've driven on that part of  15 Route 66, it's a humbling experience, a mumbling  16 experience.</p> <p>17       And finally I don't know if you've ever been in  18 the Bagdad Café, but you should go in. You have to get  19 your picture taken behind the thing. There's visitors  20 from almost every country in the world. They've got a  21 stack of books where people have signed in. You leaf  22 through those in a minute. This place is visited by  23 more international tourists than the Grand Canyon. I  24 can attest to that. I mean, it is a cult. This  25 particular Bagdad Café was a movie in the late '80s. If</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 which resulted in a multiple property document form,  2 which is the basis for eligibility for listing on the  3 National Register of Historic Places, and they found  4 that the route generally thought the route alignment  5 itself is eligible for the National Register of Historic  6 Places. And they came up with sort of four historic  7 themes that associate that significance.</p> <p>8       One of them starts with the transition from  9 Wagon Road, early travel. Maybe you were on the  10 Mojave Road. That kind of goes north. And as the  11 railroad came in, the Route 66 shifted with the  12 railroad, and it shifted a little bit more when they  13 figured out how to plow through mountains a little  14 better with the highway construction equipment. But  15 that whole story is what is significant about Route 66  16 and especially in the desert.</p> <p>17       This particular area between Ludlow and just  18 west of Needles is one of the few places where you can  19 still see and feel just what it was like. There are  20 very few intrusions, and those intrusions that you can  21 see, you have to be there several times to begin to see  22 them. I saw new ones yesterday, but I didn't see them  23 the first two times I was there.</p> <p>24       And then another group of themes relate to the  25 geology, ecology, special qualities of the</p>

Page 86

1 Mojave Desert. We heard a lot in our bus tour about the  
2 vastness about the desert, the ephemeral qualities. You  
3 listed them earlier on your statement, Seth, but the  
4 night sky. It's the wildflowers. It's the geology.  
5 It's the ability to learn about the military in these  
6 places. And that's all found in great quantities along  
7 Route 66, and it's a great way to introduce people to  
8 those qualities.

9 The military training is all over the desert,  
10 but Camp Essex is the one right on Route 66. Just as  
11 you go south from the Interstate 40 towards Amboy, you  
12 can see that kind of wedge between I-40. I think you  
13 can see the runway from I-40 if you look hard. And that  
14 is another part of the significance of the story.

15 I mentioned six qualities that were part of the  
16 eligibility for National Scenic Byway. Historic is  
17 certainly one. Cultural is one. The question becomes,  
18 is it scenic? It's important to Bureau of Land  
19 Management, especially because they manage scenery and  
20 it's part of the DRECP, they will develop resource  
21 management objectives, we understand. Those will be an  
22 important tool for that.

23 I put this up comparing -- you mentioned the  
24 Grand Canyon. I didn't just add this slide, but thank  
25 you for that "in." But Grand Canyon and

Page 87

1 U.S. Route 66 -- I'm talking about Chicago, Santa Monica  
2 Pier -- are both iconic American landscapes. They both  
3 haven't changed much. The Grand Canyon probably hasn't  
4 changed that you've noticed. But we've seen change  
5 along Route 66. And both are international destinations  
6 unto themselves. They're different, though. You can  
7 look at Grand Canyon and honestly say, "That is the most  
8 scenic place I've ever been," or whatever. You don't  
9 necessarily see that right away when you go along  
10 Route 66, but the scenic quality is actually quite good.

11 So we need to figure out a way to demonstrate  
12 how you are managing actually the change that is  
13 occurring along parts of the route. And that is an  
14 important establishment. I'll say this because I'm  
15 originally from Akron, Ohio, and if you've never been  
16 there, it's not the most attractive place in the world.  
17 Too many places are turning into Akron, you know. And I  
18 love Akron, but I'm not from there anymore. I moved  
19 away and went to Oregon and Vermont and all these other  
20 beautiful places because I wasn't overwhelmed by the  
21 scenery of Akron. But what you don't want when you have  
22 a place this quality of this part of Route 66 is for it  
23 to turn into places just down the highway. This is very  
24 special, and it needs special treatment and recognition.

25 You have published maps about permits that are

Page 88

1 out there. This is from March of 2014, I believe. We  
2 can only sit there and report on what's permitted. I  
3 don't know that any of these sites right along the route  
4 will ever come to be. There's a red arrow at the  
5 bottom. That's a transmission corridor right along  
6 Route 66, and this is probably our biggest concern about  
7 how these routes are managed. Those pipelines and  
8 electric lines are out there. Some of them are really  
9 well-sited, like from that view from Ludlow, the  
10 Dairy Queen, if you go out there and look, there's  
11 actually a transmission line in that photo, but you  
12 can't see it. So that doesn't mean you don't do  
13 anything. It just means you have to take great care as  
14 you do it.

15 And the Bureau of Land Management has a good  
16 process -- other federal agencies do this -- for  
17 establishing visual resource management objectives in  
18 the area. It starts for the Bureau of Land Management  
19 with looking at your entire California Desert District,  
20 and each desert district did a visual resource inventory  
21 and identified scenic qualities throughout there. But  
22 it doesn't necessarily reflect the view of Route 66.

23 So one thing we're going to ask you to consider  
24 is that you look at the views of the Route 66. The red  
25 areas, the darkest reds, are the lands that are most

Page 89

1 prominent, and you can see them from several multiple  
2 places along Route 66. You have extensive amounts of  
3 protective land in here. So it's not that a lot of  
4 things might happen in there; it's just the locations  
5 where it may that you have to be concerned about.

6 I'm not sure if I've got a pointer. If I can  
7 do this, I'll just walk up. Now, that's Amboy. Here is  
8 a place to keep track of. All right. And so the visual  
9 resource inventory classes that I mentioned are mostly,  
10 you know, not the most beautiful scenery, like the  
11 Grand Canyon or one of those, but it is kind of average  
12 scenery according to just looking at all of the context  
13 of it.

14 The purple areas that you see there, if you  
15 look at Amboy, that surround Amboy are not the highest.  
16 The light blue, I believe, are the highest on this map.  
17 Let me just double-check my statistics here. Hold on  
18 for one second. Yeah. So the gray areas, the ones that  
19 aren't rated, are like the Mojave Preserve. That's  
20 Park Service. These are just BLM. All right. So most  
21 of them are Class 3, which are purple. So one is the  
22 highest; two is the second highest; three are third  
23 highest; and four, which is not as high. I don't want  
24 to say "not scenic," because everybody has their  
25 viewpoint.

Page 90

1 You can see a lot of those areas where magenta  
2 lines are along Route 66 are not necessarily recognized  
3 for their scenery. The protected lands are recognized  
4 as the Class 1 scenery. You'll see the dotted lines are  
5 the foreground, middle ground and background. And then  
6 if you look at the map from permitted areas, you see the  
7 purples and the red areas. Those are areas where  
8 applications showed up in the map. So these are areas  
9 we're concerned about. We talked with staff about them.  
10 I don't think, from what they say, much will happen, but  
11 they're still on the map.

12 So it looks to me like much of this land is not  
13 necessarily, depending on what happens with DRECP,  
14 subject to a lot of the changes related to large-scale  
15 renewables, whether solar or wind. Those are some of  
16 the views where those will be visible from, and that's  
17 what we mostly want to recognize in the DRECP, that  
18 these views along Route 66 need to be acknowledged as  
19 part of that in terms of sensitivity to large-scale  
20 industrial solar and renewable projects.

21 So we think, in looking at the grand scheme of  
22 things with Barstow on the left, Needles on the right,  
23 is that big broad area between Ludlow and just west of  
24 Needles is the most sensitive. It should be in terms of  
25 visual resource management objectives now -- should be a

Page 91

1 Class 2, which means the casual observer, the person  
2 that just is out one or two times can't really see it.  
3 But the third or fourth time you might find it, or if  
4 you're trained to look, you might see it. We really  
5 want that stuff to be hard to see.

6 From the west of Ludlow would be for the  
7 Class 3 visual resource management objective, meaning it  
8 shouldn't dominate the view. If that happens to be the  
9 place the DRECP is looking for, this type of place, good  
10 for all the other reasons, it can be put in there, but  
11 it shouldn't dominate the view. The first slide I  
12 showed with the big towers and the large thing, that's  
13 dominating the view. That would be Class 4, which could  
14 occur in the places where it already is, which is just  
15 between Newberry Springs and Barstow to the north.

16 That's our kind of thoughts about this as we go  
17 along. We haven't put this in a draft at this point,  
18 but we're thinking that that is probably the best way to  
19 link what the BLM does, what you're doing with DRECP,  
20 with the preservation of the context of Route 66. So if  
21 they can use the visual resource management objectives  
22 to acknowledge that Route 66 is a significant scenic  
23 value to protect, that you might also as another  
24 strategy look at places like Amboy, where it has the  
25 greatest resource. I mean, you got there yesterday, to

Page 92

1 Roy's Café?  
2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: We got to Roy's, not  
3 to Amboy.  
4 MR. KLEIN: That's where a lot of people come,  
5 so those very highly visited places that have  
6 significance, you might want to take special care around  
7 those places.  
8 Then thirdly that you could establish some kind  
9 of conservation priorities, either through the county,  
10 depending on who is managing it, through private  
11 non-profit organizations that do things like  
12 conservation easements, or through BLM's management  
13 objectives. And our management plan will spell these  
14 out as we move on, but that's our approach as we move  
15 forward.  
16 The features are another challenge. If you  
17 thought that was a challenge, this is even more  
18 exciting. So you drove by the Roadrunner Café? Yeah?  
19 Okay. So a lot of these places like the Roadrunner Café  
20 are probably eligible for listing on the National  
21 Register of Historic Places. It's not a regulatory  
22 thing, but it does provide a commercial business owner  
23 like it with tax value, tax benefit to restore that café  
24 if they wanted to. It's now eligible -- or at the end  
25 of this process they may be able to get it considered

Page 93

1 eligible, meaning if there's a federal action, then they  
2 have to treat it as it is on the National Register.  
3 Same with the alignment itself. And then, like,  
4 San Bernardino County is looking at the road itself and  
5 places along the road.  
6 Between Ludlow and just west of Needles, we  
7 believe the road, the bridges and the structures and the  
8 context are all eligible for the National Register and  
9 want to put forward that that designation be sought as  
10 part of the management plan in orderer to facilitate its  
11 preservation.  
12 Places like this, these are the dips, the  
13 whoop-de-doo's, I guess you would call them. If you are  
14 a teenager, I guess you would call it more than that as  
15 you accelerate with great speed. Ruth isn't still here.  
16 That was her term. These are also essentially part of  
17 the transportation network. In other words, the way  
18 they treat drainage as you move through these places is,  
19 they would use these little dips to accommodate the  
20 smaller runs, and then they built these 128 wooden  
21 trestle bridges that are left now to get over washes.  
22 So that whole system of how they treat desert and road  
23 and desert landscape is all very significant.  
24 The thematic nominations for Route 66 are  
25 another possible tool you can use. Here in Needles, for

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 example, or in Barstow -- that's Camp Carty. It doesn't  2 look like much, but our preservation consultant,  3 Phil Thompson, who has done a lot of work on Route 66,  4 just about went crazy when he saw this. It's a very  5 rare form of a tourist cabin, a tourist camp from very  6 early in its evolution, you know, when it went from a  7 place like a campground to enclosed structures. And  8 this is that first transition, so it's highly unusual,  9 not found anywhere else.</p> <p>10 Neon signs is prominent, so prominent that the  11 Park Service has a program out there to help owners of  12 those signs to restore them. It's highly competitive,  13 but hopefully every year somebody applies for one.</p> <p>14 Another challenge that we face and we're  15 looking at how to do is, how do we prioritize, and how  16 do we decide on which of these buildings should be  17 rehabbed? And you want to encourage that through public  18 policy of some kind as part of the management plan.  19 These are motels, the storefronts in Daggett, the  20 county-owned museum, the old stone hotel, the old  21 granite hotel. I don't know the name it. Probably had  22 a name, but I'm not familiar with it. And then a couple  23 of schools. That is the Essex School. There's also the  24 school in Amboy that is a BLM responsibility, the gas  25 station. I don't know if you got a chance to stop at a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 County was suggesting as part of their comprehensive  2 plan they're working on now that they might be able to  3 facilitate kind of introduction of commercial services  4 in a place like that.</p> <p>5 A third part of that thing is the road itself.  6 This is where the real challenge comes up. You thought  7 the first two were challenging. This third one is even  8 more exciting. This is one of the earliest historic  9 bridges. You can see the wooden guardrail with the  10 wooden posts. The railing along the road itself is  11 wooden. That keeps the water from rolling over the edge  12 of the bridge. The abutments underneath it are wood.  13 All of these timber trestle bridges -- there are 128 of  14 them along this route, one on an old section of road  15 near Ludlow. But they have to be really made safe.  16 They're all weight limited in some way or another. Some  17 sections have more weight limit than others. It becomes  18 even more of a challenge when I-40 is closed and all the  19 trucks go off on there and roll over these as you go  20 through.</p> <p>21 Some of the timber trestle bridges are in good  22 condition. Others are in really poor condition.  23 San Bernardino County has done an inventory of all of  24 them. They're about to publish that information and  25 make it available as part of our Corridor Management</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 couple of those, but if you don't, on the way out you  2 should.</p> <p>3 Linda Fitzpatrick and her colleagues have  4 worked with property owners to repaint and make  5 accessible through permission of the owners and then put  6 in cars and photos and other things to help interpret  7 it. That's a really great, easy way to begin to get  8 that information out about why this is significant.</p> <p>9 And the final preservation strategy we're  10 looking at is related to establishing some kind of --  11 we're calling them for now, for lack of a better word,  12 community heritage opportunity areas. It's a little  13 different than a local historic district because  14 probably the significance of the places in Barstow and  15 Needles don't necessarily qualify for a district itself.  16 The sites are qualified, but they're not continuous  17 enough to establish a local historic district that could  18 give some of those same benefits.</p> <p>19 We might be able to do something with local  20 zoning or comprehensive planning that would establish  21 opportunity areas. Like at Goffs there's a commercial  22 building near there that I think the folks at the  23 schoolhouse have been trying to get some way to get  24 services up there, and they don't have the zoning, for  25 example, to do that. And someone from San Bernardino</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 Plan and as they do the replacement of two of those  2 bridges. And so that replacement of those two bridges  3 may set the tone for how others are doing, so Caltrans  4 and State Historic Preservation office are look at it  5 carefully so that, when they rehab the two bridges, that  6 becomes a good model for other ones.</p> <p>7 That is Amboy. You see the railing. If you're  8 not a real enthusiast about historic roads, it's probably  9 a little bit more information than you want. But you  10 see how the railing on the left is kind of a "W" shape  11 and the on older ones are "C" shaped. There's little  12 subtleties like that you will see.</p> <p>13 Sometimes those wooden rails along the road  14 itself are converted to concrete. Then you'll see -- on  15 the back side of that you can see how they fixed the  16 underside of the bridge there. I think a good strategy  17 would be to help restore those bridges on the underside,  18 whatever you need to do to try to work your effort so  19 that the visible parts of it are consistent with the  20 history and heritage you're trying to get everybody and  21 encourage everybody to appreciate.</p> <p>22 This last slide. This is about the route that  23 is open. When we were here in February, I-40 was closed  24 at Ludlow, and we watched all the trucks go over these  25 weight-limited bridges. I guess, if you don't go over</p>

Page 98

1 them, they're going to stay there on I-40 and not have  
2 anyplace to go.

3 The county is in a hard place because they do  
4 not have the designation of the Route 66 as an alternate  
5 route. If they have that designation, they might be  
6 eligible for more funding. On the other hand, if they  
7 had the designation, the bridges might have to be  
8 upgraded in terms of their standards they have to  
9 follow. So you can see how complicated the injury is  
10 and why we need a few extra months to satisfy or solve  
11 that.

12 So we're look at getting more recognition for  
13 the road. We're looking the at community heritage  
14 opportunity areas in the communities, developing a  
15 comprehensive treatment plan for the bridges,  
16 establishing preservation priority so that, when private  
17 lands come up for other uses, that possibly some private  
18 conservation action could take place if needed. Then  
19 adaptive reuse, you know, how are you going to reuse  
20 those structures along the road?

21 Why do all this, I guess, is a real big  
22 question. Why bother? And if you look at an economic  
23 impact study that was done by Rutgers for the World  
24 Monuments Fund, which declared in 2008, I think, that  
25 this was an endangered site to put on their list in the

Page 99

1 world now of the top endangered places, that study  
2 proved that Route 66 is a good investment. And for that  
3 study, there's a website there that we can get you  
4 information on. But they surveyed various heritage  
5 travelers, as you know.

6 Now, that's Cadillac Ranch. We've all seen the  
7 famous images of the Cadillac Ranch that's on Route 66.  
8 But the people looking for these places all from Chicago  
9 to Santa Monica, they travel because it's authentic.  
10 They typically go to local businesses. They're mostly  
11 people middle aged, not because, you know, I'm a likely  
12 traveller, but we have more money, just to be mercenary  
13 about it.

14 But they're mostly middle and upper income, and  
15 they spend about 15- to 102,000 per travel party. And  
16 40 to 60 percent of that spending is new spending, not  
17 just spending that would have otherwise gone to the  
18 McDonald's and they went to the Tastee Freez or  
19 something else.

20 Another important thing is that these travelers  
21 go to historic places and museums. They search them  
22 out. They spend about \$38 million from Chicago to  
23 Santa Monica Pier, and about 94 million more in annual  
24 investments occur for the rehabilitation of these  
25 places. And so that's a lot of chunk of change. And

Page 100

1 what we're trying to figure out as part of that  
2 management plan is how this section can grab more of the  
3 share of that than you have in the past.

4 And encouraging people to spend more time will  
5 allow the owner of the hotel, Route 66 Hotel -- Motel in  
6 Barstow, for example, he's got a great little museum  
7 site there. He gets good visitors, but, you know, by  
8 doing this plan and implementing it, he'll get a more  
9 steady stream. Instead of he and his wife doing all the  
10 work, which I think they do, they can hire somebody to  
11 do that.

12 And you see some of the statistics for the  
13 amount of generated economic activity that takes place  
14 as a result that investment. It's a pretty good return  
15 on an investment. Somebody mentioned earlier about the  
16 \$4,000 kiosk earlier. Oh, that was you. You mentioned  
17 how it was generating certainly more value and  
18 awareness. That translates into these kinds of positive  
19 economic values.

20 As we look at the stewardship, we're trying to  
21 come up with the right terms, and we're not there yet.  
22 We're going to work with our ad hoc planning committee  
23 to see about using -- whether we preserve, protect,  
24 conserve or enhance, those will be important words as we  
25 move forward, so we'll need help in doing that. We want

Page 101

1 our ad hoc committee to help us also in the draft plan  
2 to make sure we get those words right. And we want to  
3 focus on those qualities, those character-defining  
4 features that you see there. And it doesn't mean you  
5 don't fix the bridge, but you fix it in a way that those  
6 character-defining features are preserved or maintained  
7 so you can still see what other people are seeing.

8 Finally as we're moving forward in the process,  
9 we're looking at ways to enhance the visitor experience,  
10 and that's our next web meeting on May 22nd, 10:30 to  
11 noon, if anybody wants to join us. And we're looking at  
12 ways we can use Barstow and Needles to introduce  
13 Route 66 and through the desert. We're looking at ways  
14 to enhance some of the destinations, like at Goffs where  
15 you were the other day, or Amboy. Like Amboy doesn't  
16 have enough water at that site, you know, so that limits  
17 what he can do in terms of that.

18 But maybe there's ways you can add temporary  
19 kinds of events or activities that can be more easily  
20 managed. If you remember, I talked about management  
21 impacts of visitors, and this is a real good case, you  
22 know. How do you get more people to go to Amboy but not  
23 do it in a way that would affect the water or the waste  
24 that might be generated?

25 Or Ludlow is another place like that, where

Page 102	Page 104
<p>1 they've got some restaurants. They're great. They may  2 need some help in turning those existing businesses into  3 ones that will encourage more of the people that are  4 visiting Route 66 to stop, or stop into the great  5 Bagdad Café.</p> <p>6 And then there are other sites throughout the  7 area that you stopped at. The one at the rest area is a  8 good example where the beautiful -- I guess they even  9 call it the Porsche. Because of what they paid for it,  10 it might be the Porsche of the interpretive panels. I  11 don't think we'll get to that level, you know, but  12 something like that in these other locations where, when  13 you're there, you can see it, you know, because you need  14 some help. You don't have Jim Conkle out there  15 explaining the story to everybody who's there, although  16 his recorded voice would be fantastic. Maybe we could  17 have it kind of ghost through.</p> <p>18 So in the gateways we're looking at ways you  19 can take the two stations -- Needles is kind of the  20 western gateway to California, and Barstow is kind of  21 the gateway to the Central Mojave area. You have to  22 think about other parts of the 66. Victorville, for  23 example, might be Western Mojave. So you have to kind  24 of think of about how you place this section in context  25 of the entire Route 66 in California. And in each of</p>	<p>1 the right is what it looks like now at Carty's Camp.  2 Then on the left is what it used to look like.</p> <p>3 In Barstow similarly they have a visitor center  4 in Barstow where the Chamber of Commerce operates, but  5 they don't have one in Needles planned yet for the  6 restoration that you toured yesterday. It would be nice  7 to get it in there. There's some issues about how to  8 pay for that, because they need to generate money from  9 the restoration. It can't just freeze in time, but it  10 would be a good introduction and a good place to do it,  11 like they do in Barstow. It would be a great  12 opportunity.</p> <p>13 I show the picture of the bathroom because  14 bathrooms are key. And not to be too pragmatic, but it  15 is a crucial issue. In Barstow they have four museums  16 that are great. They have all of those themes I  17 explained, the early Native American cultures. They  18 have the early trails, the pioneer trails. They have  19 the railroad museum, and then they have Route 66. And  20 then there's the Desert Discovery Center, which gets  21 that broad theme about geology and ecology and all of  22 that.</p> <p>23 So everything you can find is here in Barstow,  24 everything you can find is here in Needles. It just  25 needs to be organized a little better. That will give</p>
Page 103	Page 105
<p>1 these gateways it would be the place you come in, you  2 get the visitor information, you find out where the  3 services are available, you introduce broad themes about  4 what you're about to see so that, when people go out  5 into the landscape, they can see it. Maybe there's  6 where Jim Conkle's voice is recorded and presented. Yet  7 they get itineraries they can use to help them find  8 these things.</p> <p>9 Some people, by the way, love to just explore  10 and see the ruins. They don't want to see any of this  11 happen. That's another issue, is that the ruins  12 themselves have some value. But that's going to be  13 tricky. It may not be the most value we can get out of  14 it. And then existing museums, like the Needles  15 Regional Museum here, and developing these itineraries  16 about the motels, about neon, about the service  17 stations, about the styles, about the people from  18 Needles that have been here are great.</p> <p>19 And one idea that was suggested at our public  20 meetings and other places is to use kind of then-and-now  21 photographs to bring the history out. Again it's a  22 quick way to do it, because you don't have to restore  23 the building yet. You can at least get interest in it  24 by saying, here is what this used to look like. Isn't  25 it cool? So another opportunity would be to show -- on</p>	<p>1 visitors, as they move about, a better sense of what's  2 out here. There's a second level of destinations that  3 are here that relate to places like Goff or Roy's, where  4 they don't really have a schoolhouse. So those places,  5 there are limited services. You point that out as  6 people go there. They come prepared. Then the  7 information you give out will help them better  8 understand it.</p> <p>9 And then the sites themselves, now, this is  10 where some of these then-and-now photographs could  11 really come in handy. This is Camp Essex. That's about  12 the same view as the last picture. I can go back.  13 There's the kind of mountain range. As you can see,  14 I-40 is just in the background. So you could try to  15 take those views and make them available to people  16 either online or, you know, with their phones or in  17 brochures or whatever so that they can then begin to  18 learn about that. It's a very easy way to get  19 information out there, and that might be a priority. Or  20 when you go to Roy's, you know, the exhibit you can put  21 up -- he's got a great exhibit actually in there now of  22 what it was like in the '40s and '50s.</p> <p>23 There's an exhibit that is going to be at the  24 Autrey National Museum, I think it's called, in  25 Los Angeles on Route 66. It will be there for a year.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 And I show this on left. This is at the Presidio in  2 San Francisco. If you've been there, they've taken the  3 whole base and are restoring it. They've cleaned out  4 some of the buildings that are otherwise uninhabitable  5 and turned it into a museum very simply from those  6 panels that hang on a wall that they took from another  7 exhibit that was already done. So maybe you can work  8 with the Autrey after that exhibit is done or even  9 during and pull some of those exhibits and put them into  10 these buildings that you can have access to, like at  11 Roy's or at the Goffs Schoolhouse.  12 Or you can do it online. This is Historypin.  13 I don't know if you're familiar with this, but people  14 can take historic photographs. These are the post cards  15 from the Frasher collection. This is the Cliffhouse in  16 Newberry. You can go online to that website and click  17 on it, and it will come up with this then-and-now.  18 They're already there. They've been doing this now  19 for a while, so these are already there. The post cards  20 are, I think, the university. I can't off the top of my  21 head think of the university. It's nearby.  22 And then if you feel confident about what's out  23 on the site that you're visiting -- this is at  24 Cadiz Summit, the postcard up on the left and the  25 condition as it is now. You remember seeing the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 So May 22nd, if you want to -- that was kind of  2 a preview of things we'll be talking about on May 22nd,  3 ideas for how we could do it, where we should do it. We  4 have kind of a preliminary list of sites that we'll be  5 sending out in advance of that meeting next week, a week  6 ahead of time, and then we'll have a discussion online  7 as part of a web-based meeting. And I have a handout  8 that I can give you that has the address.  9 I think that's it. I'd be happy to take  10 questions and am open for discussion, advice, thoughts.  11 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Could you just repeat the  12 information about the upcoming meetings and how folks  13 can participate in that?  14 MR. KLEIN: I sure can.  15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Thank you very  16 much for your presentation.  17 MR. KLEIN: Okay. So you can send an e-mail  18 to -- at the bottom of the slide there, it says CART 66  19 cart66cmp@lardnerklein -- that's our office -- dot com.  20 In the subject heading, if you put  21 "CART 66 WEB MEETING" -- and I'm going to put these  22 handouts that you can pick up. It has those words on  23 it. You'll get an automatic reply that will tell you  24 how to connect. If you don't get those four words  25 right, I'll still get it and forward the thing for you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 graffiti and all of that? They have technology that you  2 can actually put a frame out there and put the historic  3 photograph and then line it up right with the view. I  4 don't have the exact photograph. You can do it for  5 Essex and put it there if you were comfortable with  6 people actually, you know, protecting it, because it  7 will be a source for more enthusiastic visiting, which  8 led to a lot of graffiti up at the top, you know. So it  9 has to be a site that can be protected.  10 You mentioned -- and I will leave this as the  11 last slide here -- also about film. And there it is,  12 the Grapes of Wrath. There is pretty much, I believe, a  13 similar view or same type of view. It's in the movies.  14 It's in art. It's in all kinds of culture that we see.  15 It's in commercials. We were talking about this last  16 night. You are so wise to be looking at that and seeing  17 how you can encourage people to learn about the desert  18 and learn about Route 66 through film and culture and  19 the arts.  20 And due to that, Route 66 -- I'm going to make  21 my plug here -- would be a great first step. How can  22 you do it with Route 66, because you have a lot of known  23 resources there. So I'll add that to my thought to your  24 agenda for your connecting committee. And I think that  25 is the last slide, yeah.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 But it just helps. So you if you get that automatic  2 reply, it gives you all the information you need. It  3 doesn't have to be forwarded. I don't know who gets  4 these.  5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  6 MR. KLEIN: That was a lot, I know.  7 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Excellent. Thank you very  8 much. At this time I would like to have some discussion  9 from the DAC members about the presentation we just saw,  10 and we'll, I guess, again start left to right. Does  11 anyone on this side want to comment? Questions.  12 MEMBER REILLY: I have to gather my thoughts.  13 MR. KLEIN: It's a lot of information.  14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Randy?  15 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Hey, Jim, thanks for  16 coming to dinner with us last night. It was good to  17 meet you there, and I hope the other DAC members took  18 the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know  19 you. Also congratulations on this project -- and Doran,  20 a really impressive, very neat project.  21 I'm impressed that the BLM continues to stress  22 partnerships, something that we've heard here at the DAC  23 many times. And yet it's not just something that we  24 hear; it's something that we see. These partnerships  25 are in fact being done, and I know that was a priority</p>

	Page 110		Page 112
<p>1 of Teri and the BLM. And so I really appreciate seeing  2 San Bernardino County involved in the partnership and  3 the cities involved. I think that's really the way to  4 go to have a successful program, especially one with  5 such vast coverage.</p> <p>6 Let's see. I'm impressed with the visual  7 resources mapping, very impressive. Those are great  8 slides, very neat. What is the plan process and  9 schedule from here, just in rough terms? What's going  10 to happen to make this Corridor Management Plan a plan?</p> <p>11 MR. KLEIN: We are going to use these --  12 there's four web-based meetings this year on the four  13 key topics that have to be in the plan for its  14 successful nomination as a National Scenic Byway. In  15 the spring we will have a draft plan that will come out.  16 It will represent the input of this ad hoc planning  17 committee. It's really open to the public. Anybody who  18 wants to join in can do so. We just need a little  19 warning in advance so we have enough telephone lines,  20 usually about 20. We had 30 at the last one. If we get  21 20, something like that, it works well.</p> <p>22 And then the draft plan will then be sent out  23 for some kind of public review. We haven't quite  24 figured that out yet, but we're trying to figure out the  25 best way to do that. But we want to get the draft</p>		<p>1 One, have you quantified how much land you're talking  2 about if you are were to protect all those views,  3 because one of the things we get involved in here with  4 renewable energy is what percentage of the desert is  5 being impacted by this. And as you sort of take in the  6 view -- I was having a conversation with some of the DAC  7 members yesterday. You know, a lot of people come out  8 here for the views. What's it going to take to preserve  9 those? That's a lot of lands. I give you a lot of  10 credit for mapping it, but have you quantified that?</p> <p>11 MR. KLEIN: I hesitate to give you those  12 numbers because they're not in my head.</p> <p>13 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Big.</p> <p>14 MR. KLEIN: If you look at the ones in the  15 foreground, a quarter of the mile, mid-ground, seven  16 miles, where you're likely to have the most impact  17 versus 20 miles and beyond, most of that land BLM  18 manages is in that background area. There's some more  19 middle ground that is not protected. If you start to  20 take out all the lands that already protected, they're  21 in wilderness, or they're in environmental areas of  22 concern, they have some degree of protection. At least  23 that it's not a huge change from what's there now.</p> <p>24 I pointed out that area behind Amboy, for  25 example. That might be one of the areas we might want</p>	
<p>1 concepts kind of figured out and then written into the  2 plan so it meets the requirements of National Scenic  3 Byway designation and that it meets the needs of the  4 Bureau of Land Management and San Bernardino County and  5 Needles and Barstow.</p> <p>6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: In your presentation  7 you mention about the challenges of water at Amboy, that  8 there's little water. I just want to alert you there's  9 also challenges with regard to root beer. We did not  10 get our root beer floats yesterday.</p> <p>11 I do want to also, in closing, just emphasize  12 the Bagdad Café movie. If you love stories about the  13 desert, if you like stories about coffee, if you like  14 stories about love, you will really enjoy this movie.  15 So I understand the coffee is really special there.</p> <p>16 MR. KLEIN: Oh, yeah.</p> <p>17 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Thanks  18 very much for the presentation.</p> <p>19 MR. KLEIN: Everything is special at the  20 Bagdad Café. You bet. Thank you.</p> <p>21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Randy. Paul.</p> <p>22 MEMBER O'BOYLE: Great presentation. I really  23 appreciate it. I, too, like Randy, found the visual  24 presentation to be real significant. And the reason I  25 have an interest in it is -- well, a couple of things.</p>	Page 111	<p>1 to have the most conversation about. The point is that  2 you're trying to identify the areas that are really  3 important and not necessarily have a blanket, you know,  4 view shed that you can't do anything in. That's not  5 going to be helpful for -- I mean, the train was there  6 before the road; right? So what we're trying to use is  7 the visual resource management objectives that BLM  8 already uses to kind of handle those things.</p> <p>9 So as you get into the -- as they classify  10 these lands for visual resource management -- and it's  11 one of many factors, the scenic quality, the sensitivity  12 of the viewer, the distance. And then as they get into  13 the objectives, they'll factor in other things like the  14 historic significance of Route 66 and others. You're  15 just trying to put it on the same playing field as  16 environmentally sensitive area or others. It doesn't  17 mean the whole thing is going to end up, you know,  18 protected.</p> <p>19 MEMBER BOYD: The reason I mentioned that in  20 general was because in my mind what I don't think anyone  21 wants to see is transmission lines just running across  22 the country away from other resources, because you're  23 basically doubling or quadrupling impact. It's a  24 balancing act. I agree with you, that's something  25 that's real important.</p>	Page 113

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 The other thing I wanted to mention was about 2 the bridges and the designation of Route 66 to get maybe 3 more money. We actually had this conversation as well 4 yesterday about all these bridges and where the money is 5 going to come from for that. And I imagine with 6 designation money could come from that. Then you have 7 to upgrade the bridges. I understand that as well.</p> <p>8 Down in the Florida Keys they built a parallel 9 road. The cause was doing down there. The old road is 10 now a biological connecting trail, a walking trail, 11 very, very popular. I don't know if it's possible. The 12 right-of-way is very wide there. Maybe designating the 13 road and looking into maybe going downstream of existing 14 bridges so you can keep those in place. Then you have 15 new, not maybe redistributing but realigning. It may be 16 a win-win upgrading the road throughout that entire line 17 and preserving the bridges at the same time. That's it.</p> <p>18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Any other 19 comments before I go?</p> <p>20 MEMBER REILLY: Sure.</p> <p>21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Go ahead, Jessica.</p> <p>22 MEMBER REILLY: Thank you for that 23 presentation. And it boggles my mind that Route 66 is 24 not a National Scenic Byway.</p> <p>25 MR. KLEIN: It is in four states.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 something you're thinking about?</p> <p>2 MR. KLEIN: That will be at our fourth web 3 meeting on marketing. We're collecting now information 4 about how different people brand, because I think you're 5 suggesting maybe that there's lots of different branding 6 out there, and it would help to have sort of one 7 unified -- at least something that everybody would know. 8 It gets back to that Good Housekeeping seal of approval 9 I mentioned. I was up on Cadiz Summit yesterday, and 10 two motorcycles stopped. I had taken their picture. 11 They actually stopped and turned around. They said, 12 "Oh, could we have that picture?" I wished I had taken 13 a better one.</p> <p>14 But I asked them, "Where did you come from?" 15 They were from Indiana. I said, "You must have stopped 16 at the rest area," the rest area you guys had stopped 17 at. They said, "No. We thought it was a little 18 pull-out. We didn't know it was there." They're our 19 audience. You're so right. You know, if there's 20 something that tells them as though go by on their 21 motorcycles or in their car or whatever, this is a site, 22 three or four different ways. You have the California 23 historic markers out there. You see those official site 24 markers out there from years ago as well, you know. So 25 we just have to find the right way to tie you all that</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 MEMBER REILLY: Right, but not in California. 2 But I identify it, too, as in California. So some 3 suggestions that I thought of while I was watching the 4 presentation. I don't know what the budget is for web 5 applications or for phone apps, but certainly using the 6 example set by projects that I've worked on before, for 7 example, in Kansas with their scenic byways, how they 8 were able to either through radio or through phone apps 9 provide an audio tour that goes along with areas. But 10 of course that depends on the demographics that you 11 identify both as to who is using this. But just to have 12 that in mind.</p> <p>13 But then at the Oakland Museum of California 14 they just had a great exhibit of the bay that identified 15 issues then and issues now and in a similar way of 16 comparing photographs. I think that's something that 17 people can really latch onto and is tangible for issues 18 that faced people who traveled the roads then and now, 19 particularly in regards the energy and to water, to 20 things like that.</p> <p>21 And then finally I just wanted to know if any 22 discussion had been undertaken as to the consolidated 23 branding that people could identify on this route and 24 sort of an image, I guess, that they can take away, if 25 any progress has been made on that. Or is that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 together so there's not a million signs but one. Good 2 point.</p> <p>3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Don?</p> <p>4 MEMBER HOUSTON: I was going to leave this kind 5 of to the last, but since we're talking about branding, 6 something that crossed my mind yesterday was, as this 7 effort becomes more and more successful, more 8 well-known, it's inevitable that the entrepreneurial 9 types out there will be cashing in on it, like the 10 Route 66 root beer we didn't get yesterday, Mike.</p> <p>11 So is there an opportunity in terms of a 12 revenue source to seek copyright protection for this 13 brand? And I mean, either the historic association or 14 the BLM or the county could, you know, financially 15 benefit from that.</p> <p>16 MR. KLEIN: It's a good question but a 17 complicated one because you have these eight states, 18 which it's helpful to have one unified brand across 19 eight states then maybe sort of a sub brand or a way to 20 target that that is just Route 66 through the state of 21 the Mojave Desert.</p> <p>22 Other places -- I worked with a group called 23 the Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership that 24 runs along the Piedmont of Virginia who did that. They 25 branded their route, and then they copyrighted it. Then</p>

Page 118

1 they used that brand to identify sites and places that  
 2 are qualified for visiting. It's that Good Housekeeping  
 3 seal of approval. They do sell things out of it. They  
 4 haven't reached the income streams. Nobody really wants  
 5 to pay for items that have that brand, you know. So the  
 6 brand has to be worth something.

7       Route 66 may have more of a cache than Journey  
 8 Through Hallowed Ground, you know, but I hope so. Right  
 9 now they were doing, for example, the 150th anniversary  
 10 of the Civil War, so there's a lot of people going up  
 11 and down the Piedmont in Virginia right now. It hasn't  
 12 really caught on in terms of a brand, so it's tough.

13       MEMBER HOUSTON: One of the partners you  
 14 identified was the Route 66 Historic Association. Who  
 15 are they? What is their legal status? What role do  
 16 they play in all this?

17       MR. KLEIN: There are eight state associations.  
 18 They are one of those. They have been a partner with  
 19 BLM in terms of doing public outreach and other  
 20 activities. Where is Doran? He can probably explain a  
 21 little bit about some of that relationship.

22       MR. SANCHEZ: We have been a major partner with  
 23 the association. They are our 510c3. Four years ago we  
 24 had a dream, and we worked together to get the grant  
 25 from the National Highway Administration to seek funding

Page 119

1 to prepare this. And so they technically -- since this  
 2 is a county road and a county right-of-way, they are  
 3 technically the lead on preparation. We support that,  
 4 because BLM obviously manages the adjacent National  
 5 Conservation Lands, and so we're very interested in the  
 6 intrinsic qualities in protecting those.

7       But the association is extraordinarily dynamic  
 8 group of people dedicated to helping us seek this  
 9 National Scenic Byway, which we can help the communities  
 10 with sustainable tourism and heritage tourism. And this  
 11 is all part of what we hope to achieve in this plan.  
 12 And they've been around for many, many years and have  
 13 been a tremendous partner with us.

14       MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you.

15       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you.

16       MEMBER HOUSTON: I have more.

17       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Oh, sorry.

18       MEMBER HOUSTON: What governmental agencies are  
 19 legally obliged, once the plan is adopted, to administer  
 20 the plan?

21       MR. KLEIN: When I mentioned the grass-roots  
 22 plan, is that the plan is endorsed by each partner in  
 23 it, you know, so the plan is only as good as how our  
 24 agencies agree to do what's in it. So the BLM will have  
 25 to endorse and accept the plan and agree to work on its

Page 120

1 implementation. San Bernardino County will have to  
 2 accept the plan, endorse it and agree to do what their  
 3 parts are. That's why we're working with an ad hoc  
 4 group to make sure what's in the plan is what they all  
 5 agree to do, you know. So that implementation, I think,  
 6 was an earlier question of, how do you proceed with  
 7 that? That's a trick. You have the Route 66  
 8 Association. It is a great organization to have on your  
 9 stead because they can essentially represent Route 66 on  
 10 behalf of all those organizations, and so that's a  
 11 really great thing.

12       MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. One last question, but  
 13 it's a complicated one. But it's a concern I've  
 14 expressed at a prior DAC meeting. Once the plan is  
 15 adopted and these designations are achieved for these  
 16 different resources, what are the regulatory  
 17 implications in terms of compliance with the National  
 18 Environmental Policy Act, California Environmental  
 19 Quality Act and Section 106 of the National Historic  
 20 Preservation Act? There is existing utility  
 21 infrastructure out there along, next to and nearby these  
 22 roads, which are subject to ongoing operations and  
 23 maintenance activities, which now have certain  
 24 exemptions from these environmental regulations.

25       And I just would like to know -- and I think

Page 121

1 the DAC should know -- how this plan and these  
 2 designations may affect those maintenance activities.

3       MR. KLEIN: Okay. Let me start with the first  
 4 aspect of this. Its federal designation as a National  
 5 Scenic Byway only has one regulation. So that relates  
 6 to the Highway Beautification Act in billboards. We did  
 7 an analysis of those billboards, and there is only one  
 8 small piece of Barstow's Main Street that is not already  
 9 protected from billboards based on existing zoning  
 10 codes, and we're working with them on that.

11       Now, if we go -- then the plan suggests getting  
 12 National Register of Historic Places listing. The first  
 13 step in that is determining eligibility, and that is  
 14 being done actually by Caltrans, San Bernardino County  
 15 and the State Historic Preservation Office separate from  
 16 our activities. We're essentially preparing a  
 17 management plan, not necessarily one that would lead to  
 18 its designation, but we're suggesting that as a good  
 19 tool to use.

20       So the policies that apply to this aren't going  
 21 to change any. If this route already determined to be  
 22 eligible for the National Register, it's the same as  
 23 other federally funded activities. It wouldn't really  
 24 change anything. If we go and look at the sites along  
 25 the route and get listing on the National Register of

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 Historic Places for those, there may be additional  2 review that might occur, which I've been looking at the  3 reviews that take place now and searched the PDS for  4 Route 66. It shows up a few times in some places,  5 depending on how close they are. So there might be more  6 of those that have to be addressed. It doesn't mean  7 that you wouldn't do the activity. It just under that  8 Section 106 would still have to be addressed.</p> <p>9 The benefit of getting those listings is that  10 this could bring in eligibility for tax credits to those  11 owners of those properties, which might turn the page  12 and let them rehab those buildings which are out there,  13 you know. Well, you saw them yesterday. So I think  14 that the benefits of gaining the designation in our view  15 at least far outweigh what additional -- and there would  16 be certainly additional work that the permittee might  17 have to undertake under 106 if those properties, for  18 example, were designated.</p> <p>19 The view shed aspect of it would be as part of  20 the Bureau of Land Management's responsibility, and  21 those classifications are just part of a multivariable  22 equation that you're all very familiar with so that  23 we're just trying to get Route 66 so it's recognized as  24 part of that decision making.</p> <p>25 MEMBER HOUSTON: Thank you. I appreciate it.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 When you go to management, then the factors of  2 Route 66 would be taken into consideration, and that is  3 supposed to be done, as we understand it, through the  4 DRECP, and those classes will be developed as part of  5 that. So we're going to put in our plan what we  6 recommend. It doesn't mean that will be the end result.  7 It doesn't mean that will make it -- you know, if they  8 decide they don't want Management Objective 2, they want  9 Management Objective 3, it doesn't mean that would  10 declare the road ineligible. It means you have to think  11 harder about how you're going to guide future  12 development in the corridor, especially for renewable  13 energies.</p> <p>14 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: Thank you.</p> <p>15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Seth?</p> <p>16 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thanks for a really informative  17 presentation. I was talking with the owner of the Best  18 Western Hotel last night, and he related to me how many  19 people are coming both from domestically and from  20 foreign countries to visit historic 66. And I wonder if  21 the Rutgers study had any more visitation statistics or  22 economic statistics directly related to the part of 66  23 in California.</p> <p>24 MR. KLEIN: They have. You can look at the  25 study and see where they pulled samples. They did a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Kim?</p> <p>2 MEMBER CAMPPELL-ERB: One of my questions is,  3 how are those view classifications established? As I  4 was listening to you talk about them and the three  5 different levels, starting at Ludlow going east, I'm  6 thinking there's areas west of Ludlow that the views are  7 just as wonderful as they are east of Ludlow. So how is  8 that demarcation line?</p> <p>9 MR. KLEIN: The visual resource inventory has  10 already been done by BLM, and they did it through --  11 each district has a notebook about this thick  12 (indicating). And those inventory classes, those aren't  13 management objectives but says, what's out there?  14 Describe those resources. So those resources are done  15 essentially within the context of the Mojave Desert, the  16 ecoregion that is the Mojave Desert.</p> <p>17 They claimed they weren't comparing it. We  18 asked the question, you're comparing this landscape to  19 the Grand Canyon. To Doran's concern, we had quite a  20 lot of conversations with John McCarty, who is the Chief  21 Landscape Architect for the Bureau of Land Management,  22 who is responsible for that program. We had the same  23 question you had. But we go with the process the Bureau  24 of Land Management has for the visual resource  25 inventory.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 survey of all people, like Mr. Crouch. I don't know  2 whether he responded. But it was a selective sampling  3 for the whole length. What I think we're going to do is  4 send out a similar survey again to Route 66 businesses,  5 especially hotels and restaurants along there, and see  6 if they answer the questions the same way or differently  7 than the big study. That's dependent on being able to  8 get -- there aren't that many of them, really, so we  9 probably can do them all by phone.</p> <p>10 But in Needles probably you get to work with  11 the chamber and get a pretty good response. Same with  12 Barstow. In between there's a handful.</p> <p>13 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you.</p> <p>14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Really  15 great presentation, Jim. I appreciate it. Could you  16 actually bring up the slide again of the Rutgers study  17 you addressed.</p> <p>18 MR. KLEIN: I have to go back here.</p> <p>19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: And, yeah. I mean, I was  20 actually on the tour, the November tour of this Route 66  21 stretch. And it was pretty neat to hear some of the  22 interpretation and some of the ideas from different  23 community members about ways to enhance and engage the  24 public in this stretch of the road. So I think it's  25 going to be a really great process and look forward to</p>

Page 126

1 future meetings. And thank you for your role in this.  
 2 MR. KLEIN: You bet.  
 3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: And I would actually like to  
 4 have the DAC entertain a motion regarding the  
 5 transmission. I was going to save this, but since Paul  
 6 brought it up, there are currently two California Desert  
 7 Conservation Area BLM Designated Utility Corridors that  
 8 run east to west in this area. One is along I-40, and  
 9 one is along Route 66. And my proposal would be for the  
 10 BLM to use its authority to prioritize transmission line  
 11 siting along the I-40 as opposed to Route 66 when that  
 12 could be satisfied.  
 13 There are currently no capacity issues with  
 14 either of those corridors. They are two to five miles  
 15 wide each, and there's very little transmission going  
 16 east-west in that region, so it's just something in  
 17 talking about the visual resources that I think it would  
 18 be appropriate for the DAC and the BLM to consider.  
 19 That's a motion, but we can table that and chew  
 20 on that a little bit, unless anyone wants to make any  
 21 comments at the moment. AI?  
 22 MEMBER MUTH: Since I know absolutely nothing  
 23 about the corridors and such matters, perhaps we should  
 24 chew on that a bit, and maybe the bureau can speak to  
 25 those issues prior to us doing anything to make a

Page 127

1 recommendation.  
 2 MEMBER SCRIVNER: Maybe we can ask for that to  
 3 be an agenda item for the next meeting to get  
 4 information from staff on it and have an opportunity to  
 5 review it and agendize it for the next meeting.  
 6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great.  
 7 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Also, madam chair,  
 8 it's been our practice to open an agenda item at one  
 9 meeting, give us an opportunity to the next meeting to  
 10 formulate, and maybe we can have a good range of  
 11 proposals at that time. But that is September, so it is  
 12 a long ways away, and we do want to make sure our advice  
 13 is timely. So balancing those two, that's my thoughts.  
 14 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Don?  
 15 MEMBER HOUSTON: Sounds like a good idea, but I  
 16 just need more information to make a decision.  
 17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Well, at  
 18 this point I think, if we have no other questions for  
 19 Jim, we are ready to move into our next focus topic  
 20 item, which is Connecting People to the Desert, which is  
 21 be a CDD staff -- Steve's presentation. Then we'll have  
 22 DAC discussion on that and public questions, and we'll  
 23 fit in lunch wherever the timing falls.  
 24 So Steve, are you able to --  
 25 MR. RAZO: Yeah. I'm putting it up now.

Page 128

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Jim. It was  
 2 really great.  
 3 MR. KLEIN: Thank you.  
 4 DIRECTOR RAML: Since your presentation is a  
 5 PowerPoint and you have notes, perhaps you don't need to  
 6 take -- I mean, it's up to the DAC, but Steve's  
 7 presentation, it's a PowerPoint. He has good notes.  
 8 He'll present it again to the subgroup at the first  
 9 subgroup meeting, so we might be able to spare her, and  
 10 the thing will all be available. That's just a  
 11 suggestion.  
 12 MEMBER HOUSTON: Fine with me.  
 13 (Steve Razo gave a PowerPoint presentation  
 14 not recorded by the court reporter.)  
 15 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Steve. Great  
 16 presentation. Will any of this information be passed  
 17 out or available on the website?  
 18 MR. RAZO: Yeah, we'll put it on the website.  
 19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  
 20 MR. RAZO: And I'll send you all an e-copy.  
 21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Excellent. Any questions  
 22 from the DAC?  
 23 MEMBER REILLY: I just wanted to offer my  
 24 support as far as mapping goes. Although I'm not a  
 25 member of the subgroup, I do have really easy access to

Page 129

1 RGIS, and I already have those skills. And so if that  
 2 skill set doesn't really exist within the group, then it  
 3 would probably in most cases be relatively simple for me  
 4 to assist with the making of maps.  
 5 MR. RAZO: Thank you.  
 6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Randy and then  
 7 Seth.  
 8 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I think the first and  
 9 biggest challenge for this subgroup, given the potential  
 10 breadth of this topic, is what I call putting a rope  
 11 around it, figuring out where to start and where the  
 12 conversations and the discussions will be, because it's  
 13 so big, and we have opportunity to move from this  
 14 roped-in area to another roped-in area to another  
 15 roped-in area. And I think that really what I'm  
 16 struggling with is figuring out trying to advise where  
 17 that might be.  
 18 Of course the subgroup members are going to  
 19 have terrific opinions on this issue as well. So I  
 20 don't want to preempt that with recommendations yet, but  
 21 I think that's really going to be one of the first and  
 22 hardest challenges, getting a rope around the project.  
 23 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Seth?  
 24 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thanks. Great presentation.  
 25 And you'll send that around to us?

Page 130

1 MR. RAZO: Yes.

2 MEMBER SHTEIR: That's perfect. And I thought

3 of two other things. I don't think you mentioned these,

4 but if you could highlight Desert Discovery Center and

5 also Zzyzx, they're two things.

6 MR. RAZO: Good. Thank you. Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Don?

8 MEMBER HOUSTON: The thought just came to me

9 that it might help the subgroup if the BLM or some other

10 source has survey data on land use and, you know, the

11 number of people using the desert. And that could help

12 set their priorities if they could have those numbers.

13 MR. RAZO: That will be a good one to figure

14 out.

15 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Start counting.

16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Steve. Very

17 helpful. I really look forward to the work that the

18 subgroup is going do. And thank you, Seth for agreeing

19 to chair it. I think it's a very timely subgroup, and I

20 really look forward to the work produced, since all of

21 us who sit here on the DAC and volunteer and represent

22 our various interests, I think that connecting people

23 through the desert and really trying to highlight how we

24 engage users and enthusiasts more, and especially given

25 some of the challenges before us, I think that this is

Page 131

1 really an excellent opportunity. So thank you all for

2 your involvement in this.

3 At this point I would like to do our public

4 comment on the two items we just heard, the two focus

5 topics, and that is the Route 66 Corridor Plan as well

6 as the Connecting People With the Desert Subgroup topic.

7 And the first card that I have is Ed Waldheim.

8 MR. WALDHEIM: Ed Waldheim, California Trail

9 Users Coalition. Congratulations to the Route 66. It's

10 an incredible, incredible asset that can bring tourism

11 to all the counties that we have, and so I would like to

12 see some immediacy in those areas where our maps cross

13 where we highlight on our maps. There's no reason we

14 can't do that, because it's a total multiple-use map.

15 It's hiking. It's everything. That is the mission of

16 CTUC.

17 If you ever go on our website, you can go to

18 CTUC.info, and that's on there. We have a lot of

19 partners, a lot of divisions within the CTUC. We're

20 adding the Friends of the Temblers now in Bakersfield.

21 So we keep on adding different profit partners within

22 that 510c3 non-profit.

23 As far as the connecting the people, that is an

24 incredible thing. I think Steve -- a hundred percent

25 our biggest weakness is that we don't give him the

Page 132

1 information. I mean, I look at all the stuff we're done

2 with Friends of Jawbone, all the stuff we've for Friends

3 of El Mirage, and we never see it anywhere. It never is

4 on any of your websites, not cleanup, nothing. It's

5 never there. Probably the fault is that we need to

6 figure out how do we get people to really put that

7 together. It's there, but it's the question of getting

8 it there.

9 And I think that's a challenge for all of us

10 who are working in Public Lands, no matter who you are.

11 I mean, you look at that list. Steve, you almost should

12 send out an e-mail to every one of those people. Tell

13 them, "I'm a contact. I want to know what you're doing,

14 what have you done, and send it to me," because right

15 now you have to -- it's like pulling teeth. You can't

16 get it. And have them all assign a person to you so

17 that you can just send a blitz, "Hey, my next news bite

18 is coming out. I need some information," because we are

19 the most hidden story there is. Nobody knows about what

20 we're doing. I'm talking about BLM. Nobody knows what

21 they're doing. We're getting land blasted, and we keep

22 losing land because of that. So that is something I

23 think we should really, really do.

24 And the reason I say we keep losing that, they

25 always say -- even you, Don, you went to the

Page 133

1 Grand Canyon. You bragged what the National Park

2 Service does. I'm so tired of people bragging about the

3 National Park Service. It's the baby of Congress.

4 They're getting millions of dollars, millions. Do you

5 realize what BLM could do if we get that kind of money?

6 Ridiculous. Pacific Crest Trail, another beauty,

7 Congress baby. They get millions of dollars. What do

8 we get we get? We get 21-percent cut for the next three

9 years. Teri has to do magic. Katrina is doing five

10 jobs. Carl is doing the same thing. Tom is doing the

11 same thing. John is doing the same.

12 Guys, we're losing the battle because we

13 haven't told our story, and if there ever is a time to

14 do something, now is the time to really shine and get

15 the message out.

16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Ed. I have

17 Ainsworth Hunt next.

18 MR. HUNT: Thank you. Thank you very much for

19 the presentation.

20 MR. RAZO: I want to make sure this mic is

21 working.

22 MR. HUNT: If the mic isn't working, I can just

23 be loud.

24 DIRECTOR RAML: It's working now.

25 MR. HUNT: Then I'll have to quiet down. I'm

Page 134

1 of the opinion that Connecting People with the Desert is  
2 very much in cross purposes with special recreation  
3 permits that the BLM requires. And looking at a permit  
4 that requires 180 days of advance notice for a group of  
5 two or more to go out into the desert for various  
6 activities seems to be a good way to quash people from  
7 connecting to the desert.

8 The BLM has a program that's been apparently in  
9 place since 2007, and I heard somebody earlier today  
10 talk about the difference between rights and privileges.  
11 And on the BLM's website it says this represents --  
12 whoops. I hate this phone at times. "This represents a  
13 privilege to Public Lands and/or waters which is subject  
14 to the terms and conditions of the permits." Wait a  
15 minute. If it's public land and I'm a part of the  
16 public and therefore a part owner of that land, why do I  
17 need a special permit with 180 days advance notice in  
18 order to get out on that land in a group of two or more?

19 So let's say that my child comes to visit me  
20 from San Francisco, and I wanted to get out on public  
21 lands with a group including my child and myself? That  
22 just seems way out of kilter in terms of your goals and  
23 objectives with Connecting People to the Desert. And I  
24 appreciate the time you've taken in listening to me.  
25 Thank you.

Page 135

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you.  
2 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: April?  
3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes.  
4 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I just want to reflect  
5 that Kim's work with the SRP Subgroup is looking at  
6 right at this time the complex question of the  
7 difference between casual use and permitted use and when  
8 those are required and how those are required. And I  
9 think the testimony we heard today still underscores the  
10 need for that clarification and how that is important  
11 for the public.

12 So I continue to urge the DAC to support its  
13 SRP Subgroup and continue to staff it with members and  
14 support its meetings so that it can help with that end.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for that reminder,  
17 Randy. All right. Our next public speaker is  
18 Angel Lund.

19 MRS. LUND: I'll reserve my comments on the SRP  
20 until after we have the SRP. I just have a couple of  
21 things on the Route 66. I didn't think I would have to  
22 comment on it. But now I'm wondering, if it's  
23 classified as a National Scenic Byway, which I was  
24 involved in another one of those up in Washington, the  
25 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Byway, it

Page 136

1 restricted everything. I mean, you couldn't rockhound,  
2 you couldn't go off the road, you couldn't do anything.  
3 Even the colors of your house and apartments were  
4 restricted.

5 I don't see how having these small towns that  
6 depend on the rockhounds and the mining and the people  
7 passing through is going to benefit from that  
8 designation. The Route 66, I like that idea. But the  
9 National Byway? You guys, I think you need to look at  
10 that a little bit more and look at the people that are  
11 actually visiting those tiny, little almost ghost towns.

12 Connecting People to the Desert? You have it  
13 right in there, Public Lands for the use and enjoyment.  
14 I see where we're just being restricted. I do not see  
15 where we're getting use and enjoyment. And I'll just  
16 leave it at that, as well as you have mining under  
17 history. Are we already dinosaurs? I think we're the  
18 ones that are endangered. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Angel, for your  
20 comments.

21 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'm sorry. Question.  
22 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Randy, question.  
23 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: May I ask Jim Klein a  
24 question?  
25 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Absolutely.

Page 137

1 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is not the 395 through  
2 portions of Owens Valley, Ridgecrest and going north --  
3 is that also a National Scenic Byway? Do you know?  
4 MR. KLEIN: It's not. You mentioned the  
5 Columbia River Gorge. That is a National Scenic Area.  
6 It's a management entity that does that. A National  
7 Scenic Byway program, I mentioned before, has no  
8 regulations except the billboard provision of Highway  
9 Beautification Act. That's it. So those are two  
10 different things.

11 MS. LUND: I could say, then, that you are for  
12 rockhounding and the current mining that's going on in  
13 that area?

14 MR. KLEIN: I don't know enough about it to  
15 tell you, other than the National Scenic Byway  
16 designation would have no effect on whether you did that  
17 or didn't do it. It's different.

18 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: But the Owens Valley,  
19 that's not ringing a bell immediately?  
20 MR. KLEIN: California has a State Scenic Byway  
21 program.  
22 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Maybe that's what it  
23 is.  
24 MR. KLEIN: Yes.  
25 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Very good. That's

Page 138

1 what I was wondering.

2 MR. KLEIN: Route 66 was designated by

3 California legislature back in '91 or sometime as a

4 historic route, which allowed it to be eligible for the

5 funds that provided the grant monies to the National

6 Scenic Byway program, so it's technically not designated

7 a California State Scenic Byway.

8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Kim has a comment here as

9 well.

10 MEMBER CAMPBELL-ERB: Two comments. I wanted to

11 point out that Angel Lund is on our SRP Permit Subgroup.

12 I just wanted to point that out to the members and to

13 the public so that you know. And thank you, Angel, for

14 serving on that subgroup.

15 But I also wanted to mention, it does seem to

16 me that mining seems to be very disfavored among a lot

17 of groups currently. Mining is very important to our

18 economy. If we want to be dependent on foreign

19 countries for all of our mineral resources or our

20 mineral needs, we'll stop mining in this country. We

21 need mining. It's important.

22 Partially because Dinah is not here, I wanted

23 to point that out. Mining is important to our economy,

24 and it needs to be considered in what we do. Casual-use

25 collecting is great. Mining is also very important.

Page 139

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Do you wish to speak?

2 MS. LOPEZ: Thank you. Ruth Musser Lopez,

3 Needles, California.

4 With regard to mining, if there is anything

5 that the DAC can do to make a recommendation and send it

6 up all the way to Congress, it would be very

7 appreciated. Around here a lot of these mines are owned

8 and controlled by foreign corporations. They're coming

9 in here. What is up with that? When can we, the people

10 of the United States, benefit from our own mineral

11 resources?

12 You know, a lot of this should be considered to

13 be nationalized to help our schools, to help our health

14 programs. Where are the profits going? Foreign

15 countries. Canadians can come down here get on

16 Public Lands we can't even get on. So what's up with

17 that? When will you address that? Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. At this time I

19 don't have any other members of the public speaker cards

20 for the two agenda items of Connecting People to the

21 Desert and the Route 66 Corridor Plan, so I would like

22 to take our break for lunch, if everybody is in

23 agreement with that.

24 All right. Let's adjourn for lunch. We are

25 doing an hour-and-a-half lunch? Is that okay?

Page 140

1 Hour-and-a-half lunch. We will be back at 1:15. Thank

2 you, all.

3 (A lunch recess was taken.)

4 (Council member Zach Scrivner was not present

5 for the remainder of the meeting.)

6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Call the meeting back to

7 order at 1:22. All right. We are moving right into our

8 report from Dumont Dunes Subgroup. Randy?

9 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Okay. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Excellent.

11 MR. LUND: I don't even know what Dumont Dunes

12 is.

13 MS. SYMONS: We have a meeting on June 3rd.

14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yeah, we do. Thanks,

15 Kat. I'm trying to remember what we did. The DAC, the

16 Desert Advisory Council, has a subgroup that's made up

17 of members of the public that work with the BLM

18 regarding the management of the Dumont Dunes OHV

19 recreation area. That's just outside of the

20 Death Valley on the east side south of Shoshone. It's a

21 large OHV dune recreation area, and it's a fee area.

22 The BLM charges fees to recreate there, and therefore

23 our subgroup advises this council with regard to advice

24 to the BLM on the management of the Dumont Dunes.

25 So this is a standing committee, just like a

Page 141

1 few of our others. It's a standing committee, and this

2 group meets regularly throughout the course of the year.

3 It meets early in the dunes season or just before the

4 dunes season starts to assist the BLM in planning for

5 the upcoming year. It usually has a meeting in the mid

6 season to assess how that year is going. Then we have a

7 meeting at the end of the year as kind of a post mortem

8 on the year to see how things went and what we might

9 want to advise or tackle for the next.

10 The point being -- and Ed Waldheim serves on

11 that Dumont Dunes Subgroup, as do I. The chairman of

12 the subgroup is Dr. Bill Presch, former chairman of the

13 Desert Advisory Council, and we meet regularly. But I

14 can say that there's no hot item that's right in front

15 of us. At our last meeting we just went through

16 financials to date looking at visitorship. Visitorship

17 is down there. It's down at all of our recreation areas

18 in the desert. It hasn't come back since the downturn

19 of the economy.

20 And also I believe that the safety issues are

21 improved. There's no fatalities for the year. We have

22 broken that streak, but the first half of the year we

23 were happy to see no fatalities at the dunes.

24 We'll have a report. June 3rd is our next

25 meeting, and we'll be hearing more about that. So I'm

Page 142

1 sorry I don't have anything exciting to report. It's  
2 just that the Dumont Dunes Subgroup continues to meet  
3 regularly and continues to work with field manager  
4 Katrina Symons on managing that area.  
5       So any questions or comments, I'll be happy to  
6 take them. Thanks, April.  
7       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Next  
8 item on our agenda is the report from the SRP Subgroup.  
9 Are you ready, Kim?  
10       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I think so.  
11       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Great. Thank you.  
12       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: So currently the subgroup  
13 is working to determine -- I think that the issues that  
14 we're tackling that are problematic are determining when  
15 a special recreation permit is required for a  
16 non-competitive group event. And this is where there  
17 has been some controversy recently, and so we will be  
18 tackling this.  
19       Another issue that has recently come up,  
20 because there was a group that had a charitable poker  
21 run, was whether a poker run should be considered a  
22 competitive event or a non-competitive event, because  
23 they're not really racing. I understand -- and you can  
24 correct me if I'm wrong, anyone from the public, during  
25 the public comment period. But I understand that you go

Page 143

1 to checkpoints. The people who participate go to a  
2 checkpoint. They're given a card. There's so many of  
3 these checkpoints. And they get a poker hand, and then  
4 the poker hand determines whether they have won some  
5 prizes or -- I don't know if there's dollars or prizes  
6 involved, because I've never been to one.  
7       But there's no real competition there. So I  
8 guess the question is, is it really a competitive event?  
9 And if it's considered one, should it be, because when  
10 you have a competitive event, there's elevated insurance  
11 requirements and fees involved that are very difficult  
12 for the people who are putting on the event to be able  
13 to comply with.  
14       CHAIRPERSON SALL: When is the next meeting?  
15       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: The next meeting has not  
16 yet been scheduled. We're anticipating it will be mid  
17 June.  
18       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Kim. Our  
19 next subgroup report is ISDRA, and I forget who is  
20 giving that subgroup report.  
21       VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'll help you. The  
22 chair of the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area  
23 Subgroup is former DAC chairman Tom Acuna. There have  
24 been no ISDRA Subgroup meetings since our last DAC  
25 meeting. The next DAC ISDRA Subgroup meeting will be

Page 144

1 August 21st in El Centro.  
2       But the subgroup did have a field trip, so to  
3 speak, and Tom, would you be able to come up for a  
4 minute, if I may, and have you explain. I wasn't a  
5 party to it, but I was aware of it, and I understand it  
6 was a neat field trip. So if you could explain that,  
7 that would be great.  
8       MR. ZALE: Thank you. Tom Zale. So the next  
9 subgroup meeting is actually May 22nd, so I may have  
10 misspoken.  
11       VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: No, no. I'm sorry.  
12 I'm looking at the website, and I just missed it. It's  
13 there, May 22nd, followed by August 21st.  
14       MR. ZALE: Right. Okay.  
15       VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you.  
16       MR. ZALE: We did have a field trip. Three of  
17 the newest members -- Karen Brindley, Tom Acuna and  
18 Ed Stoven -- asked for a field trip, so we provided  
19 that, as well as Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter, who is a local  
20 Imperial Valley person. So we took a trip together,  
21 showed everybody the facilities and sort of talked about  
22 our program of work. It was a good trip, and we're  
23 ready to go on May 22nd.  
24       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Tom.  
25 Council questions, comments on the field reports and

Page 145

1 subgroup reports. Al.  
2       MEMBER MUTH: Let's start with my homey. John?  
3 Palm Springs. All of the districts have turbine  
4 projects, wind energy projects, and I think yours in  
5 particular, you have 28 leases, 20-some-odd leases  
6 you're managing.  
7       MR. KALISH: Twenty-one energy leases. Some of  
8 those leases are owned by the same company, so it's not  
9 21 companies, but we do have 21 individual leases. And  
10 we've been in the wind energy business since the late  
11 '70s, as far as the field office.  
12       MEMBER MUTH: Okay. You also happen to have a  
13 large bird migratory corridor that comes right through  
14 the pass where all the turbines are, and many of the  
15 other districts have the same sorts of migratory  
16 corridors. And everybody keeps talking about bird  
17 mortalities due to the turbines. And you get a report  
18 here, you get a report there, but there doesn't appear  
19 to be any sort of a coordinated research effort  
20 throughout the Desert District to really look at the  
21 overall impact of the wind energy projects. In my  
22 opinion there should be.  
23       And going on that, is there some way we can  
24 encourage participation of University of California,  
25 Cal State University or some overarching entity other

Page 146

1 than the individual consultants here on their projects?  
2 MR. KALISH: Well, I can tell you what we're  
3 doing. Right now it's been quite a while since we've  
4 updated our avian base data as far as bird populations  
5 and migration through the wind farms. So we feel a real  
6 need to get updated information. This is particularly  
7 important, since over the years the technology involving  
8 wind turbines has changed substantially.  
9 The wind turbines -- we have fewer wind  
10 turbines, but they've gotten much taller, and the blades  
11 of wind turbines are much longer. So clearly from the  
12 standpoint of looking at our previous data involving  
13 avian populations in the area, we definitely need to  
14 update that.  
15 And what we are in the process of doing is  
16 working with all of our wind energy leaseholders to  
17 initiate a comprehensive, essentially a two-year avian  
18 study within the San Gorgonio Pass. And that's been  
19 involving getting the leaseholders together. We're  
20 working through the process of getting all of the  
21 holders to kick in adequate funds in order to combine an  
22 effort and do an area-wide study of both the avian  
23 populations and migration but also avian mortality data  
24 resulting from bird strikes against the wind turbines.  
25 So from our standpoint that's an active, ongoing effort.

Page 147

1 We haven't really talked about expanding that  
2 out to more of a district-wide effort, but in pulling  
3 together this process and working with the Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service, you know, much of what we've been  
5 doing in the past few months, really, has been working  
6 out all of the study protocols on how we would go ahead  
7 and initiate this study.  
8 So I think once, you know, as we move through  
9 this process, then we would be able to take the  
10 protocols that we've worked out with the U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife Service and then, during implementation,  
12 utilize the lessons learned to expand that out into a  
13 more of a district-wide effort.  
14 We as a field office clearly have the largest  
15 wind energy program, so from a standpoint of  
16 implementing this program within our field office, and  
17 then once we have it up and running and, you know, we've  
18 done whatever tweaks are necessary to make sure that  
19 it's successful, then I think that would be very  
20 appropriate to look at expanding that out into other  
21 areas.  
22 MEMBER MUTH: Could we put it on the agenda for  
23 next meeting, or John comes back and gives us a report  
24 on the progress and how we might encourage implementing  
25 something like an overarching research program

Page 148

1 throughout the district?  
2 MR. RAZO: Put it in his field report.  
3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes. I think we could do an  
4 update on in a field report. But Teri has a few  
5 questions that I think she wants to find out from other  
6 staff on this item, so maybe via e-mail we could get an  
7 update on some questions that you brought up and then  
8 get some response sooner than the next meeting and  
9 understand if there is a way to expand it. Then we can  
10 coordinate with John.  
11 MEMBER MUTH: Even if it can't be expanded to  
12 the district, I'd like to work with you to get, you  
13 know, some UC or Cal State University involvement in the  
14 project.  
15 MR. KALISH: I very much would appreciate that.  
16 We've been looking at various -- essentially there's  
17 consulting firms that are out there -- there's not very  
18 many of them -- that do avian mortality studies.  
19 There's none that are local, but from a standpoint of  
20 being able to utilize the UC system in approaching this  
21 issue and this set of problems, I think that would be  
22 very beneficial.  
23 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. Thank you.  
24 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you.  
25 DIRECTOR RAML: I don't know. Tom, Mr. Zale,

Page 149

1 we've also had other extensive bird monitoring at  
2 Ocotillo Express, so perhaps we can bring that into the  
3 discussion also. Then we know there have been avian  
4 mortality workshops, and attention is associated with  
5 the DRECP. So there's much going on in the avian  
6 mortality world, and we appreciate your interest, and  
7 we'll bring forward information and get you all updated.  
8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Other  
9 questions for field office reports?  
10 MEMBER MUTH: Yes.  
11 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. Continue.  
12 MEMBER MUTH: Let's go to my buddies at  
13 Barstow.  
14 MS. SYMONS: Yes, sir.  
15 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. In your field office  
16 report, the Desert Tortoise Recovery Implementation Team  
17 activities --  
18 MS. SYMONS: Yes, sir.  
19 MEMBER MUTH: -- has anything actually been  
20 done on the ground by the implementation teams? There's  
21 meetings and meetings and meetings, but I mean, what  
22 does the office have to show for the meetings? What has  
23 actually happened? I don't understand how all this  
24 works.  
25 MS. SYMONS: So right now I have my wildlife

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 biologist Chris Otahal. He's on one of the teams, and  2 the work that has been done is more of the planning and  3 reviewing of documents, planning documents.  4 MEMBER MUTH: For the last three years that's  5 all that's bone done by the recovery implementation  6 teams; is that correct?  7 MS. SYMONS: I have no idea. I've only been  8 here since November of 2012, so I will defer to someone  9 else that knows more about the RIT and the MOG.  10 MEMBER MUTH: And all the other acronyms.  11 Okay. Can we put this on the agenda. Don raised the  12 subject earlier, if we can get Fish and Wildlife Service  13 to explain to the DAC how all of this works and fits  14 together, because I have never seen a flowchart that  15 really explains it to me. And maybe I'm the dullest  16 knife in the drawer, but this all confuses me, and you  17 just happen to have the biggest section of recovery  18 teams.  19 MS. SYMONS: Yeah, because of the fact that I  20 have, you know, someone that's on my staff that was at  21 the meeting in Las Vegas and was able to provide an  22 update, because that is definitely on Teri's radar  23 screen, and she has been asking for updates, and as such  24 we've been trying to accommodate that.  25 MEMBER MUTH: Okay.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <p>1 review, which will be a joint review between the  2 Parks Service and BLM. We also have some well testing  3 that the proponent has agreed to, and so we're going to  4 be moving forward with that. Plus there's a number of  5 other items that were raised by the Park Service that  6 we're working through. I expect for a lot of those  7 comments to wind up reaching some sort of conclusion  8 within the next month or so. That will be rolled into  9 the final Environmental Impact Statement. So probably  10 late summer.  11 MEMBER SHTEIR: Like August or something or  12 maybe? Okay.  13 MS. SYMONS: I have not gotten an update from  14 the contractor yet, so late summer is the best I can do  15 for you, Seth. And as soon as I do get something more  16 firm, I will share it.  17 MEMBER SHTEIR: And just to follow up, the  18 groundwater technical review, does that involve  19 additional modeling, because I know there were concerns  20 about that, groundwater monitoring.  21 MS. SYMONS: It's very interesting. The  22 science advisor for the National Park Service on the  23 Mojave Preserve has done some additional modeling  24 herself, but it has not undergone peer review. The Park  25 Service has its own process. Until it does go through</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Teri, do you have  2 anything you could add?  3 DIRECTOR RAML: Yeah, and we're happy to  4 explore the idea of bringing an update from the Fish and  5 Wildlife Service. The challenge we have there is, their  6 travel budget is even more restricted than ours, and we  7 have Saturday meetings. And in the past our invitation  8 to other agencies on Saturday meetings, particularly in  9 this budget climate, have been a little cool. But we  10 have BLM biologists, and certainly I'll take on the  11 responsibility of trying to bring forward information  12 for you.  13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Do you have any other  14 questions?  15 MEMBER MUTH: That will do it for now.  16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. For now? Okay.  17 Seth?  18 MEMBER SHTEIR: I wonder if you could give an  19 update about the timeline for the release of the final  20 Soda Mountain Solar EIS/EIR.  21 MS. SYMONS: I'm still looking probably for  22 late summer. Right now the Bureau of Land Management is  23 working with the National Parks Service through a number  24 of their comments. Coming up here probably in the next  25 week or so there is going to be a groundwater technical</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 peer review, it cannot be used, but some of the baseline  2 information is really good to help inform the next steps  3 for the Bureau of Land Management. So there's not any  4 new additional modeling until the peer review is done,  5 but there will be information from Deborah that will be  6 brought into the process.  7 MEMBER SHTEIR: Great. Thank you very much.  8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Don?  9 MEMBER HOUSTON: I just have a couple of things  10 for you, Katrina. First of all, we had a WEMO Route  11 Designation Subgroup here that put in a lot of effort,  12 and there was a report that went to the BLM. So I would  13 just like a little follow-up as to, you know, what  14 happened to the report, and what was its final  15 disposition, and what actions were taken based on the  16 information in that report?  17 MS. SYMONS: So from the WEMO Subgroup we're  18 taking those comments and building it into our current  19 range of alternatives. That is currently being  20 developed and analyzed. You'll wind up seeing the  21 disposition of those comments in that draft  22 Environmental Impact Statement, which we're expecting to  23 be released also late summer.  24 MEMBER HOUSTON: Okay. The last thing was, you  25 know, there's a lot of Amargosa in your field report --</p>

	Page 154		Page 156
<p>1 MS. SYMONS: Yeah. We love the vole.</p> <p>2 MEMBER HOUSTON: -- both the vole and the river</p> <p>3 itself. So I know we have a meeting in Barstow, and I</p> <p>4 would like you to consider the Amargosa River as a</p> <p>5 potential destination for our field trip.</p> <p>6 MS. SYMONS: Okay.</p> <p>7 MEMBER HOUSTON: And I'll reach out to</p> <p>8 John Kalish now, and if he would consider -- I know</p> <p>9 we're going back to Palm Springs -- the Dos Palmas</p> <p>10 restoration site as a potential field trip designation</p> <p>11 as well.</p> <p>12 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. I think</p> <p>13 Randy was next.</p> <p>14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I don't mind if you</p> <p>15 want to finish.</p> <p>16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Seth?</p> <p>17 MEMBER SHTEIR: Sorry. I have one last</p> <p>18 question. In the Iberdola Wind Farm for Silurian that's</p> <p>19 listed in here, what's the timeline for that? At this</p> <p>20 particular juncture what stage is that in, those</p> <p>21 applications?</p> <p>22 MS. SYMONS: We're on hold with that wind</p> <p>23 proposal right now as we're working through the variance</p> <p>24 process for the solar project. The concept was that</p> <p>25 those projects would be working parallel and be</p>		<p>1 sites. So that is they would go in and, at the</p> <p>2 beginning of their 30-day period of training, construct</p> <p>3 the objective site, hold the training and then</p> <p>4 rehabilitate the site so that it is back for the</p> <p>5 shared-use area being fully available for recreation use</p> <p>6 for the remainder of the ten-month period, which is</p> <p>7 allocated to BLM per the legislation.</p> <p>8 We talked about that. We also talked about,</p> <p>9 you know, ideas about which two 30-day periods of time</p> <p>10 during the year would be best for the recreation areas</p> <p>11 to actually be open and available for military training.</p> <p>12 We also talked about any of the other issues -- we were</p> <p>13 open to hearing any other potential issues, meeting</p> <p>14 locations, meeting times, whether or not folks wanted to</p> <p>15 get out on the ground and have field trips.</p> <p>16 So we took all that in and also talked about</p> <p>17 doing a better job of communication. We talked about</p> <p>18 getting a hosted website up and going so that it's an</p> <p>19 easy way to wind up communicating with the public and</p> <p>20 also having comments being received as well for those</p> <p>21 that were unable to attend to have a better</p> <p>22 communication link. We're looking probably here towards</p> <p>23 the end of June, first part of July for that next public</p> <p>24 meeting.</p> <p>25 We also gave an update that the resource</p>	
<p>1 contained in the same environmental document. That's</p> <p>2 the reason for holding off the on the wind right now.</p> <p>3 We still need to work through the variance process.</p> <p>4 MEMBER SHTEIR: Thank you.</p> <p>5 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Randy?</p> <p>6 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you. Hi, Kat.</p> <p>7 Could you describe the outcome of the May 7th</p> <p>8 Yucca Valley meeting on the Johnson Valley Off-Highway</p> <p>9 Motor Vehicle Area, the management of the joint-use</p> <p>10 area.</p> <p>11 MS. SYMONS: Yeah. In that public meeting we</p> <p>12 had about 25 folks that came to the meeting. The</p> <p>13 purpose of the meeting was basically to provide the</p> <p>14 community an update of where we were on the</p> <p>15 implementation of the National Defense Authorization</p> <p>16 Act, which was signed into law on December 26th, 2013.</p> <p>17 So for the benefit of the DAC, the act calls for the</p> <p>18 identification and implementation of two, 22-acre</p> <p>19 company objective sites which were exclusive</p> <p>20 military-use sites embedded within the shared-use area.</p> <p>21 At the meeting we rolled out to three proposed</p> <p>22 locations for the two, 22-acre objective. Also the</p> <p>23 military is proposing instead of having those company</p> <p>24 objective sites being exclusive military use to rather</p> <p>25 have them be what they are terming as soft objective</p>	Page 155	<p>1 management group charter, which is also required by the</p> <p>2 act, is the establishment of a resource management</p> <p>3 group. That charter is currently being vetted by the</p> <p>4 legal folks for the Department of Navy. And so we're</p> <p>5 hoping -- we're hoping here that shortly that charter</p> <p>6 will get finalized and we'll be able to get on with</p> <p>7 business.</p> <p>8 Too lengthy. I'm sorry for that, Randy.</p> <p>9 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: No. The resource</p> <p>10 management group, or RMG -- correct me if I'm wrong --</p> <p>11 that's going to be comprised of agency representatives,</p> <p>12 DOD and interior representatives; right?</p> <p>13 MS. SYMONS: Affirmative.</p> <p>14 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: That's not a public</p> <p>15 advisory council, so to speak. That's an agency.</p> <p>16 MS. SYMONS: Affirmative. Also on the</p> <p>17 legislation it specifically calls out that the RMG would</p> <p>18 meet at least once annually and that those meetings</p> <p>19 would be open and also participation and input solicited</p> <p>20 from relative state agencies, the off-highway community,</p> <p>21 environmental advocacy groups, as well as any others.</p> <p>22 And we heard quite strongly on the May 7th</p> <p>23 meeting that the locals are quite interested in</p> <p>24 Johnson Valley and what is occurring out there, you</p> <p>25 know, ways of making sure that the word gets out when</p>	Page 157

Page 158

1 the area is open to military use, ways of preventing  
2 incursions from the shared-use area onto private land.  
3 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Is there any thought  
4 about a formal advisory group to provide input to that  
5 RMG, one that is comprised of the state agency  
6 representative, environmental groups, off-highway  
7 vehicle groups and local community?  
8 MS. SYMONS: You know, certainly the  
9 legislation does not call for that. However, if any of  
10 the user groups feel that, you know, the best way to be  
11 represented is, you know, to come as a consolidated  
12 group, that's great. We're really moving forward in a  
13 coordinated and cooperative manner, and in between the  
14 Marines and BLM of having the widest net thrown out  
15 there in order to get input on that shared management,  
16 because it's the first one in the nation to have shared  
17 management. It's the first off-highway vehicle  
18 recreation in the nation to be Congressionally  
19 designated.  
20 For me personally I want to see that area be  
21 successful, and the only way to do it is to have input  
22 from the community at large in on that shared  
23 management.  
24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Bingo. If there were  
25 such an advisory group, it would obviously have to be

Page 159

1 constituted under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and  
2 chartered and so forth and require care and feeding and  
3 such. So I'm just curious if that is a possible option  
4 or if it's off the table because of that. But you  
5 answered the question.  
6 I notice in there potentially there's work that  
7 may be restarted at the New Deal Mine? Is that the  
8 New Deal Mine that is on the edge of Death Valley  
9 National Park in the Bowling Alley?  
10 MS. SYMONS: No. This particular one is east  
11 of the 247 between Barstow and Lucerne Valley.  
12 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Must be another  
13 New Deal.  
14 And regarding WEMO, my understanding of the  
15 West Mojave route planning decision from the Court, how  
16 it invalidated the route designation. Is that the main  
17 concern was the documentation behind the designations,  
18 the green lines and the red lines, so to speak, the  
19 biological opinion was upheld, and other parts of the  
20 plan were all upheld and moving forward with.  
21 But I'm hearing that there may be what I would  
22 call tangential issues relative to the green lines and  
23 the red lines, such as revising the width of the  
24 corridor for allowable pullouts and turnouts. There may  
25 be some changes with regard to permitting or group use

Page 160

1 or some other things. And I'm just wondering how far --  
2 how far are we -- I don't want to say strained, because  
3 that's not the right word. But how far are we away from  
4 just focusing on documenting the red lines and the green  
5 lines? How much else is being put into this? What can  
6 we expect to see in the upcoming WEMO draft?  
7 MS. SYMONS: You know, certainly, Randy, I  
8 mean, it's the documentation and application of the  
9 minimization criteria.  
10 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Bingo.  
11 MS. SYMONS: That's really what we're focusing  
12 on right now.  
13 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Gotcha.  
14 MS. SYMONS: At the same time we're also  
15 recognizing that in some areas the impacts from the  
16 300-foot stop, park and camp may result in environmental  
17 impacts that might be mitigated in a range of  
18 alternatives by turning that maybe into a 50-foot, like  
19 it is in the Desert Wildlife Management Area. So  
20 underneath, you know, really having that broad range of  
21 alternatives to address the issues that are out there,  
22 that's the reason for looking at maybe a difference in  
23 the width of a stop, park and camp.  
24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you.  
25 MS. SYMONS: There also are a number of

Page 161

1 undesignated -- currently undesignated, for lack of a  
2 better word, trailheads that are getting a lot of use.  
3 And you know, the question really comes in, should they  
4 really be designated trailheads and better manage the  
5 use from those trailheads onto designated routes as a  
6 management tool to help us better address the  
7 unauthorized use of routes?  
8 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yeah.  
9 MS. SYMONS: So --  
10 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: That's very good.  
11 From time to time I'm called upon to explain the status  
12 of the West Mojave Plan, the redo of the West Mojave  
13 route designations. And I think sometimes I  
14 oversimplify it by telling people we're focusing on the  
15 red lines and the green lines. But minimization  
16 criteria does extend beyond that simplicity.  
17 MS. SYMONS: Right.  
18 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I appreciate that  
19 clarification. Thanks. It helps me a lot. That's all  
20 I have. Thank you kindly.  
21 CHAIRPERSON SALL: AI?  
22 MEMBER MUTH: Let's go back to Johnson Valley  
23 for a moment here.  
24 MS. SYMONS: Okay.  
25 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Okay. Let's go.

Page 162

1 MEMBER MUTH: So the military is proposing two  
2 22-acre zones for their exclusive use during 30 days out  
3 of the year; right?  
4 MS. SYMONS: That is currently what is in the  
5 act, the legislation signed into law.  
6 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. But the military is  
7 proposing that they have these soft zones that move?  
8 MS. SYMONS: No. They will actually be in a  
9 static position. It would just wind up being rehabbed  
10 at the end of the 30-day training period.  
11 MEMBER MUTH: Somewhere or another I had the  
12 notion they would be moved around from time to time.  
13 MS. SYMONS: No, sir. No, sir.  
14 MEMBER MUTH: And I assume they won't be  
15 accessing these zones by chopper. There are going to be  
16 roads that go into them and all the other  
17 infrastructure; is that correct?  
18 MS. SYMONS: We have not talked about what  
19 their training plan will entail. I do want to bring  
20 your attention that Johnson Valley in the area that is a  
21 shared use. That was the designated OHV open area.  
22 MEMBER MUTH: I realize.  
23 MS. SYMONS: In that there have been the  
24 biological surveys completed, there have been the  
25 cultural surveys completed, so we know where the

Page 163

1 sensitive resources are that need to be managed. A  
2 requirement also from the military's point is to make  
3 sure that their training does not impact the sensitive  
4 resources.  
5 MEMBER MUTH: Well, it might be an open area,  
6 but the recreationists aren't taking in bulldozers to  
7 set up a 22-acre area, and I assume the military is  
8 going to have a heavy impact. So what does  
9 rehabilitation mean at the end of their 30 days? Does  
10 that mean they'll just pull all the hard material out?  
11 I mean, what does that mean?  
12 MS. SYMONS: When the resource management group  
13 gets established, we will be better defining the pre and  
14 post review of the shared use area, so both the before  
15 and after military training, in order to ensure that the  
16 military, when they hand the shared-use area back to the  
17 BLM where it is, back to being open for recreational  
18 use, is being handed back over in the best condition for  
19 the health and safety of the recreation user.  
20 So for instance, the legislation specifically  
21 states that there will be no dud-producing ordinances  
22 that will becoming into the shared-use area, only going  
23 out. Fire is only going out. So I don't know if you're  
24 familiar with a company objective site. And I frankly  
25 was not familiar with one until a couple of months ago,

Page 164

1 when the military actually provided a tour. Those areas  
2 actually on the base itself, there's barbed wire.  
3 There's trenches. There's mechanical devices that pop  
4 up targets. If it was to be an exclusive military use  
5 area, as had been envisioned by Congress, you would be  
6 seeing those 22-acre sites embedded in the shared use  
7 that would have to have barbed wire on it in order to  
8 keep the recreationists out from a dangerous situation  
9 because, if you're going across country, if you come to  
10 a ditch, there's going to be an accident and a potential  
11 for an unsafe condition.  
12 By going for a soft target, they're going to  
13 have to be removing the trenches. They're going to have  
14 to be removing the barbed wire. They're going to be  
15 removing any type of material and really bring it back  
16 and smooth out the ground to the before condition before  
17 the construction happened.  
18 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. So the company objective  
19 sites will be fixed locations?  
20 MS. SYMONS: Affirmative.  
21 MEMBER MUTH: They won't move. That would  
22 follow if they're fixed, wouldn't it?  
23 MS. SYMONS: Yes.  
24 MEMBER MUTH: Okay. Essentially, then, they'll  
25 be given back a 22-acre dozed site to recreationists to

Page 165

1 use?  
2 MS. SYMONS: Correct. So annually it's  
3 anticipated -- okay. The legislation specifically calls  
4 out the area will be open to recreational use ten months  
5 out of the year and for two 30-day periods of time will  
6 be available for military use. It's anticipated that  
7 the military use will not be a back to back. It will,  
8 you know, be like a fall or a spring or a summer. I  
9 mean, there will be a separation in time.  
10 So it's anticipated that at the beginning of  
11 the 30-day period of training the military will come in,  
12 they'll set up whatever they've got to do for the  
13 training exercise. They'll conduct the training  
14 exercise, and then they'll remove everything that is  
15 unnatural. They'll make sure that any trenches are  
16 removed. If there's tank tracks that exist out there on  
17 the ground, they'll wind up smoothing the area back out  
18 into a pre-condition state all within that 30-day period  
19 of time.  
20 MEMBER MUTH: So they're creating a camping  
21 site for the off-road vehicles.  
22 MS. SYMONS: We don't know how this is actually  
23 going to work, Al. Right now we're just at the early  
24 discussions point. You know, the biggest thing is, it's  
25 going to be a considerable workload on BLM of doing the

Page 166

1 pre and post inspections within the two 30-day periods  
 2 of training. And you know, right now that shared use  
 3 area is comprised of 53,000 acres of public land and  
 4 3,000 acres of private land of which the military is in  
 5 the process of acquiring for fair market value the  
 6 private and state lands within the shared use all with  
 7 the intent of having those lands become available for  
 8 recreational use.

9 MEMBER MUTH: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. I had a  
 11 couple of questions as well. I was wondering, the  
 12 fairly new Sawtooth Campground that's there out of the  
 13 Barstow Field Office, do you have any tracking or idea  
 14 of kind of the amount of use of that campground since  
 15 it's been installed? And if not, would there be  
 16 potential to install like a counter or something?

17 It seems like with our Connecting People to the  
 18 Desert and many of the topics we've been discussing  
 19 today, one of the questions is, you know, sort of how  
 20 much use some of the BLM facilities are getting and how  
 21 can we improve that and, you know, outreach and other  
 22 aspects, get people out to these great locations, so --

23 MS. SYMONS: That's a great question, April. I  
 24 am so fortunate to have a super campground host out at  
 25 Sawtooth that has been there for at least three years

Page 167

1 that I am told of. And he keeps impeccable records. I  
 2 can tell you by week and month what the visitor use is  
 3 out there.

4 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Could we maybe get  
 5 that information to the Connecting People to the Desert  
 6 Subgroup?

7 MS. SYMONS: Yeah. Also for those who may not  
 8 be aware of Sawtooth, it is a great climbing  
 9 opportunity. We have rock climbers from all over come  
 10 to that area. We have not pursued the permitting of  
 11 some of that rock climbing because we still need to get  
 12 an environmental document in place to make sure that  
 13 we're protecting that area from impacts and still  
 14 accommodating the use. So right now it's being done by,  
 15 you know, schools or individuals versus it actually  
 16 being an outfitter guide.

17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Another  
 18 question I didn't see in the field report update, the  
 19 Southern California Edison's Coolwater-Lugo Line, I  
 20 think is now called New Transmission Line Proposal, I  
 21 believe recently changed. They requested some sort of  
 22 amendment from the Public Utilities Commission.

23 Do you have any update on that project?

24 MS. SYMONS: No. What you saw on the reports  
 25 are those that might have had changes since we last met.

Page 168

1 So no, I do not have any updates on that project right  
 2 now.

3 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Interesting. I got a packet  
 4 apparently from SCE about it, so it's interesting how  
 5 they --

6 MS. SYMONS: So from the project manager, it  
 7 did not hit yet, April, but I will absolutely go back  
 8 and dive into that one. If there is something new, I'll  
 9 get it out.

10 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Okay. I'll check on SCE and  
 11 make sure they're communicating with you.

12 My other comment actually was following up from  
 13 Al's comments to John and a question about coordinating  
 14 avian studies throughout the Desert District. And I  
 15 think it would be great if we could explore how to do a  
 16 better job at coordinating some of these communication  
 17 and research efforts with probably Ridgecrest and  
 18 El Centro and Palm Springs field offices, since those  
 19 are the three that I know of that have wind. There's  
 20 currently none in the Barstow yet; right?

21 MS. SYMONS: Zero.

22 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Zero. Okay. Thank you. I  
 23 don't think I have any other field office questions.  
 24 Anyone else?

25 Okay. Moving into Public Comment on the

Page 169

1 Subgroup Reports, the State Office Report we did not  
 2 get, so the District Manager and Field Office Reports.  
 3 My first card is Mal Wessel. Did I say that right?

4 MR. WESSEL: Yes, ma'am. I thought I was going  
 5 to be commenting on the SRP permits.

6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes. That is one of the  
 7 subgroup reports listed, you are correct.

8 MR. WESSEL: Good.

9 CHAIRPERSON SALL: I apologize. We had a whole  
 10 flurry of reports there.

11 MR. WESSEL: Thank you very much. I was  
 12 contacted by Mrs. Erb because she had read some of the  
 13 problems that we were having with our SRP permits and  
 14 the amounts that were being charged, et cetera.

15 I do want to tell you right off that any  
 16 problems that we have had have not been with the Barstow  
 17 office or the BLM. I have never had any problems with  
 18 Katrina. In fact she's been really, really good with  
 19 us. Most of the problems that I have and anybody else  
 20 has that I know of come from the federal offices of BLM.

21 I run a charity. I'm the president of a  
 22 charity called High Desert Charities. We are founded,  
 23 and we're founded for 25 or 30 years now to assist the  
 24 mentally challenged. We do two poker runs, which are  
 25 community events, family events, one in April and one in

Page 170

1 October, and we have done those since 1984. And all of  
 2 the proceeds that we have had in the past have gone to  
 3 either Toys for Tots one time a year. And we started  
 4 with muscular dystrophy, and we now do it for the  
 5 Handicap Center For the Mentally Challenged in Barstow.  
 6       These are not races in any way, shape or form.  
 7 One of the problems that I have is that we are listed as  
 8 a race, a competitive event. How that ever happened, I  
 9 don't know, but I was told by the BLM coordinator that  
 10 Washington said we raced for poker cards, which is  
 11 absolutely not true.  
 12       What we do is, we have people that are on the  
 13 track, and we have people that sign up. It costs  
 14 them -- now it costs \$35 to go twice. They go out, and  
 15 we draw a card at home. Each person receives what we  
 16 call a tank card -- one, two, three, four, five -- which  
 17 stands for the five checkpoints that we have. You get  
 18 your five poker cards. Best poker card wins. There is  
 19 no race involved. In fact you don't have to go on the  
 20 track if you don't want to. If you want to just pay and  
 21 draw your card at home, you can do that. There is no  
 22 race of any kind.  
 23       We start at 8:00 in the morning with a  
 24 mandatory drivers' meeting. We have everybody off of  
 25 the course by 1:30 p.m., and then we give out our

Page 171

1 awards. It's just a simple luck of the draw, and you  
 2 drive up, and you're at checkpoint three. You'll see a  
 3 man standing there or a woman standing there with a shoe  
 4 like they use in Vegas that they deal out of. They deal  
 5 you an ace of spades, Checkpoint 3. It says "A.S.," and  
 6 they keep the card, and you're on your way. You could  
 7 go there at 2:00 in the afternoon or 10:00 in the  
 8 morning. It doesn't make any difference. There is no  
 9 racing involved.  
 10       There is even no way to call this in any way a  
 11 competitive event, because it isn't. You're not  
 12 competing with anybody other than you and the cards,  
 13 just like when you sit down at a black jack table in  
 14 Vegas. And that's all we do.  
 15       This year I received a letter that said it's  
 16 going to cost me \$8,605 plus five dollars per entry for  
 17 each of these events, which means that for an event that  
 18 raises about \$5,000, I pay the BLM \$5,425. That's what  
 19 I just paid in the last couple of weeks. I made a down  
 20 payment, let's say it that way, because they've been  
 21 very kind about that too. But there's no way to even  
 22 break even.  
 23       Now, Mrs. Symons has told me that she and her  
 24 staff are working on this part of the problem to help  
 25 next year, and I appreciate that because someone has

Page 172

1 listened, and it's her. She has listened. She does not  
 2 know -- I don't know if anybody knows how to get  
 3 Washington to tell us that this is not a race. We are  
 4 not doing anything that's race related and so on. But  
 5 when you go to your insurance company and they say,  
 6 "What kind of an event do you have?" and we tell them,  
 7 they say, "What does BLM -- how is it listed?"  
 8       "Well, it's listed as a competitive motorized  
 9 event."  
 10       "You mean a race?"  
 11       "Yes, that's what I mean. That's what BLM  
 12 says." Well, your insurance is sky high compared to  
 13 what it normally would be. We've been there for 30  
 14 years. We've never had a lawsuit. We've done  
 15 everything by the books. We gave BLM insurance before  
 16 it was required. We brought out Porta Potties before it  
 17 was required. I've been doing this for 30 years.  
 18       When we first started, we had a beer booth, and  
 19 we sold beer. That's how long ago it is. You can't do  
 20 that anymore, which I understand. Motorized events, I  
 21 don't believe there should be alcohol involved. And it  
 22 didn't bother me to give that up at all because I didn't  
 23 just think it went. And Budweiser was a sponsor, and  
 24 they went to O'Doul's non-alcoholic beer and stayed with  
 25 us. So we do not promote alcohol in any way, shape or

Page 173

1 form. But in the old days, of course, we did.  
 2       CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for bringing this  
 3 issue to our attention. I do think we have heard from a  
 4 few individuals with similar concerns and complaints. I  
 5 think at the next SRP Subgroup meeting this will be  
 6 discussed further. I know Kim has a comment, but I will  
 7 assure you that this has been brought before the DAC,  
 8 and we all feel concern that SRP permits are  
 9 appropriately designated and the noticing and costs are  
 10 appropriate as well. So thank you for your comments.  
 11       MR. WESSEL: Thank you. I appreciate it.  
 12       CHAIRPERSON SALL: And we definitely are  
 13 looking into that.  
 14       MR. WESSEL: Yes, ma'am.  
 15       MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: I wanted to explain how  
 16 this came up. Prior to our last SRP Subgroup meeting, I  
 17 received an e-mail from Clayton Miller, who is one of  
 18 the subgroup members, and he forwarded this and made  
 19 sure it was distributed at the meeting. It's an article  
 20 in the Desert Dispatch about his poker run and what  
 21 happened and how the costs are so significantly higher  
 22 this year because it was deemed to be a competitive  
 23 event rather than a commercial event. So I reached out  
 24 to Mr. Wessel. Have I got the name right?  
 25       MR. WESSEL: Yes, ma'am.

Page 174

1 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: Because I think this is  
 2 something that need to be addressed. And I know that Ed  
 3 Waldheim has had a similar experience. Anyway CORVA was  
 4 concerned. A lot of people are concerned about this  
 5 because they hold similar events and will be affected by  
 6 this type of a determination.

7 MR. WESSEL: Well, I appreciate everything this  
 8 committee does. And again I really appreciate the  
 9 efforts of the BLM in Barstow. It's been great. Thank  
 10 you.

11 MEMBER CAMPELL-ERB: He explained to me on the  
 12 phone that he has had nothing but a wonderful experience  
 13 with Katrina and the Barstow office, that they have  
 14 treated him very kindly.

15 MR. WESSEL: If you want a good handshake,  
 16 shake her hand.

17 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. Next  
 18 member of the public to speak is Ainsworth Hunt, and  
 19 again if we could try and keep our public comments to  
 20 the three minutes. Thank you.

21 MR. HUNT: I'm Ainsworth Hunt. I'm a member of  
 22 Gold Searchers of Southern California and also GPAA,  
 23 GPAA being the largest amateur prospect organization and  
 24 has claims in all 50 states. Gold Searchers in Southern  
 25 Nevada operates in both in Nevada and in Arizona.

Page 175

1 I look at the special areas designated by  
 2 statute or secretarial order, and examples include  
 3 recreational mining in designated areas in California on  
 4 BLM's website. I also look at organized group  
 5 activities and event use. The Gold Searchers of  
 6 Southern Nevada goes on group outings, and I believe  
 7 GPAA does too. I can't speak officially for either of  
 8 the clubs. I'm not sure if the last speaker actually  
 9 doesn't fall into an organized group activity as opposed  
 10 to commercial. I don't know if he's a non-profit or  
 11 not. But if he is, that would be an organized group  
 12 activity.

13 Anyway, there is an interaction going on  
 14 between the permit requirements and designated areas and  
 15 the mining law of 1872, as amended more recently. And  
 16 the mining law has an area in it that talks about three  
 17 levels of surface management, and it talks about people  
 18 who are amateur miners. It talks about people who are  
 19 more highly classified. The problem that amateur miners  
 20 are running into is that more and more areas are being  
 21 designated as special use areas, and we are running into  
 22 issues where roads are being closed where our claims are  
 23 on the way. And then all of a sudden we need to have an  
 24 operating plan.

25 The law says in the 1872 statute that for an

Page 176

1 amateur miner or a casual miner, no plan or permit is  
 2 required. All of a sudden we're running into issues  
 3 where we need to have plans and permits and 180 days  
 4 advance notice in order to even get to our claims.  
 5 GPAA, I don't think, would ever manage to be able to get  
 6 a plan out, and I can't speak for Gold Searchers of  
 7 Southern Nevada, but if we're going to run into  
 8 situations like this, essentially Bureau of Land  
 9 Management is shutting us down completely.

10 Thank you for letting me speak.

11 MR. LUND: Amen. Thank you.  
 12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you. Next speaker is  
 14 Angel Lund.

15 MRS. LUND: Hello again. Okay. There seems to  
 16 be some confusion when it comes to mining, where it's  
 17 casual as compared to like foreign interests or a large  
 18 mine. When we go out and mine, we're working hard in  
 19 the dirt. We're working with tools, hand tools, things  
 20 like that, maybe a dry washer. It is very, very  
 21 difficult work in the desert. I don't care where you  
 22 are, it is work. It is not recreation. Sure, we're out  
 23 there in the sun, but we're looking for this stuff  
 24 (indicating). This is what we are looking for, is the  
 25 gold.

Page 177

1 Okay. If we go out there on our ATV and zoom  
 2 around or whatever yeah, maybe we are recreating, but  
 3 we're having some big problems, especially with this  
 4 SRP. To begin with, BLM and other agencies raised  
 5 prices on us. We pay \$140 per 20-acre claim. Sometimes  
 6 you need 360 acres to find one little tiny spot of gold.  
 7 Sometimes you don't find anything, and you've been out  
 8 there working for a day or two.

9 Now, we've got -- and we're looking, and  
 10 there's no exceptions for us in these rules and  
 11 regulations that I have before me on the SRP's. Just  
 12 the opposite. It includes us in there, because I cannot  
 13 find any place in there that exempts mining.

14 So first we're going to pay \$140 for 20 acres.  
 15 Then we're going to have to apply for every day that I  
 16 can think of that we might want to go out there. And  
 17 now remember, the way it's stated, that's two or more  
 18 people. It's too dangerous to go out there and mine by  
 19 myself, so I'm already a group. Then I've got to pay  
 20 probably, because the road -- you guys are closing all  
 21 the roads that are going over to the claims.

22 That puts me in a different classification.  
 23 Now I have to go back. I have to get a plan of  
 24 operation. I have to contact BLM again. I have to get  
 25 permits to even just go through there. So I have got a

Page 178

1 big hornet's nest through all of this. We need to  
2 figure out where mining fits and either make some rules,  
3 make some regulations, do something so that we have an  
4 idea where we stand. We don't know. We're already  
5 getting harassed by BLM officers in Arizona, Oregon,  
6 Washington.  
7 MR. WESSEL: Every state.  
8 MS. LUND: Every state that has BLM land, we're  
9 already getting harassed. If we have to pay for an SRP,  
10 we are being double fined for that same piece of land.  
11 When we're in water, you know, we remove mercury, we  
12 removed lead. We make the environment healthy. We pull  
13 noxious weeds in the desert and on creeks and things  
14 like that. We fill the holes. We do a lot of work out  
15 there that you guys just don't see.  
16 Yeah, the field trips, other things. Then if  
17 by chance we decide to have some kind of a raffle or  
18 something like that, then suddenly we're going to be  
19 jumped up into another category, and it's going to cost  
20 us even more money. We go out there, and we're working  
21 like the dickens in the dirt, and we're not recreating.  
22 We are working. We have a lot of money invested in our  
23 equipment. We pay a lot of money.  
24 We also have another problem. We've got  
25 snowbirds that come down from all these other cities and

Page 179

1 states and stuff, and they are coming down here.  
2 They're in their RV's. Well, they stop on a mining  
3 claim. Guess what? Suddenly it happens to be in a  
4 special use area. They don't know that. All they know  
5 is they're going to the mining claim that's a GPAA  
6 claim. They get harassed by a BLM officer, "Where is  
7 your plan of operations? What gives you the right to be  
8 on this mining claim? You have to have a permit for  
9 this. You have to have a permit for that."  
10 We're not happy. As it is, our club is so  
11 unhappy being accosted in December at our meeting that  
12 half of our members won't even come down and talk to  
13 BLM. Now, as you see you've got people here from  
14 mining, California, Arizona, Nevada. And this is on a  
15 Mother's Day weekend. We could three times fill this if  
16 it was not on Mother's Day weekend just with us, not  
17 even including other groups.  
18 I appreciate being on the SRP subcommittee. I  
19 really appreciate that, because I would have no idea  
20 this was coming down. None of us would. We don't hear  
21 anything like that. No one tells us about this. Things  
22 are going to get passed, and we will have no say. We  
23 need to have a say.  
24 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for your comments  
25 and for coming today and sharing that. That's very

Page 180

1 helpful. We'll look forward to more information coming  
2 from the SRP report on how these are being resolved and  
3 information on that. Thank you very much.  
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do I have to fill out a  
5 card to speak?  
6 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Yes, you do, yes, ma'am.  
7 The last one speaker I have right now is Ed Waldheim.  
8 MR. WALDHEIM: Thank you, madam chair.  
9 Ed Waldheim, California Trail Users Coalition. SRP,  
10 Kim, you've got your work cut out. We need to simplify  
11 our life. Diamond Resort says, "We simplify your  
12 vacation so you can enjoy it." BLM needs to get into  
13 that mode. You're spending way too much time on  
14 minutia. A guy who ruins a dual sport event, big deal.  
15 Give him the bloody permit in 30 minutes. Go out and  
16 have fun. Anybody else that doesn't have any impact on  
17 the ground should be a no-brainer. And we make a  
18 mountain out of absolutely nothing, tying up staff in  
19 knots, getting bad publicity charging for fees.  
20 I will not put a poker run on anymore because  
21 it's not worth my time dealing with the BLM to give  
22 something to people who clean up later on to go have  
23 some fun. It's worth my time. And a poker run, all  
24 you're doing is pulling stupid cards, and then we give  
25 them a trophy. They got No. 1 place, No. 2 place. Half

Page 181

1 the time we just give them a certificate. There's no  
2 money. We make some money to pay for the expenses.  
3 Friends of Jawbone, I spent \$3,000 in food and  
4 T-shirts. I'm not going to come up with that money.  
5 BLM is certainly not helping me. They used to but not  
6 anymore. Where are we going to come up with that kind  
7 of money? The people are willing to donate. Let them  
8 donate. What's the big problem? You want partnerships?  
9 Well, let's make it possible for partnerships to enjoy  
10 themselves. It's crazy. So I think the SRP really has  
11 to do something on that.  
12 The ARAC, the ARAC. We need to simplify  
13 Dumont Dunes. We want to simplify the permit proces.  
14 You guys have stopped us and said, "We don't have the  
15 staff. We have to do a management plan," et cetera,  
16 et cetera, et cetera. Somewhere along the line we want  
17 to simplify the thing, but we don't want to make a big  
18 mountain in order to go and do that. They are meeting  
19 again, so somewhere along the line we need to put that  
20 on agenda so we can simplify that permit over there.  
21 El mirage, we're doing fine just the way it is.  
22 Doing fine. We don't have any problem with that one.  
23 And we meet every month, so we get reports from Katrina,  
24 so we're in good shape in that. That's about it. I'm  
25 going to give you 52 seconds.

Page 182

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you.  
2 MEMBER CAMPBELL-ERB: I'm going to read you some  
3 things from the regulations and from the handbook for  
4 the SRP's that is part of the reason why we have the  
5 subgroup. And Teri Raml, the District Director, would  
6 really like to help us to streamline this, I think. And  
7 that's why we have the SRP subgroup. But let me read to  
8 you what it says.  
9 "An organized group activity means it's a  
10 structured, ordered, consolidated or scheduled event on  
11 or occupation of Public Lands for the purpose of  
12 recreational use that is not commercial or competitive."  
13 This is a group event. And it says, "A group  
14 is loosely defined as more than one person participating  
15 in a recreation activity or event." This is one of the  
16 things that's causing the grief that we're having.  
17 And then to further make it difficult, "The  
18 authorized officer determines when a permit is required  
19 for an organized group activity or event based on  
20 planning decisions, resources, concerns, potential user  
21 conflicts or public health and safety issues. The  
22 threshold size of a group requiring a permit would be  
23 impossible to establish on a national basis. The  
24 threshold, if any, must be determined for each area.  
25 For example, ten people in a sensitive riparian area may

Page 183

1 constitute an organized group, but a less sensitive  
2 upland area may be able to handle 200 people without the  
3 need for special management. Thresholds must be based  
4 upon planning resource concerns, potential user  
5 conflicts or public health and safety. Field officers  
6 are encouraged to develop thresholds through land use  
7 planning for when permits are required for organized  
8 groups and events for specific types of recreational  
9 activity, land areas or research settings."  
10 I think there might be a way where we can come  
11 up with something a little more straightforward so that  
12 you can go to a website and know, okay. There's ten  
13 people going to this location. If they tell us for  
14 these special areas you have to apply for a permit, to  
15 find out whether you need one or not. But for a large  
16 number of areas there's probably some threshold that can  
17 be used that will make it easier.  
18 We really want to come to something, some sort  
19 of guidelines to make it easier for everybody. So if  
20 anybody is concerned about this, please get involved in  
21 the Special Recreation Permit Subgroup. That's what  
22 we're about. And we need a lot more input than we're  
23 getting right now. So please get involved.  
24 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you, Kim.  
25 Calling the final speakers. Ms. Costen. Is it Deanna?

Page 184

1 Deanna Costen, welcome. You have three minutes, please.  
2 MS. COSTEN: My name is Deanna Costen,  
3 president of one of the local chapters of Gold  
4 Prospectors of America out of Las Vegas, Nevada. I  
5 don't speak for Gold Prospectors of America. I speak  
6 for myself.  
7 One of the things that I would like to see a  
8 study on is the loss of snowbird habitat down in  
9 Quartzsite. Do you know what a snowbird is? That's  
10 somebody, when it gets damn cold in one place, they head  
11 where it's damn hot in another. These are people who  
12 spend time. I have met people who are 90 years old who  
13 every day hike five miles. We have a group of people,  
14 BLM, Public Lands, coming in and telling people who have  
15 worked all their life for something they can do. We  
16 have people who are speaking a language right here that  
17 I do not understand.  
18 What I am saying to you is, I work very hard,  
19 and so do other people, to take people to go out. We  
20 enjoy ourselves. We make no profit. We dig holes. We  
21 fill holes. We have a good time. We're here to work  
22 with people. But 180 days for two days? Maybe we're  
23 confused. But let's do a study on what's going to  
24 happen to the snowbirds when there's no place for them  
25 to land.

Page 185

1 Also on the windmills, turn the damn things off  
2 when the birds are flying. You're closing the land that  
3 the snowbirds are going to come down to. You think the  
4 economy crashed a while back? You wait until those  
5 snowbirds don't go into Arizona, California or Nevada.  
6 You watch an economy drop like a bucket. If you don't  
7 think so, you have not reached that point in your life.  
8 I have.  
9 Another thing, Dumont, too much money. That's  
10 the reason people stopped going up. I was going to  
11 Dumont in a 70cc, you go down there, go (making revving  
12 sound), fall over, get back farther, (making revving  
13 sound), fall over. Too much money. One hundred sixty  
14 bucks to go a year, too much money. Too many guys  
15 standing up on the top doing nothing.  
16 But let's do a study again about the snowbirds  
17 throughout the western United States. You guys's money  
18 comes from where? Us who spend money in different  
19 places. Am I mistaken? Am I mistaken? I'm asking you,  
20 how do you have your jobs? It's because we go out and  
21 use BLM property.  
22 MEMBER CAMPBELL-ERB: We're not paid. We're  
23 volunteers.  
24 MS. COSTEN: I understand that. But I'm saying  
25 BLM. Okay? It's the same thing in Las Vegas, Nevada.

	Page 186		Page 188
<p>1 When the economy closed, the town almost shut down.  2 We've come back into it. My lack of knowledge, I'm  3 depending on other people. But again I'd like to see a  4 study on snowbirds who land on different warm climates.  5 They are a species, they are an entity, they are an  6 income. Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you for your comments.  8 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Almost done.  9 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Almost done. This closes  10 our public comments for the day. Thank you to the  11 members of the public who attended today and took time  12 to give us your comments. We appreciate the  13 interaction.</p> <p>14 The last item on our agenda is our wrap-up and  15 discussion of agenda items for the next meeting. The  16 next meeting will be September 26th and 27th in the  17 Barstow Field Office. The theme of that meeting will be  18 Working Landscapes and Ecological Processes. We have  19 had a few items suggested that I think we need a little  20 refinement in clarification from BLM on what  21 presentations and speakers may be available. So I think  22 we can handle that portion off-line via e-mail.</p> <p>23 Do we have some comments from the DAC at this  24 point or suggestions, given the update I just provided?  25 Randy?</p>		<p>1 all the old meetings have been grouped on the right side  2 so you can find all the information about previous  3 meetings that we've held, as well as what's coming up on  4 our upcoming meeting.</p> <p>5 The first thing that's most important is up on  6 the top left. That will be information about the next  7 meeting, the location and the place. You'll generally  8 see that about 30 days prior to the DAC meetings. Our  9 notice requirements are 15 to 30-day notice  10 requirements. And now right here on the page you've got  11 any news-type things, such as we have application  12 periods that are open. If we have things that the DAC  13 is soliciting and it's open and it's for applications or  14 comments, we've got it right there in the notes and  15 news. The subgroups have their own links to their own  16 subgroup pages.</p> <p>17 I'll go to one before we close. The  18 information is important. The charter. The charter is  19 superior to the bylaws. The federal government issues  20 us the charter. We get to revise our bylaws, but we  21 can't go contrary to the charter. So if you're  22 interested in knowing more about the DAC and what we can  23 and can't do, that's where you look, to the bylaws and  24 the charter, and they're very short. The charter is  25 only a couple of pages long. Bylaws are only a couple</p>	
<p>1 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: May I. I'm sorry to  2 trouble you. There's one very small item for just a  3 minute I'd like to bring up. And if Steve could turn on  4 the projector. And it's my fault. I should have  5 covered this earlier, but I think it's quick and  6 important.</p> <p>7 I just want to share with DAC members and  8 members of the audience, if they haven't seen it yet,  9 the new and improved DAC web page and web area that I  10 want to give shout-outs and kudos to the External  11 Affairs Division for upgrading and updating for us.</p> <p>12 The easiest way to find out more about the  13 Desert Advisory Council is to go right to your Google  14 page, plain old Google page, and simply type in "Desert  15 Advisory Council." And when you do so, provided you  16 have internet access, first item that comes right up is  17 Desert Advisory Council. There it is. Easy to get to  18 and easy to find.</p> <p>19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Blm.gov.  20 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: But you don't have to  21 type all of that. All you have to do is type "Desert  22 Advisory Council" into Google then click that link.  23 When you click that link, you come to the Desert  24 Advisory Council's web page. What's neat about the new  25 and improved, I'd like to point out, is that you notice</p>	Page 187	<p>1 more than that. So you'll understand who we are  2 advising and what we can give advice on. And that would  3 be helpful for participants and all of us to brush up on  4 from time to time.</p> <p>5 And let me click over here where the meetings  6 are. I'm going to click this for the first one for  7 May 9th and 10th. If you click any of the meeting  8 pages, you get this standard template. The template has  9 the agenda, the minutes, our field trip minutes and all  10 the reports, so you can even get the reports from the  11 old meetings and old things that are going on.</p> <p>12 And I really think it's terrific what you've  13 done, because it used to be sort of one meeting at a  14 time. That's all you had for info, and now we've got  15 this, so I really appreciate that very much. So you've  16 done a really good job there.</p> <p>17 And then just to click -- for example, you go  18 to one of the subgroup pages. They're all again  19 templated with the mission of the subgroup, what it's  20 all about. And if you look off to the right, you've got  21 your agendas. You've got your list of members with this  22 Connecting People to the Desert.</p> <p>23 MR. RAZO: Seth, I want you to know your flower  24 picture is going to go up.  25 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Yeah. We're going to</p>	Page 189

Page 190

1 have a different picture there, but it tells about it,  
2 and you'll see that the meetings are there. I should  
3 have gone -- let's go to this one. This is the most  
4 popular of the subgroups, the ISDRA Subgroup. So you  
5 can see this one is already populated. You're got your  
6 meetings down the bottom, what the dates are. You've  
7 got your agendas, your subgroup members. In terms you  
8 can see how many seats are open, how many are filled and  
9 so forth. This is a great resource. And thanks, Steve,  
10 for putting that together.  
11 (Applause.)  
12 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: I'm sorry, folks. I  
13 should have brought this up earlier in the day, but too  
14 much on my list. Thank you. And just my last thing is  
15 with regard to today, I received wonderful clarification  
16 on some great things. Thank you for helping clarify  
17 Johnson Valley for me, helping me clarify WEMO, but I am  
18 now more and more confused with regard to gem and  
19 mineral collecting, whether it fits under recreation law  
20 under mining law, how it's going to be. And I'm really  
21 looking forward to us clarifying that and learning more  
22 about it.  
23 So thank you, April, for letting me throw that  
24 in under the closing comments by the members. Thank  
25 you.

Page 191

1 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Absolutely. Now I have  
2 members of the public jumping up and down over here, so  
3 we should have brought that up earlier. So really  
4 quick, if the DAC is okay, we'll entertain whatever this  
5 comment or question is.  
6 MRS. LUND: On your website, when you put the  
7 date, could you please put the time? I can't tell you  
8 how many phone calls I got for the time.  
9 DIRECTOR RAML: Good suggestion. Thank you.  
10 MR. LUND: What time the meeting is, yeah.  
11 MS. LUND: Thank you.  
12 MR. RAZO: It's on the agenda.  
13 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Just one quick  
14 clarification. The field trip link on there is for the  
15 itinerary, not minutes. There's no minutes on the field  
16 trip.  
17 VICE-CHAIRPERSON BANIS: Thank you.  
18 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Other DAC comments? Don?  
19 MEMBER HOUSTON: As April mentioned, our next  
20 meeting is not until September, but that doesn't mean  
21 we're not working. And there are many subgroup  
22 meetings. There's a subcommittee meeting, you heard,  
23 the May 22nd date for the Corridor Management webinar.  
24 And I encourage all of you to participate. In the words  
25 of one of our greatest patriots, "The cost of freedom is

Page 192

1 constant vigilance." And your participation and the  
2 work, the volunteer work by many members of the DAC and  
3 the subgroup members is where your public comments are  
4 given serious consideration. So again I encourage your  
5 participation in the subgroups. And for those who have  
6 participated, I thank you.  
7 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Thank you, Don. Other  
8 comments or questions on this side? No? Okay. Yes,  
9 Jessica.  
10 MEMBER REILLY: So I just wanted to reiterate  
11 again my desire to understand more about the water  
12 resources in the desert as part of the working  
13 landscapes. And I think it would be beneficial to  
14 everyone to make this story as simple as possible, so if  
15 it included a map of the resources, map of water, the  
16 current uses, the planned uses. I think that as much as  
17 it could be simplified, especially in visual form, in  
18 map form, that would be very useful to the DAC and to  
19 the public.  
20 DIRECTOR RAML: And we might have to have some  
21 dialogue back and forth, because it's a pretty darn big  
22 desert. So I really appreciate you want to make that  
23 simple. So there's interest in the Amargosas. There  
24 interest in the Chuckwalla Basin. And maybe we can pick  
25 one of a size that we can keep -- you know, that has

Page 193

1 some scale that allows for some understanding. So I'll  
2 get back and forth with folks, because we had two kind  
3 of extremes.  
4 As those of you on our last field trip know, we  
5 have two excellent hydrologists at our district office.  
6 Both of them are very good and could describe many of  
7 the basins that they work in.  
8 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you, Teri. I  
9 think all of the DAC would be very interested, as would  
10 the public, in that water resource discussion. Great.  
11 Thank you. Seth?  
12 MEMBER SHTEIR: I just had one part. That is,  
13 in working landscapes, I'd love to see something about  
14 the recreational value of our landscapes in terms of  
15 economic amenity values for all sorts of recreation.  
16 CHAIRPERSON SALL: Great. Thank you. I agree.  
17 I think that's very appropriate. And one of the items  
18 that fell off of our list as a theme from last year  
19 because of meetings being cancelled because of the  
20 government shutdown was related to volunteers and  
21 partnership projects and sort of honoring some of those  
22 volunteer efforts for BLM projects. And I would like to  
23 work with Katrina and members of the DAC to potentially  
24 find a few examples that we can highlight in the Barstow  
25 meeting of September. So that would be a great thing to

1 bring back in the working landscapes conversation as  
 2 well.  
 3 Any other comments? All right. Thank you,  
 4 members of the public. Thank you, BLM, for all the work  
 5 you've done to get our meeting together today. And  
 6 thank you, DAC members. Everyone have a safe drive.  
 7 Thank you.  
 8  
 9 (The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.)  
 10  
 11 ---o0o---  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5 I, Diane Carver Mann, C.S.R. No. 6008, in and  
 6 for the State of California, do hereby certify:  
 7 That the foregoing pages were taken down by me  
 8 in shorthand at the time and place stated herein and  
 9 represent a true and correct transcript of said  
 10 proceedings.  
 11 I further certify that I am not interested in  
 12 the event of the action.  
 13 Witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
 14 \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 Certified Shorthand  
 21 Reporter in and for the  
 22 State of California  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 MOTIONS  
 2  
 3 A. Maker: Erb-Campbell  
 4 Seconder: Shteir  
 5 Motion: To approve the DRECP consent calendar  
 6 Result: Carried  
 7  
 8 B. Maker: Shteir  
 9 Seconder: Banis  
 10 Motion: The Desert Advisory Council recommends  
 11 that the Bureau of Land Management accept the  
 12 United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
 13 recommendation to the Bureau of Land Management  
 14 to reject the variance application for the  
 15 Silurian Valley Solar Project that is outlined  
 16 in a letter from February 6, 2014.  
 17 Subsequently the DAC will draft a letter to  
 18 Director Kenna stating this.  
 19 Result: Carried  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1  
 2  
 3  
 4  
 5  
 6  
 7  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25