

To: Supervisor Josie Gonzales  
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Supervisor Robert Lovingood  
Supervisor Janice Rutherford  
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San Bernardino County Government Center  
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**RE: COUNTY RESPONSE TO THE DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP)**

The Planning Commission's recent approval of the Agincourt and Marathon industrial-scale, photo-voltaic solar projects in Lucerne Valley was based on current County Plans and Codes that were formulated prior to any indication that utility-scale "renewable" solar/wind projects would become such a dominant land-use issue in the County. The County system – its General Plan – Development Code – and community plans are NOT formulated with zoning and siting criteria necessary to deal with this onslaught. All 6 alternatives of the draft, State/Federal DRECP have Lucerne Valley totally included within and surrounded by "Development Focus Areas" - essentially the State and Feds. zoning our private lands for these projects – fast-tracking and side-stepping the normal land-use approval process - without the County's or residents participation. Under leadership from Supervisors Ramos and Lovingood and their staffs – the County is becoming aware of the DRECP and its adverse affect on the land-use, economics, custom and culture of Lucerne Valley and other communities – working with us at the local level – requesting the State CEC to hold meetings and hearings in these 'target' areas.

We request the County to inform the CEC/State DFW/BLM, etc. that the currently proposed DRECP program and alternatives will result in a County rejection. We also ask for a County moratorium on any future "renewable energy" applications until local plans and codes can be updated to direct them to the most appropriate areas. We need said zoning at the local level – which Lucerne Valley is prepared to work on – (ie: areas of level ground – sparse vegetation – minimal habitat value - fallowed ag. land that is no longer arable – areas of minimal or poor

quality groundwater – minimal or no flood control issues – no nearby residential development – with minor view shed/aesthetic impacts - available transmission lines and/or potential for easements to SCE substations, etc.). These projects afford little if any economic benefit – usually involve non-local construction crews – very few permanent jobs – minimal increase in assessed value and property tax revenue – with a possible net reduction when factor in devaluations of adjacent and surrounding properties due to their presence.

The recently approved solar fields in the southern portion of our community (not our preferred location for such projects) - in addition to the previously approved Chevron Solar project east of Lucerne Valley (which we opposed) – with numerous other applications in the system or proposed - will significantly prejudice and hinder our ability to influence the State to direct these projects to the most appropriate locations without immediate County action . The land-use and economic future of Lucerne Valley and our neighboring communities is at stake.