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Friday, May 31, 2013

TO:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.ca.gov

FROM:

California Desert District Mining Coalition

RE: CDDMC included as Stakeholder, Coordination, Exclude Kern County from DRECP, Maintain Multiple Use with NO Mineral Closure, Exclusion of Certain Affiliate Mines,

California Energy Commission,

Our organization is the California Desert District Mining Coalition (“CDDMC”) representing mining organizations, mining clubs, mineral organizations, current mining companies whom are not listed in DRECP Appendices E, along with individual miners and the general public who are interested in mining availability and mining rights which are positive catalysts for many industries including and not limited to the great American manufacturing industry. The CDDMC and affiliates are a substantial representation of many interested parties and mining claims in the California Desert District.

In regards to the DRECP, the CDDMC respectfully considers itself a “Stake Holder” in the development of the conservation plans for the proposed future renewable energy projects which are represented to be an “unprecedented collaborative effort for all concerned. The CDDMC has inquired multiple times with various regulatory groups and with individuals about how we (CDDMC) might best interface as a responsible voice and Stake Holder. Once again, we hereby request a Category Listing for Mining and Minerals Resources thereby respectfully requesting that CDDMC would be listed as an official Stake Holder under the Mining and Mineral Resource

category. The CDDMC has an equal share of interest and responsibility as to how the planning and preventative measures are implemented and we might share an enlightened and additional perspective as the DRECP proceeds in a legal and moral coordinated effort. CDDMC offers substantial benefits, knowledge and expertise to our local communities, state and nation with the ability to extract viable and vital minerals, rare earths and metals from public lands.

Mining can be accomplished in a safe, green and environmentally friendly manner and will create the badly needed NEW long-term and high-paying jobs which contribute to the local, state, and national economy with new long-term tax dollars and revenues. (“Mining permits are usually anywhere from 20-50 years”.) Currently there are many investment groups and companies ready to invest into the mining industry in California and immediately ready to invest into Kern County. These investments/investors, have committed to a state and federal investment program and continue to show interest in future investment per the good faith of such representations and warranties by direct and indirect parties in this area.

It is our perspective and many regulatory experts, that Our “Public Lands” are considered “Multiple Use Areas” defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. As stated in Title 1, Section 102, -12 “that the Public Lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the nations need for domestic sources of Minerals, food timber, etc.” The CDDMC’s intention is to continue to fulfill that need and to coordinate with regulatory on a country, state and domestic basis. As you may be aware, there is thousands of mineral claims just in the California Desert District mentioned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State District office, some of which that are in the proposed, “Development Focus Areas” considered by the DRECP. The geometric result of a positive or a negative impact for these claims and affiliates could be devastating.

For decades the mining community has worked closely with the BLM (And by extension the Department of Interior) to remain good stewards of our public lands. Just recently there has been more participation, as a result of the CDDMC due diligence and continued quest for transparent disclosure regarding the BLM and their ability to articulate the chronology of said planning for the DRECP. It is the vision of the CDDMC that mining will be more adequately represented by the BLM and the DRECP, as the mining interests warrant a responsible and transparent exchange of provocative research and empirical facts.

Stated in DRECP Documents:

Under the alternatives, the mining industry in Kern County votes for “NO ACTION”. Under the comparisons that are currently provided for the following Environmental Resource Categories: Minerals and Mining. The Randsburg, Freemont areas of Kern County, should not be considered, as the area is the floor to the “Aerial Supersonic Highway” between Edwards Air Force Base and China Lakes Naval Weapons Center not excluding the area is already under so many cross contaminate Area of Critical Environmental Concerns (“ACEC”). Additionally, East Kern County is in an “Economically Depressed Area” (“EDA”) of which mining can provide a preventative cure to the famished economic area with NEW long-term, high paying jobs for the local communities. (“Usually 20-50 years”) Unfortunately the renewable energy industry and projects have an abundance of short-term jobs with lower pay than mining.

Conclusion and Recommendation #1:

CDDMC recommends exclusion of Kern County area from DRECP.

Appendices E:

CDDMC does not agree that only the currently listed mines are the only ones to be excluded from the DRECP. There are many more mining operations that have spent substantial capital to date, and these operators are still investing in good faith. Some of these mines have filed timely paperwork and are literally waiting multiple years for their responses, permits and some are still waiting for Surface Mines and Reclamation Administration (“SMARA”) to approve their Plans of Operations (“POO”). The mining community frustratingly assumes because of the voluminous rules, regulations and laws that the process has been stricken with a coefficient of friction. As part of the permitting process, mining companies have continued to invest in good faith in often-parallel requirements like the Biotic studies ahead of their applications. The compounding injury that could be sustained to the Wall Street communities, the local counties, the local communities and the good faith of the miners could be an encumbering number. These mines should also be included with a voice as a significant Stake Holder.

Conclusion and Recommendation #2:

The DRECP recognizes and adds all mining companies, projects and operations that have been patiently and diligently waiting for their applications to go through for the permitting process which eats up months and years of time, and requires a parallel path of capital investment in good faith. Once again we would request that these mines should also be excluded from any lists with the DRECP.

Current mines requesting this are:

Sleepy Bear Mining, LLC 420 Acres

G&G Mining 560 acres

The CDDMC requests that you add immediately the Sleepy Bear Mining operation, (Have worked closely with BLM) specifically the Bowstring Project, into the mine category as the others are listed in the High priority operation exclusions which are referenced by name with their respective footprint (acreage) in the Appendices E, Page 98, Existing High Priority Mineral/Energy Operations. The Bowstring Project area is historic for great placer gold, silver, tungsten and rare earths. This operation focuses on 10 acres or less at a time until land reclamation has occurred. There are no chemicals used nor rock crushing. Modification permits have been started, but have been stalled because agencies and counties are claiming they are overwhelmed and confused with ambiguous verbiage and incestuous conflicts juxtaposed over an area by multiple regulatory agencies claiming their rule or interpretation supercedes another’s perspective or rule.

Final Summary

1. We are placer miners and we restore the land into pristine condition allowing for a quick full eco-system recovery. Sleepy Bear Mining (SBM) is the epitome of environmentally friendly and green mining able to reclaim the land in a matter of hours. Re-graded, re-contoured, no pooling or ponding, landscaped back to as original as possible with boulders and rocks, re-planting of flora from genetic seedlings from the local area, reseeding with proper seed mixtures for the area and within months insects and fauna come back do to the ease of digging burrows leaving the rest to Mother Nature. *Example: The Washington DC environmental committee and local biologists from the Randsburg area have observed and recorded that tortoise colonies seem to thrive on reclaimed tailings areas on mining land.*

The green and environmental committee from Washington DC, The EmeraldPlanet®©, flew out to view the project and bless it as an environmentally friendly and green project wanting SBM to teach these environmentally friendly mining practices and mine land reclamation techniques to national and international mining audience as part of, "Environmentally friendly and green best practices in land reclamation and mining". Mining and land reclamation has changed in the placer mining industry.

2. Many placer miners are now very green and cognizant of the environment. Most placer miners in the latter part of the 20th century have always mined environmentally friendly not because they were afraid of the public, but that it was the right thing to do and in doing that it has helped to educate the public that responsible mining can be done.

3. The mining community has lately been working to "coordinate" with all parties so there can be a definable vector or map for all to follow since 99.9% of the mining community and the area public have not properly been informed or know about DRECP.

4. Economy - many people have invested their life's savings into their mines since the price of precious metals and rare earths have greatly increased in value. These natural resources are needed and are at a price for everyone to receive a MULTIPLE on their investment, figuring that one day their hard work and toil would pay for a retirement. People need this faith, and hope in their toil and in their country, especially at this time in the economy and world standings. The mom and pop mining companies hire and contribute back to the economy an average more than the big companies if they are backed by local, state and federal agencies. Taking these mining jobs away potentially eradicates any recovery and may perpetuate a fatal blow to the economic area and its inhabitants..

5. CDDMC and Mining are considerate of the needs for biodiversity and sustainability and continue to support the recreation and outdoor multiple use industry. We are acutely aware of biological mitigation and conservation factors. However, Mining, would appreciate some reciprocity with these affiliate groups instead of being left out of the "Stake Holder" groups, needing its own category. Presently CDDMC and Sleep Bear Mine have been putting together a curriculum for educational purposes on mining, corporate social responsibility, biological mitigation, conservation, and biodiversity. We are in discussions to have a national broadcast channel on these subject matters and look forward to said coordination efforts with our transparent partners for sustainability.

Anyway you look at it. **If it's not grown, it's mined.**

Signed

The California Desert District Mining Coalition

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<http://www.cddmc.com>

cc: DAC Committee
BLM Moreno Valley and Ridgecrest
Kern County Planning
All Small Mining Groups
Small Commercial Mines
Congressman Paul Cook
Assemblyman Tim Donnelly
State Senator Steve Knight
San Bernardino County Supervisor
Robert Lovingood
Senator Jean Fuller
Assemblyman Shannon Grove
Congressman Buck McKeon