Sample letter (Courtesy of The Wilderness Society)

California State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-1623
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Director Perez,

I am extremely concerned about the administration’s intent to reopen the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). This plan is based on eight years of scientific analysis, input from 16,000 public comments, and collaboration between state and federal agencies, renewable energy developers, conservationists, and other stakeholders. The plan is consistent with the Bureau of Land Management’s multiple use mission and balances conservation, recreation, renewable energy development and other uses of public lands.

Revising the DRECP to reduce protection for lands with important habitat, recreational opportunities, or archaeological, historical and Native American sites is a step in the wrong direction.

The administration’s stated goal of enabling more energy development is baseless. According to the California Energy Commission, the current plan allocates enough land for renewable energy development to meet the state's ambitious renewable energy goals.

I urge the administration to abandon its effort to revise the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and instead leave the current plan in place. If the administration proceeds, it must do so in compliance with all federal legal requirements and revisions should not diminish protection for National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, cultural resources, or other sensitive places.

Thank you.

Sample letter (Courtesy of Desert Lands)

Dear BLM CA State Director Jerry Perez,

I oppose any attempt to re-open the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The DRECP should be implemented as is, in recognition of the broad public support for the Plan and the more than eight years of collaboration between federal, local, and state government; energy producers; conservationists; recreationists; and desert residents that helped produce it.

I also urge the Department of Interior to maintain protections for the special lands that were designated as California Desert National Conservation Lands and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. These natural landscapes encompass many spectacular and outstanding values such as colorful wildflower displays, endangered wildlife habitat, historical and cultural resources, and opportunities for recreation and solitude that should be preserved for future generations. The DRECP’s conservation and recreation aspects not only protect special places, but bring significant tourism dollars into California which drives local economies.

There is no justification for re-opening this plan. Re-opening the DRECP now creates uncertainty, destabilizes years of consensus, and opens the door to costly litigation, wasting taxpayer dollars and valuable government resources. I strongly urge the Department of the Interior to leave the plan intact.