



**Briefing on Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan by California Energy  
Commission**

At its May 2013 meeting, the Commission was briefed on Salton Sea restoration activities. Commission members discussed the need to consider a broader range of resource management strategies in the region and asked for a briefing on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). Roger Johnson from the California Energy Commission will provide the Commission with an overview of the Plan.

**Background**

Senate Bill 2X, signed into law by Governor Brown in 2011, requires California energy providers to buy 33 percent of their energy from clean, renewable energy sources by 2020. The DRECP, mandated by Executive Order S-14-08, was created to provide endangered species permit assurances while facilitating the review and approval of renewable energy projects in the Mojave and Colorado deserts in support of that goal. In addition to the California effort, in 2005 the federal Energy Security Policy Act renewed interest in developing utility-scale renewable energy facilities on federal public land.

A Renewable Energy Action Team, consisting of the California Energy Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was formed to oversee the implementation of Executive Order S-14-08, including the DRECP. The Team is working with stakeholders representing the desert counties, renewable energy developers, environmental organizations, electric utilities, and Native American organizations to address specific issues such as covered species, covered activities, resource mapping, and cultural resources.

The DRECP will encompass development of solar thermal, utility-scale solar photovoltaic, wind, and other forms of renewable energy and associated infrastructure such as electric transmission lines necessary for renewable energy development.

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