

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10 AND 11, 2016  
APPLE VALLEY**

- ITEM:** 5
- SUBJECT:** **UPDATE ON THE DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN IN THE SOUTHERN LAHONTAN**
- CHRONOLOGY:**
- 2005 President’s Climate Action Plan, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Secretarial Order 3285 direct the Department of the Interior to prioritize renewable energy permitting on public lands.
  - 2014 Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) issued for public comment.
  - 2015 Bureau of Land Management releases the Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the DRECP.
- DISCUSSION:** At Board member request, Water Board and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff will present an update on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. The DRECP is a collaborative effort between the BLM, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Energy Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This plan will help California and the nation meet renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. The presentation will focus on recent changes to the draft plan as a result of public comments. Board member discussion on the presentation is encouraged.
- RECOMMENDATION:** This is an informational item, but Water Board members may provide input or direction to staff.

<b>ENCLOSURE NUMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>BATES NUMBER</b>
1	DRECP Overview Fact Sheet	5-3

# **ENCLOSURE 1**

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# DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN

## PROPOSED LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

### RENEWABLE ENERGY

The State of California and the U.S. Department of the Interior have significant renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. In addition to energy conservation, efficiency and distributed generation, there will continue to be a need for utility-scale solar, wind and geothermal projects in the California desert to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Renewable energy technologies in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) include solar, wind and geothermal generation. The Proposed BLM Plan identifies development focus areas (DFAs) with high-quality renewable energy potential and access to transmission in locations where impacts can be managed and mitigated.

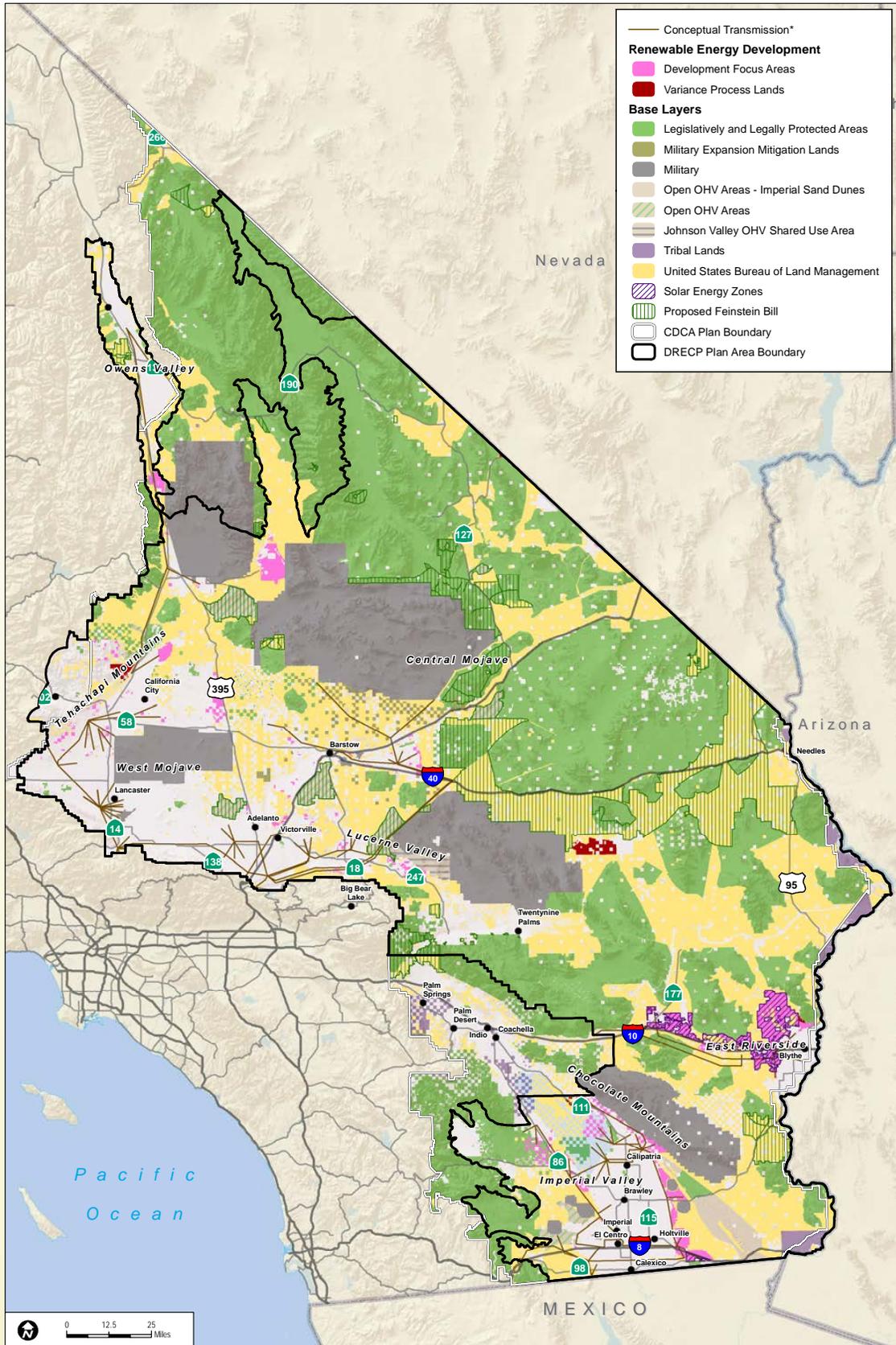
DFAs are intended to provide more permitting certainty and make survey and mitigation requirements more efficient. Additionally:

- The Proposed BLM Plan designates approximately 388,000 acres of DFAs on BLM-managed public lands. This represents only a portion of renewable energy development planning assumptions in the DRECP.
- Within the DFAs, conservation and management actions have been developed that require avoidance, minimization and compensation for effects of preconstruction, construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy and transmission projects.
- Within the DFAs, the plan does not typically specify the type of renewable energy technology (i.e., solar, wind and geothermal) that can be developed. The plan makes assumptions about the mix of technologies for the purposes of analysis based on existing restrictions, presence of renewable energy resources and other factors.
- The DFAs are larger than necessary to accommodate the renewable energy planning assumption in a way that provides flexibility for siting projects. Only a portion of the DFAs are expected to be developed.

#### **The DRECP will help meet California and the Nation's Renewable Energy Goals**

- ▶ The President's Climate Action Plan, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Secretarial Order 3285 direct the Department of the Interior to prioritize renewable energy permitting on public lands
- ▶ California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) established a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020
- ▶ California Executive Order B-30-15 establishes a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 to ensure the state meets its target of reducing emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050
- ▶ California Executive Order S-3-05 establishes a long-range goal of reducing the 1990 level of GHG emissions by 80% by 2050
- ▶ California's Renewable Portfolio Standard requires that at least 33 percent of retail electricity sales in the state come from renewable resources by December 31, 2020 (SB 2-1x) and 50 percent by December 31, 2030 (SB 350)

# PROPOSED BLM PLAN RENEWABLE ENERGY



Sources: ESRI (2015); CEC (2013); BLM (2015); CDFW (2013); USFWS (2013)  
 \*Transmission lines shown are based on the DRECP Transmission Technical Group (TTG) Report, which provides a conceptual transmission plan for the DRECP alternatives and is not intended for siting or alignment purposes.  
 DRECP Proposed LUPA and Final EIS

**FIGURE II.3-6**  
**Preferred Alternative - Renewable Energy Development**

October 2015