

Final                      Final                      Final

**Desert Tortoise Council  
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**25 April 2015  
DoubleTree Hilton, Ontario, California**

The meeting was called to order by Ken MacDonald at 10:00 a.m. **Action items are in blue, with responsible parties in red. Motions made, seconded, and approved (or not) are shown in bold red font.**

**Attendees:** Kristin Berry, Glenn Stewart, Pete Woodman, Ken MacDonald, Cristina Jones, Maggie Fusari, Mari Quillman, Bruce Palmer, Becky Jones, Joe Probst, Michael Tuma, Chris Noddings, Ed LaRue. **Absent:** Scott Abella and Jason Jones. **Guests:** Heidi Brannon and Linda Mitrovich.

**A. Introductions:** Heidi Brannon and Linda Mitrovich are here to talk about the draft Apple Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

**B. Review Agenda:** New issues were incorporated as needed. Kristin Berry identified three letters that she would like to send out on behalf of the Council, which are included under New Business.

**C. Meeting Minutes of 10 January 2015 Board of Directors Meeting and 20 February 2015 Annual Business Meeting:** Ed LaRue prepared draft minutes at the last Board meeting on 10 January 2015 and Business meeting on 20 February 2015, which were distributed, reviewed, and approved today as final with minor changes. **Motion made (Kristin Berry), seconded (Joe Probst), and approved to accept the draft minutes as amended to be final.**

**D. Review of Board Actions since Last Board Meeting:** There have been no interim Board actions since the last Board Meeting or Annual Business Meeting.

**E. Officer Reports:**

**1. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Joe Probst. Our current Total Financial Assets are \$298,662.58. The recent Health Assessment training brought in \$15,000 income with \$9,815.46 expenses, so the profit was \$5,184.54. Joe does not have the final income/expense for the Symposium, but believes there was about \$5,000 profit after expenses. He has additional information on the sales of merchandise, books, and income associated with the raffle. Mari Quillman has 8 books, Michael Tuma has about 20, Cristina Jones has 6, and Pete Woodman has about 20 copies, so there is no need to obtain additional books at this time. **Motion made (Becky Jones), seconded (Cristina Jones), and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as final.**

The 2014 annual audit was being completed by Ray Butler during today's Board meeting, so it does not include any accounting for 2015. Michael Bailey covered the first half of 2014 with Joe Probst taking over the latter half of 2014. All invoices matched the checks, so thanks to the Board for that. We still need to consider our investment policy to be sure Edwards Jones is the best way to go for us (DTPC recently switched from Edwards Jones to another entity). Ray recommended that we take a specific look at our Strategic Five-Year Plan with regards to funding. **Ray Butler will provide a written Audit Report soon to document his audit completed today.** • **Ray Butler** asked Board members to provide an accurate number of books sold in 2014 to **Kristin Berry**.

**2. Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Becky Jones reported that we recently received the invoice for the purchase of the books, a \$20 donation, a request for confirmation of a past Workshop attendee, a grant request, and a letter from a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, **which Chris Noddings asked that Becky Jones send a copy of Ed LaRue's response to the student.**

**3. Membership Coordinator's Report:** Mari Quillman distributed a Membership Committee Report, dated 24 April 2015.

**a. Membership database/renewals:** Mari Quillman reported there are a total of 589 members on the list, including 521 active Council members. There are five people who have filled out the application for membership but have not visited Pay Pal to pay. Mari has emailed them but has not heard back; Joe Probst is willing to send an invoice. **Bruce Palmer asked for clarification from Mari Quillman and Mary Cohen to better understand the relationships between "Total," "Active," "Renewal Overdue," "Lapsed," and "Pending" members.**

**b. Member interest survey results:** Mari Quillman received 12 completed survey forms at the 2015 Symposium. The results of the survey were distributed on a two-page form that included a list of individuals with their phone numbers, email addresses, and volunteer interest in 18 different categories. What is the best way to use these contacts? **Ed LaRue should contact those wanting to help with environmental review and refer them to previous issues on the website; Chris Noddings should contact those who want to help with social media; Michael Tuma can contact the three people who offered to help with the Newsletter; Kristin Berry would contact the six people who expressed interest in helping with the Symposium.** • **Mari Quillman will send a blanket email to those on the list, and pertinent Board members are asked to follow up as needed to get them involved.** For the three people expressing interest in being Board members, it would be good to involve them first on various committees.

**c. Agency and organization contact list for Newsletter distribution:** Mari Quillman will soon be working on this effort. **Mari Quillman will produce a plaque acknowledging Southern Nevada Environmental, Inc. for their support at the 2015 Symposium.**

## **F. Committee Reports:**

### **1. Ecosystems Advisory Committee (EAC) Report:**

**a. Review of EAC Table for 1/10/2015 to 4/25/2015:** Ed LaRue distributed the three-page EAC table via email several days ago. There was agreement that we delete the word, "private," from the introductory paragraph to our comment letters and other correspondences.

**b. West Mojave Plan Route Designation Draft SEIS:** The website link for the Draft Supplemental EIS is [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/west\\_mojave\\_wemo/wmDEIS.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/west_mojave_wemo/wmDEIS.html). Ed LaRue is in regular contact with Jeff Aardahl of Defenders of Wildlife and will be meeting with Ileene Anderson of Center for Biological Diversity and past Board member Tom Egan tomorrow to discuss the SEIS, with comments due on 4 June 2015. Those who would like to receive Jeff Aardahl's comments and be intimately involved include Glenn Stewart, Maggie Fusari, Mari Quillman, Peter Woodman, and Chris Noddings. • Ed LaRue will be sure to coordinate with Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (Ron Berger and Bob Wood). • Ed LaRue will soon begin to populate and distribute the official, master comment table to all Board members.

**c. Town of Apple Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Communities Conservation Plan:** Heidi Brannon and Linda Mitrovich were our guests today to talk about this plan, which began in 2007 and they hope to have in place by the end of 2016. They are currently writing the administrative draft of the plan, but cannot officially release anything at this time. The town of Apple Valley is 75 mi<sup>2</sup> with a 121 mi<sup>2</sup> sphere of influence and 149 mi<sup>2</sup> of adjacent county lands, for a total of 220,000 acres. Plan attempts to provide connection between Fremont-Kramer DWMA to northwest, Ord-Rodman DWMA to the east, Forest Service lands to the south, including a few Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. About 50 plant and animal species would be in the Covered Species list, and include 21 natural communities. Several concerns are minimizing raven subsidies and effectiveness monitoring. At this point, there is a proposed ACEC that weaves in between DRECP's Development Focus Areas (but this also includes private lands and the southern 5,000 acres of the Stoddard Valley Open Area). Emphasis is towards management as opposed to acquisition.

**d. DRECP Update:** Several weeks after comments were due, in early March 2015, the DRECP planners indicated that the first phase would be a BLM-only plan (it is doubtful that counties will ever participate in a subsequent phase). Jeff Aardahl indicated Defenders of Wildlife is considering an alternative they intend to submit. Although comments are still being posted, there seems to be no ongoing process where we can be involved.

**2. Awards Committee Report:** Glenn Stewart asked that Board members begin to consider nominees for awards at the 2016 Symposium and send recommendations to him via emails.

**3. Workshop Committee Report:** There was agreement that the workshops would be available to Council members, only, with the option to become a new member with participation at the new workshops.

**a. Health Assessment Workshop Report:** As given above, Joe Probst indicated there was about \$5,000 more in income than in expense for the recent Health Assessment Workshop. There were 12 students, including 10 who each paid \$1,500. Ken MacDonald indicated that the workshop was a success and worked well with the Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO), Jason Jones, Cristina Jones, and Pete Woodman's involvement, with Michael Tuma there as a student. Michael Tuma indicated it was not clear that this was an official Council event, which should be clarified next time. Given this success, it would now be appropriate to publicize the event. Kim Fields of DTRO has a waiting list of students that they choose for attendance. Need to give priority to those biologists who have experience and an immediate project. The Arizona Health Assessment Training (AZ HAT) will be 24 August 2015.

**b. 2015 Workshop Schedule:** Maggie Fusari distributed a profit statement that shows a \$23,944.92 net income for the two 2014 Techniques Workshops. She suggested there is no need to increase the fees. The Workshop will be Monday-Tuesday and Wednesday-Thursday, from 2-3 and 4-5 November 2015, so no weekend Workshop for the first time. Enrollment will likely begin in July 2015. Pending further discussion, we can have a reduced enrollment fee for class-only educators and other similar participants (e.g., students).

**c. Arizona Workshop Development:** Cristina Jones indicated this health assessment workshop will likely be in the late spring of 2016.

**4. Grants Committee Report:** Glenn Stewart reported there are currently three items for consideration.

**a. Ingestion of Non-vegetation Food Items by Sonoran Desert Tortoises.** Allen Bartoli recently submitted a grant request entitled, “Investigating Mineral Deposit Exploitation and the Ingestion of Non-vegetation Food Items by Sonoran Desert Tortoises” for \$9,975. The internal review team of Glenn Stewart, Maggie Fusari, and Peter Woodman reviewed the proposal, and recommend that the Council fund the research for \$4,000 (rather than \$9,975) mostly to support equipment purchase. Several deficiencies were identified with the methodology that could be addressed with a few modifications (e.g., looking at scat from specific individual tortoises in addition to nonorganic materials being ingested, minimizing behavioral studies, etc.). The recommendation is to return the grant request and ask that these few deficiencies be rectified. It may be that the project could not proceed if they do not have funding for labor (\$4,000 would fund equipment, not labor). The Council may be willing to fund the entire amount if the new methodology is more focused, particularly since partial funding may not allow them to complete the study. **Glenn Stewart will respond to the requesters, asking for additional information and that they identify additional costs associated with any revised methodologies.**

**b. Techno-Tortoise Raven Lure.** Tim Shields has submitted a proposal asking for \$3,035 to produce a simulated tortoise that would eventually work as “aversion conditioning” to deter raven predation of juvenile tortoises. The main objective of this proposal is to build the device and to see if ravens will be attracted to the simulated tortoise, but there is no aversion conditioning aspect. The concern is how this approach would be applied to the raven predation problem, given the ubiquitous, widespread nature of the problem. Some felt that this was a creative proposal that should be supported, while others felt we already know that ravens are attracted to models, such as “styrotorts.” If this technology is applied in conjunction with headstarting, it could help focus the methodology to a specific application. Some expressed the value in developing a dumpster design with lids that automatically close or otherwise repulse ravens. Funding production of this simulated tortoise falls short of the larger problem, which is how this project would deter region-wide raven predation. **Glenn Stewart (with help from Maggie Fusari and review by Chris Noddings) will respond that we do not support the request as written; and encourage him to continue to work on raven issues, particularly if there is an educational aspect.**

**c. Travel Grant for the Turtle Survival Alliance. Motion made (Kristin Berry), seconded (Michael Tuma), and accepted to provide three \$500 travel grants (total of \$1,500) to Turtle Survival Alliance, for their annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona in August 2015.**

**d. Pond Turtle Survey at Elizabeth Lake.** Jeff Lovich is expediting completion of his paper, partially supported by our grant, so that he can submit his research to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sometime next month in support of the proposed federal listing of the pond turtle.

**5. Information, Outreach, and Social Media Committee Report:** Chris Noddings is working with Bianca Cirimele to post articles in various social media formats. Of her first seven or eight posts, only one required some modification. There have been 364 “likes” posted, with 126 “followers” on Twitter. Anything the Board would like to post should go to Chris with a carbon copy to Bianca. Chris has recently been working with Tim Shields and Jim Cornall on a Council Blog. We still need to develop a policy that identifies items that can and cannot be distributed with additional or extensive internal review. If we decide to post jobs, we need to work with Mary Cohen to identify timeframes and other regulatory guidelines for the program. Chris indicated that this should be addressed by the committee first before presenting it to the Board.

**6. Newsletter Editor’s Report:** **Michael Tuma** needs input from **Ken MacDonald** and **Bruce Palmer** as the next two Board members to be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter. Someone will need to provide a write-up on the highlights of the 2015 Symposium. **Maggie Fusari** will provide updated input on the 2015 Techniques Workshop. It is important to publish something on the West Mojave Route Designation EIS documenting the intent to double the number of open routes, including in Desert Wildlife Management Areas. We could also extend invitations to the state wildlife agencies to publish pertinent information in the Newsletter. There will also be an announcement on the upcoming TSA meeting in Tucson in August, 2015.

**7. Web Master’s Report:** Mari Quillman shared that Mary Cohen continues to revise the website, including contacting Wild Apricot for membership updates.

**8. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium Review (what worked, what didn’t?):** Kristin Berry recently distributed a six-page handout that includes many recommended changes; much of this was not discussed today. She recommended changes for registration, orientation of audio-visuals, etc.

**a. Local Host Committee:** A number of problems (particularly with registration) with the host committee are identified in Kristin Berry’s handout, so these can help to clean up things in 2016.

**b. Program Committee:** Presenters are all forewarned to not use extensive lists of acronyms; maybe have Al Muth “buzz” people who use too many acronyms.

**c. Special Anniversary Events/Materials:** Mari Quillman asked if Mary Cohen can publish the availability of various materials (e.g., t-shirts and other swag) on the website, which Mary is looking into. Mari provided all members with a spread sheet that includes an inventory and shows profits if all swag materials are sold. She also brought along all the available t-shirts. There was consensus that we charge \$20 per t-shirt rather than \$22 and \$25, as first suggested. Mari has 250 Council tote bags that we can distribute at the 2016 Symposium. She also still has 38 mugs, 24 shot glasses, 1 brown hat, etc. **Michael Tuma** suggested that all Board members use the official logo that he will soon redistribute.

## 9. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium Planning:

**a. Local Host Committee Chairperson Selection:** Jason Jones has extra Chums, name tags, folders, and other materials that he should bring along next year. Tracy Bailey has volunteered to be the Host Committee Chair in 2016 (with Bruce Palmer and Scott Abella offering to help as necessary). Both Molly and Par, persisting volunteers, have agreed to help out even more next year. The contract with Sam's Town in Las Vegas, Nevada has already been secured for 2016 and 2017.

**b. Sponsorships, Raffle, Auction.** Mari Quillman has agreed to revamp the sponsorship program, which will include more sponsorships *during* the Symposium, publishing what is available, and including signs and posters acknowledging sponsors. Southern Nevada Environmental, Inc. has offered to sponsor a mixer again next year. Next year we need to be sure to buy 5,000 or more raffle tickets beforehand, leftovers of which can be used in subsequent years.

**c. Program Committee – Special Topics and Themes?** Cristina Jones suggested that we could have a special session on bighorn sheep, perhaps on Saturday morning. It may be good to pursue a special session on reptile trafficking (perhaps Eric Goode could be invited?).

**10. Nominations Committee Report:** Ken MacDonald reported that we now have a full slate of Board members and officers. Michael Tuma is the Chairperson-elect for 2015, so he will serve as the Chairperson in 2016. As such, Michael Tuma will provide the Nominations Committee Reports throughout 2015.

**11. Desert Tortoise Recovery Office (DTRO) Role with Desert Tortoise Council:** Bruce Palmer took the lead on describing our evolving relationship with the DTRO. Upper level management within the DTRO has expressed their appreciation of our Symposium and recently helping USFWS conduct the health assessment workshops. We may want to consider an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the USFWS to attend Board meetings to increase cooperation between the Council and USFWS. There are several alternatives, from having a representative at all Board meetings or having a single meeting each year where pertinent representatives of involved government entities are invited. **Motion made (Bruce Palmer), seconded (Maggie Fusari), and approved to invite DTRO representatives to the next Board meeting in Las Vegas, to pay their travel expenses, and to begin discussing the relationship between the Council and DTRO.**

## G. Discussions of Old and New Business:

**1. Various Best Management Practices:** Ken MacDonald will circulate the list of potential BMPs asking that pertinent Board members indicate their self-imposed due dates for each of their BMPs.

**2. Recommendation to Draft Three Council Letters.** Taylor Edwards' paper has been accepted on the hybrid zone between Morafka desert tortoise and new species to the south. **Maggie Fusari will draft a letter to USFWS asking them to expand the current listed range for Agassiz's tortoise to include the small segment in northwestern Arizona.**

Ken MacDonald will draft a letter with input from Michael Tuma asking USFWS for available information and data on the success of translocating tortoises into the Large Scale Translocation Site (LSTS) and the removal of the fence along Interstate 15.

The Council should draft a letter to USFWS DTRO asking for a summary of the results of the Recovery Implementing Teams (RITs), and the progress on establishing a scientific advisory committee on how the RITs recommendations can be implemented. No one was identified to draft this letter, although Bruce Palmer (who needed to leave early) was suggested.

**H. Position on Potential Morafka's Listing Decision:** Maggie Fusari took the lead on this discussion. Currently, the USFWS is soliciting any new data that will help with the listing of the Morafka tortoise; they are not receptive to comments.

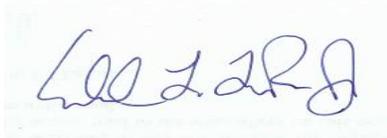
**I. Policy/Operations Manual:**

**1. Political endorsement issues/sign-on letters:** Bruce Palmer led the discussion on the revised Ecosystem Advisory Committee policy for adoption by the Board at a later date. Several things have been dropped, including the word, “unbiased,” from several places [may also require change(s) in the Bylaws]; the word “mission” needs to be reconsidered to represent the actual mission statement; maintain the word “limit” instead of “prioritize” in a pertinent section; and strike the word, “scientifically,” from another section. Bruce Palmer will distribute the revised EAC policy to the Board via email for input and approval.

**J. Next Meeting:** To give the invited DTRO biologists a choice, the next business meeting of the Board will be in Las Vegas, between 10:00 a.m. and approximately 4:00 p.m., on either the 6<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2015.

**K. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson, Ken MacDonald, at 16:05.

Draft minutes were recorded, later distributed and modified with Board member review and input, then respectfully submitted as this final version by Ed LaRue, Recording Secretary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed LaRue, Jr.', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

Edward L. LaRue, Jr.  
Desert Tortoise Council, Recording Secretary

## **Ecosystems Advisory Committee Report DTC Board Meeting of 25 April 2015**

Note: The table attached to this report on the last page follows the **bold red** numbered outline given below.

### **1a. Letter Opposing Soda Mountain Solar Project**

**1/8/2015** – Ed LaRue receives a letter from Seth Shteir of National Parks Conservation Association asking the Council to endorse a letter to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell opposing the location of Soda Mountain Solar Project at the currently proposed location along I-15 near Zzyzx Road. The vote was taken at the Board meeting in Las Vegas on **1/10/2015** where five members recused themselves and eight voted yes. On **1/11/2015**, Ed lets Shteir know that the Council does endorse the letter.

### **1b. Public Information Booth Opposing Soda Mountain and Silurian Valley Solar Projects**

**2/13/2015** – Seth Shteir sends a request to Ed LaRue asking for permission to set up a booth at the Symposium seeking signatures urging the protection of Silurian Valley and Soda Mountains, which Ed distributes to the Board the same day. It was later agreed that this was appropriate.

### **1c. Media Interview Supporting Soda Mountain as an ACEC**

**4/16/2015** – David Lamfrom of NPCA asks Ed LaRue to participate in a telephone conference and interview regarding development of an ACEC at the proposed Soda Mountains Solar Project. Ed circulates the request to the Board on **4/16/2015** asking if they want to support this. After receiving seven endorsements, Ed informs Lamfrom that the Council supports his involvement as a Board member.

## **2. WEMO Plan National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Kick-off Meeting**

**1/14/2015** – Ed LaRue attends this BLM meeting in Ridgecrest on 1/14/2015. The group discussed creating a Programmatic Agreement that would drive future studies, management, and other considerations as they pertain to cultural resources. Most importantly, the Supplemental Draft EIS for West Mojave route designation and trail management is due to be distributed in February 2015 with a 90-day comment period. Ed's meeting minutes are distributed to board on 1/14/2015.

## **3. Alliance for Desert Preservation Letter on DRECP**

**1/19/2015** –Ed LaRue receives a letter from the Alliance asking us to endorse their letter to various entities associated with the DRECP. Ed forwards the letter to the Board, recommending that we inform Mr. Neil Nadler we are drafting our own comments and will not, at this time, sign on. In the table below, “N” indicates that the Board members who would not endorse the letter. After receiving six “no” votes and one recusal, on **1/25/2015** Ed send an email to Mr. Nadler, ccing Board members, that we do not intend to sign on. Mr. Nadler asks that we share our DRECP comments with him, which Ed will do.

## **4. DRECP Review and Comment**

**1/31/2015** – After receiving a grammatical review of the Master Table #2 from Maggie Fusari on **1/28/2015**, Ed LaRue distributes the draft comments to 20 different individuals and environmental organizations letting them know what our concerns are. On **2/16/2015** at 12:45 a.m. Ed sends the formal draft comments to the Board. After receiving five additional endorsements, the DRECP comments were sent to California Energy Commission on **2/20/2015**, on Friday afternoon during the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium. On **3/9/2015**, Ed receives an email that there will be a DRECP WebEx tomorrow at 11:00, which he will be unable to attend, so he distributes notice of the event to the Board on 3/9/2015.

### **5. Old Dutch Cleanser Mine**

**2/2/2015** – Becky Jones receives an email from Cindi Whitehead of CSPAR (acronym not identified) asking to talk about the potential reactivation and expansion of the Old Dutch Cleanser Mine in Kern County within Red Rock Canyon State Park. Ed speaks with Ms. Whitehead on **2/2/2015** advising her to find out more information on the project, which apparently had a deadline for comments in December 2014. Ed promised to continue to work with her as needed once her research is done. On **2/22/2015**, Ilene Anderson informs Ed that, for now, this project has been withdrawn from consideration.

### **6. Las Vegas BLM Resource Management Plan**

**2/3/2015** – Bruce Palmer provides a preliminary draft of this letter to Ed LaRue, Ken MacDonald, and Scott Abella for review. After quick internal review, Ed distributes this draft to the Board on **2/3/2015**. With 10 endorsements, including three with comments, the letter is sent to the BLM by Ed on the afternoon of **2/6/2015**.

### **7. Searchlight Wind Energy Project**

**2/3/2015** – On 8 January 2014, the Council provided technical advice to Scott Cashen on the Searchlight Wind Energy Project. On **2/3/2015**, Mr. Cashen provided Ed LaRue with a court judgment dated 2/3/2015 that, based in part on our technical input, required the project proponent to produce a Supplemental EIS on this project. The original letter and court transcripts were distributed to Board members on 2/3/2015.

### **8. Indian Wells Valley Land Use Management Plan (IWVLUMP)**

**2/22/2015** – On 2/22/2015, Ed LaRue “accidentally” discovers this management plan, for which comments are due on 3/16/2015, with a public meeting scheduled in Ridgecrest on 4/9/2015. A website link (<http://pcd.kerndsa.com/planning/environmental-documents>) was circulated to the Board on 2/22/2015. Ed hears on **3/10/2015** at the Mohave Ground Squirrel Technical Advisory Group meeting that the comment period has been extended into June 2015. On **3/15/2015** send out a partial letter in case the comment period is actually tomorrow (which it turns out to be). On 4/9/2015, Ed attends the public meeting in Ridgecrest, takes minutes, and determines there are no environmental impacts requiring comment at this time.

### **9. Fremont Solar (Springbok 2 Solar Farm) Draft EIR**

**2/22/2015** – On 2/22/2015, Ed LaRue “accidentally” discovers this Draft EIR/EIS, for which comments are due on 3/27/2015, with a public meeting scheduled in Bakersfield on 4/23/2015. A website link (<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/eirs.asp>) was circulated to the Board on 2/22/2015. On **3/3/2015**, Ed contacts DTTPC to see if they have any concerns with the Draft EIR/EIS. Send email on **3/20/2015** that Ed doesn't plan on commenting, as neither Ron Berger nor Jun Lee indicated a concern.

### **10. San Bernardino County Partnership for Renewable Energy and Conservation (SPARC)**

**3/1/2015** – Mr. Neil Nadler of the Alliance for Desert Preservation informs Ed LaRue of a public meeting on the SPARC on 3/5/2015. Drafted late on 3/3/2015, Ed distributes a draft comment letter just after midnight on **3/4/2015**, asking that comments be received by 10:00 a.m. on 3/5/2015 so Ed can submit the comments to the County Supervisors at 2:00 p.m. that day. After receiving 10 additional endorsements, Ed delivered the approved letter to the Supervisors at the meeting on **3/5/2015**. (Request reimbursement of \$33).

### **11. Letter Endorsing Soda Mountain as an ACEC**

**3/23/2015** – Ed LaRue receives an email from Seth Shteir of National Parks Conservation Association asking the Council to endorse a letter supporting the Soda Mountains for ACEC status. Ed immediately distributes the proposal to the Board. With three other members endorsing the letter, Ed informs Shteir on **3/27/2015** that he may add the Council to the letter's cosigners.

### **12. USFWS Letter Soliciting Information on Listing of Sonoran Desert Tortoise**

**4/4/2015** – Maggie Fusari sends a USFWS letter to Ed LaRue regarding solicitation of available data on the listing of the Sonoran desert tortoise. Ed forwards this to the Board on **4/5/2015**. The listing determination will be on 9/30/2015.

**Ecosystems Advisory Committee  
Summary Table from 1/10/2015 to 4/25/2015**

**Current date for this latest table revision is: 4/19/2015**

No.	Reference	Dates (2015 unless otherwise noted)				Board Member Responses														
		Rec'd	Dist.	Due	Sent	Codes: <b>Y</b> = Vote of Yes; <b>N</b> = Vote of No; <b>PI</b> = Provided input; <b>Blank</b> = No Response; <b>R</b> = Recused; <b>A</b> = Authors/Lead Board member; <b>NA</b> – Replied they were not able to respond by indicated date														
						BJ	BP	CJ	CN	EL	GS	JJ	JP	KB	KM	MF	MQ	MT	PW	SA
<b>1a</b>	Soda Mtn Solar Project	1/8	1/8	1/12	1/11	R 1/10	Y 1/10	R 1/10	Y 1/12	Y 1/10	Y 1/10	R 1/10	Y 1/10	R 1/8	Y 1/10	Y 1/10	Y 1/10		R 1/10	Y 1/10
<b>1b</b>	Protection of Silurian Valley & Soda Mt.	2/13	2/13	N/A					Y 2/13	Y 2/14	Y 2/13		Y 2/16	Y 2/13		Y 2/13				
<b>1c</b>	Interview Supporting Soda Mtn as ACEC	4/16	4/16	4/21	4/17	Y 4/17	Y 4/16	Y 4/17	Y 4/17		Y 4/16		Y 4/17		Y 4/19	Y 4/17	Y 4/18			Y 4/16
<b>2</b>	WEMO NHPA BLM Kick-off meeting	1/10	1/14	N/A						A/Y 1/14										
<b>3</b>	Alliance Desert Preservation DRECP	1/19	1/19	ASAP	1/25	R 1/22			N 1/21	PI/N 1/19	N 1/20					N 1/21			N 1/21	N 1/20
<b>4</b>	DRECP Review and Comment	Sept 2014	1/31	2/23	2/20				Y/PI 2/16	A/Y 2/16	Y/PI 2/16		Y 2/16	NA 2/16		Y/PI 2/16				Y 2/16
<b>5</b>	Old Dutch Cleanser Mine	2/2	N/A	N/A	N/A	PI 2/2				PI 2/2										
<b>6</b>	Las Vegas BLM RMP	12/16/14	2/3/15	2/6	2/6	Y 2/4	A/Y 2/3		Y/PI 2/4	Y/PI 2/3	Y/PI 2/4	R 2/4	Y 2/5			Y 2/4	Y 2/4		Y 2/4	Y 2/3
<b>7</b>	Searchlight Wind Energy	2/3	2/3	N/A	2/3					PI 2/3										
<b>8</b>	Indian Wells Valley LUMP	2/22	2/22	3/16	3/16				Y 3/15	Y/PI 3/15	Y 3/15		Y 3/16	PI 3/16		Y 3/15			Y 3/15	
<b>9</b>	Springbok 2 Solar Farm	2/22	2/22	3/27	See notes															
<b>10</b>	SPARC comment letter	3/1	3/4	3/5	3/5	Y 3/4	Y/PI 3/4		Y/PI 3/4	A/Y 3/4	Y 3/4		Y 3/4	Y 3/4		Y/PI 3/4	Y/PI 3/4	Y/PI 3/4	Y 3/4	
<b>11</b>	Soda Mountains as ACEC	3/23	3/23	4/1	3/27					PI 3/23	Y 3/23		Y 3/23							Y 3/23
<b>12</b>	Sonoran Tortoise Listing	4/4	4/5	9/30												PI 4/4				

**BJ** = Becky Jones, **BP** = Bruce Palmer, **CJ** = Cristina Jones, **CN** = Chris Noddings, **EL** = Ed LaRue, **GS** = Glenn Stewart, **JJ** = Jason Jones, **JP** = Joe Probst, **KB** = Kristin Berry, **KM** = Ken MacDonald, **MF** = Maggie Fusari, **MQ** = Mari Quillman, **MT** = Michael Tuma, **PW** = Pete Woodman, **SA** = Scott Abella