STATE OF CALIFORNIA
resources
AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, Governor
MARY D. NICHOLS, Secretary

December 12, 2002

Mr. John Hamill, Desert Management Council
Department of the Interior
222 E MAIN STREET SUITE 202
BARSTOW, CA 92311

Dear Mr. Hamill:

I would like to introduce you to the **California Legacy Project** and invite you to get involved in this important effort by participating in the upcoming **Colorado and Mojave deserts "Spotlight on Conservation" Workshop**. The Legacy Project is a California Resources Agency initiative that involves a broad range of public agencies and citizen groups working together to develop information and tools that assist in making more strategic conservation investment decisions.

The Legacy Project is holding a series of nine bioregional workshops throughout the state. In recognition of the important viewpoint and knowledge you contribute to the economy, working landscapes, governance, development, conservation or recreation in the deserts, I am inviting you to join us for this workshop in Victorville on January 16 and 17, 2003. The workshop agenda is enclosed.

I recognize that a lot of time, effort and funds have already been spent in this region developing regional conservation planning efforts and collecting high quality resource data. The Legacy Project seeks to add value to existing efforts by state and federal agencies and local governments while respecting their jurisdictions, commitments and priorities. As part of the state's role in the desert, the Legacy Project is seeking to better understand the important future investments for conservation, private land stewardship programs, and rural recreation in the region. At this workshop, you will be asked to assist us in this task. You will also be asked about future partnering opportunities between the state and the federal government, local governments and the private sector in addressing both conservation and the economic health of the desert region.

You will be one of approximately 80 participants at the workshop. We are seeking participation from all parts of the Mojave and Colorado deserts (see enclosed workshop regions map) plus representation from a broad spectrum of viewpoints, including public agencies, Native American tribes, environmental groups, business and agricultural interests, academics and city planners. These workshops are not designed to reach a consensus. We want to hear the full diversity of opinions and ideas, get the best information on what is and is not working, and how you would like the state to invest any additional conservation dollars in your region.

Please return the enclosed RSVP card by January 5 to let us know whether you will attend. There is no registration or meal fee. Limited travel scholarships, underwritten by

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California Conservation Corps • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation • Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation
Department of Water Resources • California Coastal Commission • California Tahoe Conservancy • Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy • Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Colorado River Board of California • Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission • San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • Delta Protection Commission
San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • Baldwin Hills Conservancy • State Coastal Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board • Native American Heritage Commission

workshop sponsors, are available for qualified parties who need overnight lodging in order to attend the workshop. While we are inviting many people to these workshops, they are also open for other interested parties, who may pre-register on line at http://legacy.ca.gov. Space will be limited and we suggest pre-registration by January 2. After we have filled the 80 spots we can accommodate with the full range of regional representatives, registration will be closed.

Those who RSVP or pre-register will have their registration confirmed with receipt of an information packet. This packet will contain more details about the Legacy Project, the workshop site, overnight lodging facilities, and the workshop sessions.

The California Legacy Project is making a serious effort to join together input from regional offices of state departments, boards and conservancies as well as local government and private stakeholders in developing a statewide conservation investment strategy. This workshop will allow us to direct our future investments in the Colorado and Mojave deserts around important local and regional values, opportunities and concerns. I invite you to get involved in this exciting effort and I look forward to working with you. For more information contact Charles Casey, Legacy Project Outreach Coordinator at (916) 651-7590 or charles.casey@resources.ca.gov.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary D. Nichols
Secretary for Resources

Enclosure (2)

cc: Luree Stetson, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Programs
Madelyn Glickfeld, Assistant Secretary, California Legacy Project

California Legacy Project
Colorado-Mojave Desert
Spotlight on Conservation Workshop

Agenda

The California Resources Agency

Sponsors

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Gold:

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Endangered Habitats League

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California State Coastal Conservancy

Bureau Land Management

Silver:

Defenders of Wildlife

Remy, Thomas & Moose

January 16: Day 1

1:00 pm Welcome by Ron Rempel, CA Department of Fish and Game, Deputy Director, Habitat Conservation Division, and David Widell, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Deputy Director, Off Highway Vehicle Program.

1:30 Introductions and workshop overview.

1:45 Presentation and discussion of the Legacy Project: Madelyn Glickfeld, The Resources Agency, Assistant Secretary, California Legacy Project.

2:30 Break

2:45 Presentation of existing regional planning efforts: Bill Havert, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy; Bill Haight, Lead, West Mojave Plan, Desert District, Bureau of Land Management; Dick Crowe, Resource Management Specialist, Desert District, Bureau of Land Management.

3:45 Brainstorm session on, regional concerns, issues and challenges.
Objective: To gain a sense of the unique issues and challenges of the region and how they affect conservation efforts.

4:30 Information Exchange; light buffet.
Objective: To share information on natural resources, rural recreation and working landscapes in the region.

6:30 pm Adjourn

California Legacy Project
Colorado-Mojave Desert
Spotlight on Conservation Workshop

Agenda

January 17: Day 2

8:00 am	Information Exchange; continental breakfast.
8:30	Welcome.
8:45	Introduction to 2nd day's activities; brief review of 1st day; review of small-group exercise.
9:00	First small group session; regional perspectives. Objective: To gain a sense of additional natural resource, working landscape and recreational planning needs beyond those already underway; future state partnership opportunities to aid in natural resource and working landscape conservation and the provision of recreational opportunities; and the greatest needs for implementing conservation plans.
11:00	Break
11:15	Potential Uses of the California Conservation Digital Atlas for Supporting Planning Efforts. Objective: To allow participants to review this web-based tool with interactive maps that can help support planning efforts.
11:45	Information Exchange; buffet lunch.
1:30 pm	Explanation of afternoon small group session.
1:45	Second small group session; strategies that support resource conservation and economic needs. Objective: To gain a sense of those conservation priorities and specific strategies that can offer mutual benefit to conservation and local economies.
2:40	Break
2:50	Report back on workshop results to Luree Stetson, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Programs, The Resources Agency.
4:00 pm	Brief discussion of next steps and adjourn.

California Legacy Project
Colorado and Mojave Deserts
Spotlight on Conservation Workshop

Goals and Benefits

Goals

The Colorado and Mojave Deserts Spotlight on Conservation Workshop is intended to accomplish the following goals:

- Introduce the California Legacy Project;
- Gather information on conservation plans, monitoring and stewardship projects and available data sets;
- Gain a better understanding of your priorities, and the strategies that can serve as next steps towards reaching conservation and recreational priorities.

Benefits

By joining us in this day and a half session you will have the opportunity to:

- Advise the State on priorities and approaches for conservation in the Deserts region. Deputy Secretary for Resources Luree Stetson will be present to discuss the summarized results in the final session of the workshop.

- Take with you a useful packet of regional and statewide maps of natural resource, working landscapes, and related data.

- Get a better sense of the existing and emerging conservation plans throughout the Deserts and meet other people working on these plans.

- Let us know how we can work together to achieve mutual goals. We very much want to hear from you on issues of importance to you.

California Legacy Project Spotlight on Conservation Workshop Regions January 2003