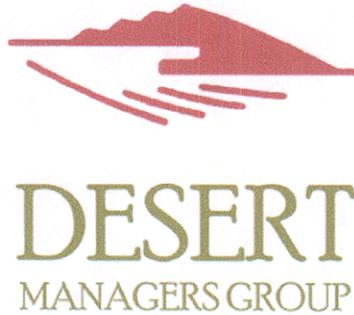


John Hamill  
Executive Coordinator  
Department of the Interior



222 East Main Street  
Suite 215  
Barstow, CA 92311

DMG 05-01

15 October 2004

Mr. Gerald Hiller, Executive Director  
Quadstate County Government Coalition  
Box 55820  
Riverside, CA 92517

Dear Gerry:

Thank you for your September 28, 2004, letter concerning participation of the Quadstate County Government Coalition at meetings of the Desert Managers Group (DMG). As you know, the DMG recently adopted guidelines for stakeholder participation in DMG meetings (enclosed). The DMG discussed your recommendation to allow for stakeholder comments at the conclusion of each agenda item. Several comment periods are generally provided during each day of open meeting. The frequency and length of comment period is determined based on the expected level of stakeholder interest and the time available for accepting stakeholder input. To date, the DMG believes this protocol has been adequate to accommodate stakeholder comments. The DMG is concerned that allowing stakeholder comments after each agenda item would significantly impact the amount of time available for discussions by the DMG. Accordingly, open portions of DMG meetings will continue to be structured to allow for stakeholder comments at specified times on the agenda. The DMG will monitor the effectiveness of this protocol and make adjustments, as necessary.

We appreciate Quadstate's continuing interest in the DMG and the many constructive comments you have provided in writing and at DMG meetings.

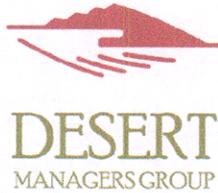
Sincerely,



John Hamill  
California Desert Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: DMG  
Wally Leimgruber, Coalition Chairman, Member Imperial County Board of Supervisors  
Bill Postmus, Member, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors  
Dennis Hansberger, Member and Chair, San Bernardino Board of Supervisors  
Don Maben, Member, Kern County Board of Supervisors  
Jon McQuiston, Member, Kern County Board of Supervisors



Desert Managers Group  
Stakeholder Involvement Guidelines  
June 16, 2004

**A. Purpose:** To promote and facilitate constructive stakeholder involvement in the Desert Managers Group (DMG).

**B. Background:** The primary purpose of the DMG is to provide managers of government agencies working in the California Deserts a forum to share information and discuss and collaborate on issues of common interest. DMG meetings are not part of any legally mandated environmental or administrative hearing process (Federal Advisory Committee Act or Brown Act) that requires public involvement.

For the purposes of these guidelines, a “stakeholder” is defined as an officially designated representative or member of a local government, tribe, federal or state agency who is not a member of the DMG, the general public, or a non-governmental organization (NGO).

**C. Guidelines and Procedures:** DMG meetings are working interagency staff meetings and are not required to be open to attendance by stakeholders. However, DMG agencies recognize that involving stakeholders will foster support and understanding of the DMG and help meet their agencies' responsibility to keep interested parties informed and provide opportunities for comment on DMG activities and initiatives.

Stakeholder involvement in DMG meetings will be conducted in accordance with the following procedures and guidelines:

1. As a general rule, the first day of the DMG meeting will be open to stakeholders. The second day of the meeting will be restricted to DMG members, agency staff and invited guest speakers. The meeting chair will determine what topics will be presented during open session in consultation with the DOI/DOD Coordinators and other members of the DMG. Exceptions to this general rule may be approved by the meeting chair in consultation with the DOI and DOD Coordinators.
2. Stakeholders will be invited to provide comments at designated times identified on the meeting agenda. Stakeholder comments will generally be limited to 3 minutes unless agreed to otherwise with the meeting organizers prior to the start of the meeting.

Stakeholder comments should be relevant to a topic on the agenda or a goal or objective identified in the DMG 5 year plan.

3. Stakeholders who wish to attend a DMG meeting will be required to contact the DOI or DOD Coordinator prior to the meeting. Stakeholders may also suggest topics for discussion on the DMG meeting agenda to the DOI/DOD Coordinators.
4. Notification of DMG meetings will be posted on the DMG Website ([www.dmg.gov](http://www.dmg.gov)) at least 30 days prior to the meeting. (Direct notification will not be provided.) Meeting announcements, a calendar of events, the DMG 5 Year Plan, and various reports, etc., will be posted and available to all interested parties through the website. Summaries of DMG meetings will be posted approximately two weeks after each meeting.
5. The goals and activities of the DMG will be identified in the DMG 5 Year Plan. The 5 Year Plan will be updated annually and broadly distributed (including via the website).
6. The DMG may invite certain federal, state, local and tribal government agencies that are not members of the DMG to participate on DMG work groups. Stakeholders who have expertise in the mission of the work group may also attend DMG work group meetings and comment on work group activities. Stakeholders interested in participating in a work group must submit a request to do so in writing to either the DOI or DOD Coordinator for DMG approval.

**D. Additional Public Involvement Opportunities:** Stakeholders are encouraged to also participate in:

1. The agency land and resource management planning process related to specific projects or areas of interest;
2. Meetings of the BLM Desert Advisory Council; and
3. Appropriate NEPA and CEQA compliance activities as specified in the guidelines for those processes.

All actions implemented or coordinated by the DMG are subject to appropriate NEPA/CEQA compliance as applicable.

**E. DMG Contacts:**

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