



**CALIFORNIA
WILDERNESS
COALITION**

The Voice for Wild California

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November 22, 2005

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: West-Wide Energy Corridor Public Scoping Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

The California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) is a non-profit, public-interest conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring California's wild places and native biodiversity on a statewide level. Through advocacy and public education, CWC builds support for threatened wild places, from oak woodlands to ancient forests and deserts. We coordinate our efforts with community leaders, businesspeople, decision-makers, local organizations, policy-makers, and activists.

Since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, California residents and our congressional representatives have set aside 14 million acres of federally owned land as Wilderness. California's wild lands are a national heritage that we have committed ourselves to preserving for future generations. The CWC is very concerned with the West-Wide Corridor's potential to negatively impact designated and potential wilderness areas in California. Locating the corridor in existing and potential wilderness areas will require road building and other development activities that are clearly prohibited by the Wilderness Act.

While we applaud your efforts to identify energy corridors and to view their location in a broad, landscape context, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The EIS must ensure that no energy corridor is located in designated Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Forest Service Roadless Areas, Citizen Proposed Wilderness Areas, or National Landscape Conservation lands.
2. The EIS must ensure that Visual Resource Management is considered and factored in when designating corridors

3. The EIS must ensure that Best Management Practices are explicitly detailed and mandated to ensure that impacts on natural resources are limited.

The California Wilderness Coalition will continue to monitor this process. We look forward to seeing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and to working with the agencies to insure that the corridor project does not destroy the wild lands that make California unique.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,



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