



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** October 19, 2011

**Title:** Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group (CLAWG) Update

**Issue:** The CLAWG has not met recently and needs to refocus its effort

### **Background**

The DMG [chartered](#) the CLAWG in 2008 to provide the data and coordination necessary so that ongoing agency conservation acquisition programs maximize benefits to sensitive plant and wildlife species, wildlife corridors, habitats, cultural resources, and open spaces. Since 2008, the CLAWG has developed a white paper outlining various acquisition policies, develop a mapping tool to aid acquisition planning and prioritization, and effectively deconflicted acquisition projects.

### **Current Status**

Recently several renewable energy developers placed options exceeding fair market value on key private conservation parcels for use mitigation lands. SB34 and the DRECP Interim Mitigation Strategy created a need for the land trusts to coordinate among themselves. These two factors combined resulted in the CLAWG not meeting for about a year and a half. The overwhelming consensus of CLAWG members is that the group needs to start meeting regularly again.

Current needs of CLAWG members are:

- GIS mapping support form MDEP
- Coordination with the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT)
- Coordination between renewable energy mitigation and other acquisition projects.

The NPS Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) has been ask to help facilitate the winter CLAWG meeting to help the group further refine its focus.

The next CLAWG meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, October 24 at Mojave National Preserve in Barstow.

### **Contacts**

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