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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

LA CUNA DE AZTLAN SACRED  
SITES PROTECTION CIRCLE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE;  
CALIFORNIANS FOR RENEWABLE  
ENERGY; ALFREDO ACOSTA  
FIGUEROA; PHILLIP SMITH;  
PATRACIA FIGUEROA; RONALD  
VAN FLEET; and CATHERINE  
OHRIN-GREIPP,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR, KEN SALAZAR, in  
his official capacity as Secretary of the  
Interior; UNITED STATES BUREAU  
OF LAND MANAGEMENT; ROBERT  
ABBEY, in his official capacity as  
Director, Bureau of Land Management;  
TERI RAML, in her official capacity as  
District Manager, Bureau of Land  
Management, California Desert  
Division; ROXIE TROST, in her  
official capacity as Field Manager,  
Bureau of Land Management, Barstow  
Field Office of the United States Bureau  
of Land Management, and CHEVRON  
ENERGY SOLUTIONS,

Defendants.

Case No. CV 11-00395 ODW (OPx)

Order **GRANTING IN PART** and  
**DENYING IN PART** Defendants'  
Motion to Dismiss [25] [Filed  
06/07/11]

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Pending before the Court is Defendants, Ken Salazar, in his official capacity as Secretary of the Interior; United States Bureau of Land Management; Robert Abbey, in his official capacity as Director, Bureau of Land Management; Teri Raml, in her official capacity as District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert Division; Roxie Trost, in her official capacity as Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office, and the United States Department of the Interior’s (collectively, “Federal Defendants”) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint pursuant to both Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) (“Rule 12(b)(1)”) and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) (“Rule 12(b)(6)”). (Dkt. No. 25.) On July 20, 2011, Defendant, Chevron Energy Solutions (“Chevron” and collectively with Federal Defendants, “Defendants”), joined in Federal Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss. (Dkt. No. 31.)

Subsequently, Plaintiffs, La Cuna De Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle Advisory Committee (“La Cuna”); Californians for Renewable Energy (“CARE”) (collectively, the “Organizational Plaintiffs”); Alfredo Acosta Figueroa; Phillip Smith; Patricia Figueroa; Ronald Van Fleet; and Catherine Ohrin-Greipp (collectively, “Individual Plaintiffs” and collectively with Organizational Plaintiffs, “Plaintiffs”) filed an Opposition on August 22, 2011, to which Federal Defendants filed a Reply on August 29, 2011. (Dkt. Nos. 32, 34.)

Having considered the papers filed in support of and in opposition to the instant Motion, the Court deems the matter appropriate for decision without oral argument. Fed. R. Civ. P. 78; L.R. 7-15. For the following reasons, Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) is **GRANTED in Part** and **DENIED in Part** and Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) is **DENIED** without prejudice.

## II. BACKGROUND

This lawsuit arises out of Plaintiffs’ challenges to Defendants’ actions in connection with a solar-electricity generation project called the *Chevron Energy Solutions Lucerne Solar Project* (the “Project”). (Compl. ¶ 7.) Because the Project is located on

1 federal land, Chevron was required to obtain certain approvals from the Bureau of Land  
2 Management (“BLM”) prior to constructing and operating the Project.

3 In October 2010, Federal Defendants granted the requisite approval, which  
4 included an amendment to the existing California Desert Conservation Area (“CDCA”)  
5 Plan and right-of-way authorization. (Compl. ¶ 7A.) Plaintiffs allege that, in so doing,  
6 Defendants failed to comply with several federal laws. Specifically, Plaintiffs allege that  
7 Federal Defendants: (1) failed to consult with Plaintiffs regarding the Project as required  
8 under the National Historic Perseveration Act (“NHPA”); (2) failed to “conduct an  
9 adequate analysis of the cumulative impacts, failed to prepare a programmatic  
10 environmental impact statement, failed to adequately identify and evaluate the  
11 significance of the affected cultural environment, and failed to conduct an adequate  
12 analysis of alternatives to the Project” in violation of the National Environmental Policy  
13 Act (“NEPA”); (3) failed to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for  
14 the Project in violation of NEPA; and (4) allowed permanent impairment of the lands  
15 affected by the Project and unnecessary degradation of the lands in violation of the  
16 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (“FLPMA”). (Compl. ¶ 8A-D.)  
17 Additionally, Plaintiffs assert that approval of the Project will result in “the intentional  
18 excavation, disposal, or other removal of Native American cultural items (including  
19 human remains) known to be or strongly suspected of being on the Project’s site,” in  
20 violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (“NAGPRA”).<sup>1</sup>  
21 (Compl. ¶ 8E.)

22 As a result of the foregoing, on January 13, 2011, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint in  
23 this Court against Defendants. Defendants now seek to dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint in  
24 its entirety pursuant to both Rule 12(b)(1) and Rule 12(b)(6). The main thrust of  
25 Defendants’ 12(b)(1) Motion is that Plaintiffs lack standing to maintain this suit.

26 Individual Plaintiffs, however, argue that they have standing because they “reside  
27 in the areas affecting [sic] by the actions challenged in this lawsuit and have an interest

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28 <sup>1</sup> In their Opposition, Plaintiffs state that they “are amenable to dismissing the fifth claim without prejudice.” Thus, the Court hereby **DISMISSES without prejudice** Plaintiffs’ fifth claim for violation of the NAGPRA.

1 in the responsible development of renewable energy and in the preservation of and  
2 respect for Native American culture.” (Compl. ¶ 3.) Further, Individual Plaintiffs  
3 purport to attach religious and cultural significance to the affected land, in which they  
4 allegedly reside. (Compl. ¶ 16.) La Cuna, an organization dedicated to protecting sacred  
5 sites from Needles, California to Yuma, Arizona, (Compl. ¶ 1), contends that it has  
6 standing because it is “comprised of 15 indigenous and culturally aware individuals who  
7 are dedicated to physically protecting the Blythe Giant Intaglios, other geoglyphs, and  
8 several hundred sacred sites . . . .” (Compl. ¶ 1.) Finally, CARE asserts that it has  
9 standing because it is “a non-profit organization formed to promote public education  
10 concerning the responsible development of renewable energy and in the preservation of  
11 an respect for Native American culture.” (Compl. ¶ 2.)

12 The Court addresses the parties’ arguments below.

### 13 III. DISCUSSION

14 Because “[f]ederal courts must determine they have jurisdiction before proceeding  
15 to the merits[,]” *Lance v. Coffman*, 549 U.S. 437, 439 (2007) (citations omitted), the  
16 Court first addresses Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b)(1).

#### 17 A. LEGAL STANDARD

18 On a Rule 12(b)(1) motion to dismiss, the plaintiff bears the burden of establishing  
19 that subject matter jurisdiction is proper. *See United States v. Orr Water Ditch Co.*, 600  
20 F.3d 1152, 1157 (9th Cir. 2010) (“The party asserting federal jurisdiction has the burden  
21 of establishing it.”). The nature of the plaintiff’s burden, however, depends on whether  
22 the Rule 12(b)(1) motion raises a facial or a factual challenge to the court’s subject matter  
23 jurisdiction. *See Warren v. Fox Family Worldwide, Inc.*, 328 F.3d 1136, 1139 (9th Cir.  
24 2003).

25 In the context of a facial attack, “the challenger asserts that the allegations  
26 contained in a complaint are insufficient on their face to invoke federal jurisdiction.”  
27 *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004). In this situation,  
28 the court must accept the plaintiff’s allegations as true and construe them in the light most  
favorable to the plaintiff. *Wolfe v. Strankman*, 392 F.3d 358, 362 (9th Cir. 2004).

1 Conversely, in the context of a factual attack, “the challenger disputes the truth of the  
2 allegations that, by themselves, would otherwise invoke federal jurisdiction.” *Safe Air*,  
3 373 F.3d at 1039. In this instance, the “court need not presume the truthfulness of the  
4 plaintiff’s allegations[,]” but may “review evidence beyond the complaint without  
5 converting the motion to dismiss into a motion for summary judgment.” *Id.* (quoting  
6 *White v. Lee*, 227 F.3d 1214, 1242 (9th Cir. 2000); *Savage v. Glendale Union High Sch.*,  
7 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003)).

8 Here, Defendants challenge Plaintiffs’ ability to satisfy standing, an indisputable  
9 component of subject matter jurisdiction. *See Maya v. Centex Corp.*, --- F.3d ----, 2011  
10 WL 4381864 at \*3 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *City of Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95,  
11 101 (1983)) (“[T]hose who seek to invoke the jurisdiction of the federal courts must  
12 satisfy the threshold requirement imposed by Article III of the Constitution by alleging  
13 an actual case or controversy.”). Specifically, Defendants raise a facial attack with  
14 respect to the entire Complaint, claiming that Plaintiffs allege “only generalized  
15 grievances” and fail to “meet the injury in fact requirement.” (Mot. at 7.) Additionally,  
16 Defendants attempt to raise a factual attack with respect to claims one and five, asserting  
17 that “none of the Plaintiffs are a federally recognized tribe and therefore lack standing[.]”  
18 (Mot. at 7-8.) Defendants, however, fail to support this contention with evidence.  
19 Indeed, NHPA provides that “Indian tribes” satisfying certain eligibility requirements  
20 may be included on a National Register. 16 U.S.C. § 470a(6)(A). Defendants do not  
21 provide the Court with the National Register or any other information to this effect.  
22 Moreover, claim five has been dismissed. Thus, for purposes of the instant Motion, the  
23 Court construes Defendants’ attacks as facial challengers, accepts Plaintiffs allegations  
24 as true, and construes them in the light most favorable to Plaintiffs. *See Wolfe v.*  
25 *Strankman*, 392 F.3d 358, 362 (9th Cir. 2004).

#### 26 **B. STANDARDS GOVERNING THE DOCTRINE OF STANDING**

27 The Constitution limits the power of Federal Courts to actual “Cases” or  
28 “Controversies.” U.S. Const. art. III, § 2. The doctrine of standing serves to set “apart  
the ‘Cases’ and ‘Controversies’ that are of the justiciable sort referred to in Article III”

1 and thereby, identifies “those disputes which are appropriately resolved through the  
2 judicial process[.]” *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). While  
3 some elements of standing “express merely prudential considerations . . . , the core  
4 component of standing is an essential and unchanging part of the case-or-controversy  
5 requirement.” *Id.*

### 6 **1. Standing for Individual Plaintiffs**

7 As applied to individual plaintiffs, the “irreducible constitutional minimum of  
8 standing contains three elements.” *Id.* First, an individual plaintiff must present an  
9 “‘injury in fact’ – an invasion of a legally protected interest which is (a) concrete and  
10 particularized, and (b) ‘actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical.’” *Id.* (citations  
11 omitted). The injury in fact test “requires more than an injury to a cognizable interest.  
12 It requires that the party seeking review be himself among the injured.” *Id.* at 734-735.

13  
14 “In determining whether a plaintiff has demonstrated an injury in fact, courts apply  
15 different tests depending on whether the alleged injury is procedural or substantive.”  
16 *Nat’l Wildlife Fed’n v. Johanns*, No. C04-2169Z, 2005 WL 1189583 at \*5 (W.D. Wash.  
17 May 19, 2005) (citing *Cantrell v. City of Long Beach*, 241 F.3d 674, 679 n.3 (9th Cir.  
18 2001)). A procedural injury “results from the violation of a statute that guarantees a  
19 particular *procedure*, while substantive injury results from the violation of a statute that  
20 guarantees a particular *result*.” *Id.* (citing *West v. Sec’y of Dep’t of Transp.*, 206 F.3d  
21 920, 930 n.14 (9th Cir. 2000).

22 Where “[a]n individual bring[s] a substantive claim related to environmental  
23 harms[.]” injury in fact may be established “by showing ‘a connection to the area of  
24 concern sufficient to make credible the connection that the person’s life will be less  
25 enjoyable—that he or she really has or will suffer in his or her degree of aesthetic or  
26 recreational satisfaction—if the area in question remains or becomes environmentally  
27 degraded.’” *W. Watersheds Project v. Kraayenbrink*, 632 F.3d 472, 484 (9th Cir. 2011)  
28 (quoting *Ecological Rights Found. v. Pac. Lumber Co.*, 230 F.3d 1141, 1149 (9th Cir.  
2000)). Standing in this context has been established in cases where plaintiffs have

1 “enjoyed photographing marine life, fishing, and watching marine life in the area  
2 potentially affected by the challenged government action . . . [or] regularly used and  
3 enjoyed an area inhabited by [an] imperiled species.” *Id.* (citing *Ocean Advocates v. U.S.*  
4 *Army Corps of Eng’rs*, 402 F.3d 846, 859–60 (9th Cir. 2005); *Idaho Farm Bureau Fed’n*  
5 *v. Babbitt*, 58 F.3d 1392, 1399 (9th Cir. 1995)).

6 In contrast, “a plaintiff asserting a procedural injury must show that the procedures  
7 in question are designed to protect some threatened concrete interest of his that is the  
8 ultimate basis of his standing.” *W. Watersheds*, 632 F.3d at 485 (quoting *Citizens for*  
9 *Better Forestry v. U.S. Dep’t of Agriculture*, 341 F.3d 961, 969 (9th Cir. 2003)). This  
10 entails a showing that (1) “the defendant violated certain procedural rules;” (2) “these  
11 rules protect [the] plaintiff[’s] concrete interests;” and (3) “it is reasonably probable that  
12 the challenged action will threaten the[se] concrete interests.” *Citizens for Better*  
13 *Forestry v. USDA*, 341 F.3d 961, 969-970 (9th Cir. 2003). A concrete interest requires  
14 “a geographic nexus between the individual asserting the claim and the location suffering  
15 an environmental impact.” *Id.* at 971.

16 Second, there must be a causal connection between the alleged injury and the  
17 defendant’s conduct. *Id.* Such an injury must be “fairly traceable” to the defendant’s  
18 challenged action and “not the result of the independent action of some third party not  
19 before the court.” *Id.* Third, it must be likely –not merely speculative – that the injury  
20 will be “redressed by a favorable decision.” *Id.*

## 21 **2. Standing for Organizational Plaintiffs**

22 An organizational plaintiff may assert standing in two distinct capacities: (1) on  
23 behalf of the organization itself, or (2) on behalf of the members of the organization.  
24 Where, as here, an organizational plaintiff is suing on behalf of its members, the  
25 organization must sufficiently plead that: (1) at least one of its members would otherwise  
26 have standing to sue in his or her own right; (2) the interests at stake are germane to the  
27 organization’s purpose; and (3) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires  
28 the participation of individual members of the lawsuit. *W. Watersheds Project v.*  
*Kraayenbrink*, 632 F.3d 472, 482-83 (9th Cir. 2011). With respect to the first element,  
an “organization asserting standing must provide ‘specific allegations establishing that

1 at least one identified member has suffered or would suffer harm,’ and ‘generalized harm  
2 will not alone support standing.” *Id.* (internal citations omitted).

3 Against this backdrop and in the context of Defendants’ 12(b)(1) Motion, the Court  
4 analyzes the Individual Plaintiffs’ standing, then the Organizational Plaintiffs’ standing.

5  
6 **C. THE INDIVIDUAL PLAINTIFFS’ STANDING**

7 As a preliminary matter, the Individual Plaintiffs, Alfredo Acosta Figueroa, Phillip  
8 Smith, Patricia Figueroa, Ronald Van Fleet, and Catherine Ohrin-Greipp, are not  
9 differentiated from each other in the Complaint. (Compl. ¶ 3.) Therefore, the Court  
10 analyzes their standing collectively, first discussing Plaintiffs’ alleged procedural injury  
11 under NHPA and NEPA with respect to claims one, two, and three; and then their a  
12 alleged substantive injury under FLPMA with respect to claim four.<sup>2</sup>

13 **1. Individual Plaintiffs Properly Allege Standing to Maintain Their NHPA  
14 and NEPA Claims<sup>3</sup>**

15 Plaintiffs contend that Defendants failed to consult with Plaintiffs regarding the  
16 Project as required under NHPA. Additionally, Plaintiffs maintain that Defendants failed  
17 to, *inter alia*, conduct adequate analyses, prepare a programmatic environmental impact  
18 statement, and identify and evaluate the significance of the affected cultural environment  
19 in violation of NEPA. At this stage of the litigation, these allegations are sufficiently  
20 pleaded with respect to the first element of a procedural injury – that Defendants violated  
21 procedural rules.

22  
23 <sup>2</sup> Because claim five under NAGPRA has been dismissed, the Court does not address Plaintiffs’  
24 standing to bring this claim.

25 <sup>3</sup> Defendants do not raise the prudential standing argument of whether Plaintiffs’ alleged injuries  
26 fall outside the “zone of interests” under the statutes at issue. Nevertheless, because the Court must  
27 independently assess its jurisdiction, it determines that Plaintiffs’ alleged injuries fall squarely within  
28 the zones of interest under NHPA, NEPA, and FLPMA, which require, *inter alia*, consultation with any  
Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that attaches religious and cultural significance to certain  
properties covered by NHPA prior to taking action, *see* 16 U.S.C. § 470a, consideration of the  
“environmental consequences of . . . planned [agency] action . . . and the well-being of the affected land  
not be threatened[.]” *W. Watersheds*, 632 F.3d at 486, as well as that “public lands be managed in a  
manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and  
atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values[.]” *Desert Citizens Against Pollution v. Bisson*,  
231 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2000).



1 While Defendants argue that Plaintiffs fail to establish concrete or immediate  
2 “plans to visit or frequent the Lucerne Valley Project site[,]” (Mot. at 9), Individual  
3 Plaintiffs allege that they “reside in the areas affecting [sic] by the actions challenged in  
4 this lawsuit and have an interest in the responsible development of renewable energy and  
5 in the preservation of and respect for Native American culture.” (Compl. ¶ 3.) Further,  
6 Individual Plaintiffs purport to attach religious and cultural significance to the affected  
7 land, in which they allegedly reside. (Compl. ¶ 16.) Coupled with the abovementioned  
8 interests, that the Individual Plaintiffs allegedly reside in the affected areas, is sufficient  
9 at this stage of the litigation to establish the requisite concrete interest – “a geographic  
10 nexus between the individual asserting the claim and the location suffering an  
11 environmental impact.” *Citizens*, 341 F.3d at 971.

12 Finally, Individual Plaintiffs must assert that “it is reasonably probable that the  
13 challenged action will threaten their concrete interests.” *Id.* at 969-70. Here, it is  
14 reasonably probable that Defendants’ alleged procedural failures will adversely affect  
15 Individual Plaintiffs’ interests, as such alleged injury may have been prevented through  
16 proper consultation and analysis. At this stage, this is sufficient.

17 Thus, Plaintiffs have established a procedural injury in fact with respect to these  
18 two claims. In this context, “[o]nce a plaintiff has established an injury in fact . . . the  
19 causation and redressability requirements are relaxed.” *W. Watersheds Project v.*  
20 *Kraayenbrink*, 632 F.3d 472, 482-83 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Cantrell v. City of Long*  
21 *Beach*, 241 F.3d 674, 682 (9th Cir.2001)). A plaintiff “must show only that they have a  
22 procedural right that, if exercised, *could* protect their concrete interests . . . .” *Id.*  
23 (citations omitted). Here, proper consultation and analysis may redress Plaintiffs’ alleged  
24 injuries caused by the alleged failure to follow those procedures. Thus, Individual  
25 Plaintiffs satisfy the causation and redressability requirements.

26 For the foregoing reasons, the Court finds that Individual Plaintiffs have  
27 sufficiently pleaded standing with respect to their NHPA and NEPA claims.

28 **2. The Individual Plaintiffs Properly Allege Standing to Maintain Their  
FLPMA Claim**

1 Plaintiffs maintain that Defendants’ acts, which allegedly allowed permanent  
2 impairment and unnecessary degradation of the lands in violation of FLPMA, caused  
3 them substantive injury. Similar to the procedural injuries discussed above, because the  
4 Individual Plaintiffs allege a cultural and religious interest in the land and that they reside  
5 in the affected areas, at this stage of the litigation, they have shown “‘a connection to the  
6 area of concern sufficient to make credible the connection that the person’s life will be  
7 less enjoyable—that he or she really has or will suffer in his or her degree of aesthetic or  
8 recreational satisfaction—if the area in question remains or becomes environmentally  
9 degraded.’” *W. Watersheds*, 632 F.3d at 484.

10 Further, the adverse cultural and religious consequences are fairly traceable to  
11 Defendants’ action, if indeed, those actions have caused impairment of and degradation  
12 to the land. Finally, Plaintiffs’ request for injunctive relief, including that Defendants  
13 comply with the provisions of FLPMA, is sufficient to establish redressability.

14 For the foregoing reasons, the Court finds that Individual Plaintiffs have  
15 sufficiently pleaded standing with respect to their FLPMA claim.

16 For the aforementioned reasons, the Court finds that the Individual Plaintiffs have  
17 standing at this point in the action and, therefore, the Court has subject matter jurisdiction  
18 in the case between the Individual Plaintiffs and the Defendants.

19 **D. LA CUNA DE AZTLAN SACRED SITES PROTECTION CIRCLE ADVISORY**  
20 **COMMITTEE’S STANDING**

21 La Cuna is an organization dedicated to protecting sacred sites from Needles,  
22 California to Yuma, Arizona. (Compl. ¶ 1.) Here, the Complaint does not specifically  
23 state that La Cuna is suing on its own behalf. Indeed, the Complaint alleges that La Cuna  
24 is “‘comprised of 15 indigenous and culturally aware individuals who are dedicated to  
25 physically protecting the Blythe Giant Intaglios, other geoglyphs, and several hundred  
26 sacred sites . . . .” (Compl.¶ 1.) Accordingly, Plaintiffs’ allegations lead the Court to  
27 conclude that La Cuna is suing on behalf of its members, such that it must sufficiently  
28 plead that: (1) its members would have had standing to sue in their own right; (2) the  
interests at stake are germane to the organization’s purpose and (3) neither the claim

1 asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members of the  
2 lawsuit. *See W. Watersheds*, 632 F. 3d at 482-83. Moreover, as stated above, with  
3 respect to the first element, La Cuna must provide “specific allegations establishing that  
4 at least one identified member has suffered or would suffer harm[;] . . . generalized harm  
5 will not alone support standing.” *Id.* (internal citations omitted).

6 La Cuna fails to satisfy the first element. La Cuna asserts that its members are  
7 “indigenous,” “culturally aware,” and dedicated to protecting several hundred sites  
8 between Needles, California and Yuma, Arizona. (Compl. ¶ 1.) Such allegations fail to  
9 point to “at least one *identified* member [who] has or would suffer harm.” *W.*  
10 *Watersheds*, 632 F. 3d at 482-83 (emphasis added). Moreover, beyond failing to identify  
11 even one of its members, La Cuna fails to assert that any of its member reside in the  
12 affected area. Thus, with respect to a procedural injury, La Cuna fails to establish a  
13 “concrete interest” and with respect to a substantive injury, La Cuna fails to show that  
14 at least one of its members has “a connection to the area of concern.” *W. Watersheds*,  
15 632 F.3d at 484.

16 In light of the foregoing, the Court finds that La Cuna has not properly alleged  
17 organizational standing. Accordingly, Defendants’ 12(b)(1) Motion to Dismiss is  
18 **GRANTED** as to La Cuna.<sup>4</sup>

#### 19 **E. CALIFORNIANS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY’S STANDING**

20 Plaintiffs allege that CARE is “a non-profit organization formed to promote public  
21 education concerning the responsible development of renewable energy and in the  
22 preservation of an respect for Native American culture.” (Compl. ¶ 2.) The Complaint  
23 contains no other information about CARE or its members. Thus, for the same reasons  
24

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25 <sup>4</sup> To the extent Plaintiffs argue they “are not required to provide substantial detail about the  
26 members[’] harm at this stage of the pleadings [and that the ] level of detail that Federal Defendants seek  
27 is appropriate for lengthier declarations at subsequent stages of litigation, (Opp’n at 5), the Court finds  
28 this unavailing. Plaintiffs have simply not alleged sufficient *facts* to support organizational standing,  
which is certainly a requirement at the pleading stage. Indeed, without proper standing allegations in the  
Complaint, Plaintiffs’ “provision of affidavits and declarations supporting organizational standing at  
the summary judgment stage [will be] ineffectual.” *La Asociacion de Trabajadores de Lake Forest v.*  
*City of Lake Forest*, 624 F.3d 1083, 1088 (9th Cir. 2010).

1 that La Cuna fails to establish organizational standing – namely, that it fails to allege any  
2 facts about its members – CARE also fails to establish organizational standing.

3 **V. CONCLUSION**

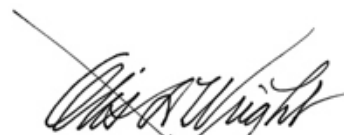
4 In light of the foregoing, the Court finds that, at this stage of the litigation, the  
5 Individual Plaintiffs plead facts sufficient to establish standing as to their NHPA, NEPA,  
6 and FLPMA claims. Conversely, the Court finds that the Organizational Plaintiffs fail  
7 to plead facts sufficient to establish standing as to their NHPA, NEPA, and FLPMA  
8 claims. Accordingly, Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
9 Procedure 12(b)(1) is **DENIED** as to the Individual Plaintiffs and **GRANTED** with leave  
10 to amend as to the Organizational Plaintiffs. If they so choose, Plaintiffs may file a first  
11 amended complaint to correct the deficiencies discussed herein. Plaintiffs shall file any  
12 amendment within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

13 Additionally, because the Court has granted leave to amend with respect to the  
14 Organizational Plaintiffs’ standing, it is yet to be determined whether the Court has  
15 jurisdiction to decide any substantive issues pertaining to the Organizational Plaintiffs.  
16 Thus, until such time as the issue of standing has been resolved as to all Plaintiffs, the  
17 Court declines to rule on the substantive issues. Defendants Motion to Dismiss pursuant  
18 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) is therefore **DENIED without prejudice**.  
19 If Plaintiffs fail to amend their Complaint within the allotted time, the Organizational  
20 Plaintiffs’ claims will be dismissed with prejudice and Defendants may then refile their  
21 Motion as to the Individual Plaintiffs’ claims.

22 Finally, pursuant to Plaintiff’s representation in their Opposition, the Court hereby  
23 **DISMISSES without prejudice** Plaintiffs’ fifth claim for violation of the NAGPRA.

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 October 24, 2011

26  
27 

28  
HON. OTIS D. WRIGHT, II  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE