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John Robbins 832-280-5815 281-498-4310 Jun Gai

Publisher: Wea H. Lee General Manager: Catherine Lee Editor: John Robbins, Jun Gai Business Manager: Jennifer Lopez Address: 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072

Southern News Group

E-mail: News@scdaily.com

Former State Department Official, Sri Preston Kulkarni, is becoming the Frontrunner of the Texas Primary Election

**Inside C2** 

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

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# Starbucks closes 8,000 stores for anti-bias training

LOS ANGELES/MIAMI (Reuters) - Starbucks Corp (SBUX-.O) appealed to customers for forgiveness in a controversy over alleged racial profiling on Tuesday, saying its behavior toward two black men last month had been reprehensible as it closed 8,000 U.S. stores for anti-bias training.

The company settled privately with the men after a Philadelphia cafe manager's call to police resulted in their arrests on April 12. It was closing company-owned U.S. stores at around 2 p.m. local time on Tuesday as a first step in training 175,000 employees on how to recognize their own unconscious biases and avoid unintentional discrimination.

Analysts expect the closures, coming during the typically slow afternoon hours, would cost Starbucks \$5 million to \$7 million in lost business. Some 6,000 licensed Starbucks cafes will remain open in locations such as grocery stores and

The Philadelphia arrests sparked protests at the coffee chain, known for its support of same-sex marriage and other left-leaning social issues.

Starbucks Executive Chairman Howard Schultz, who crafted the chain's culture in his decades as chief executive officer, in an open letter called the manager's 911 emergency call and the subsequent arrests by police "reprehensible."

"We determined that insufficient support and training, a company policy that defined customers as paying patrons—versus anyone who enters a store—and bias led to the decision to call the police," he said.

Miami business owner Isabel Pacheco, 56, told Reuters the Philadelphia incident has pushed her to start visiting smaller, locally owned coffee shops, while Miami legal assistant Jessica Hines, 53, said it did not affect her coffee routine.



Vehicles pass the logo of a Starbucks store following the closing of one of the 8,000 Starbucks-owned American stores that will close around 2 p.m. local time on Tuesday as a first step in training 175,000 employees on racial tolerance in New York

"They've been doing it the right way; they could've just sent out a letter or done nothing, but they didn't," Hines said. Their comments underscore Starbucks' vulnerabilities at a time when independent coffee shops are proliferating and powerful rivals are making assertive moves into the business it still dominates.

On Tuesday JAB Holdings said it would buy a majority stake in sandwich and coffee shop chain Pret A Manger for \$2

billion, expanding its reach into the coffee sector, where it also battles Nescafe and Nespresso maker Nestle (NESN.S). Earlier this month, Nestle and Starbucks struck a \$7 billion coffee licensing deal aimed at strengthening each company's global position.

Civil rights leaders advising Starbucks on the training hope it will reinvigorate decades-old efforts to ensure minorities get equal treatment in restaurants and stores, setting an example for other restaurants and retailers.

### Wall Street falls on Italy worries; bank shares drop

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average registered their biggest one-day percentage drops in a month on Tuesday as political turmoil in Italy sparked concerns about the stability of the euro zone and shares of U.S. banks tumbled.

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S. May 22, 2018. REUTERS/Brendan Mcdermid

Italy has been unable to assemble a coalition government since inconclusive elections in March, which saw the rise of anti-establishment parties that support leaving the euro. The most recent nominee for prime minister failed to secure support from the country's major political parties. The political crisis in Rome, and the threat to the euro project it represents, triggered a rush to traditional safe havens like U.S. debt, pulling down U.S. 10-year Treasury yields and in turn spurring losses for U.S. banks. Shares of S&P 500 banks registered their biggest one-day decline in more than two months, ending more than 4 percent lower.

Wall Street shares slide with Italy in focus Wall Street shares slide with Italy in focus "The direct connection between the Italian government and the S&P 500 is tenuous, but it indirectly reminds people of geopolitical uncer-

tainty," said Ed Keon, chief investment strategist at QMA in Newark, New Jersey.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 391.64 points, or 1.58 percent, to 24,361.45, the S&P 500 lost 31.47 points, or 1.16 percent, to 2,689.86 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 37.26 points, or 0.5 percent, to 7,396.59. Shares of large U.S. banks were also pressured by downbeat guidance from JPMorgan Chase & Co and Morgan Stanley. JPMorgan's corporate and investment bank chief said his bank's second-quarter markets revenue would be flat compared with a year earlier. The co-head of Morgan Stanley's wealth management division said activity had slowed since March, according to a CNBC report here

JPMorgan Chase shares, which fell 4.3 percent, were the biggest drag on the S&P 500. Morgan Stanley shares dropped 5.8 percent, the second-largest percentage decline on the index.

"It's evolving into not the greatest environment for bank stocks," said Tim Ghriskey, chief investment strategist at Inverness Counsel in New York.

Shares of energy companies were also led lower by a drop in U.S. crude oil futures on expectations that Saudi Arabia and Russia could pump more crude to compensate for a potential supply shortfall. [O/R]

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the NYSE by a 1.49-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 1.63-to-1 ratio favored

decliners.

The S&P 500 posted seven new 52-week highs and 12 new lows; the Nasdag Composite recorded 95 new highs and 51 new lows. Volume on U.S. exchanges was 7.58 billion shares, compared to the 6.58 billion average over the last 20 trading days. Inverness Counsel in New



The Dow Jones Industrial average is displayed on a screen after the closing bell at the NYSE in New York

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## LOCAL NEWS

### Former State Department Official, Sri Preston Kulkarni, is becoming the Frontrunner of the Texas Primary Election

The Runoff Election of the Texas Primary is heating up in its last few days of race with Early Voting ending on this Friday, May 18th, and the final Election Day on May 22nd, Tuesday. In this Runoff Election, three races have attracted statewide and national wide attention: Democratic candidates of the Texas Governor, Congressional District CD 07, and Congressional District CD 22.

Sri Preston Kulkarni in CD 22, which includes Sugar Land, Pearland, Katy, Clear Lake, and other surrounding areas, is the only Asian American candidate in this runoff election in Houston. New York Times on Apr 13th issued a commentary, quoting Kulkarni as the "...a significant boost to Democrat's chances to nab this House seat (of CD 22)."

Sri Preston Kulkarni won the 1st place (out of 5 candidates) in the Democratic primary election on March 6 and had 30% more votes than the 2nd place winner. He received Houston Chronicle's endorsement and many others during the Primary (see details on kulkarnforcongress. com). Since then, he has been the frontrunner of the race, recognized for the unique approach and impactful campaign he spearheaded since January. Texas Tribune released an article on May 17th, highlighting Kulkarni's success to mobilize and amass diverse groups of people in the district which have historically low voting turnout rate.

Kulkarni grew up in Houston, and is the oldest son of a first-generation immigrant family. His father was from India, mother from Virginia, a descendant of the earlier European settlers. He lived in southwest Houston, attended Lamar High School, is a graduate of UT Austin and Harvard Kennedy School. He served in the Foreign Service of the State Department for 14 years, stationed in Iraq, Russia, Taiwan, Israel, and Jamaica. He is fluent in 6 languages including Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Hindi, and Hebrew. He said his immigrant root and his linguistic talent have been a great boost to his ability to connect with the diverse multi-ethnic immigrant communities in the district where he is



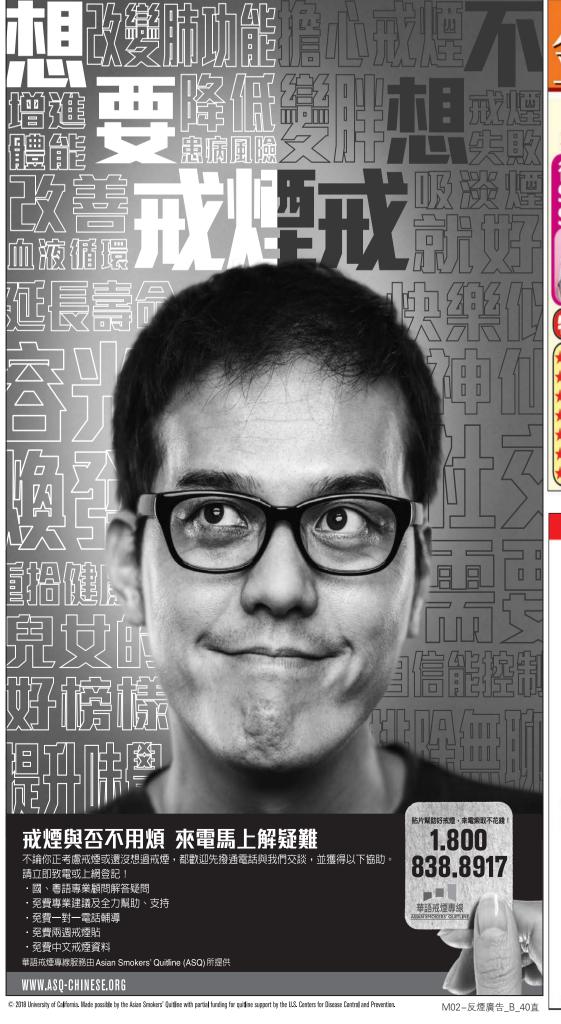
running for the Congress.

District CD22 has the highest concentration of Asian American population (18%) and minority communities in the state of Texas. Unfortunately, the voter turnout only lingers around 3-5% among the minority groups in the primary elections. Kulkarni had the vision to unite these communities and to build a campaign that can bring these different groups out together. He achieved this goal within just the first two months of his campaign, trail-blazing every community in the district. The positive outcome shocked his opponents and brought national attention to this district, where many people thought Democrats would not make much a dent. If Kulkarni succeeds in the Runoff, he will be the only Asian American candidate heading to the November General Election in Houston. He also has a high chance to possibly become the first Asian American Congressman in Texas and test whether the #BlueWave democratic movement can rock this conservative

Passionate, hardworking, charismatic, and experienced in both



the legislative and executive branches on the federal level, Kulkarni has excited the entire Asian, Hispanic, and African American communities. He is pushing forward as the winner in the Tuesday Runoff. Many Asian American communities and organizations in the Houston area, including the Asian American Democratic Club, the AAPI Committee of the Harris County Democratic Party, are encouraged by his success and are involved in the campaign. The youth activism championed by Kulkarni has particularly inspired and motivated more than one hundred young Asian American volunteers to come out and join the campaign. The high school and college students, looked upon him as the role model and as the future success of what they can accomplish in America. The last day of Early Voting is this Friday, May 18th. Polling opens from 7AM-7PM daily, with the final Election Day on May 22nd, Tuesday. If the Chinese Americans want to stand up for their voices and rights, they need to come out to vote, and vote for Kulkarni who can represent the interest of the minority immigrant communities. Everyone needs to vote. Every vote counts.







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Wednesday, May 30, 2018



### Editor's Choice



Market, with low stock, due to the truckers strike is pictured in Rio de Janeiro



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., May 29, 2018. RE-UTERS/Brendan McDermid



FILE PHOTO: Man walks past headquarters of NaftoGaz company in Kiev



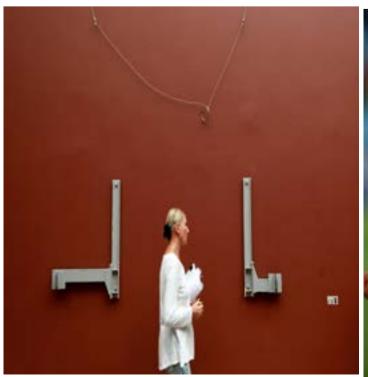
NYSE Chief Operating Officer Stacey Cunningham, who will be the New York Stock Exchange's (NYSE) first female president, poses on the floor of the NYSE in New York



The Wider Image: In Denmark, immigrants worry about official "ghetto" label



Chefs lift the lid of a giant food steamer during a steamed dish competition in Tianmen



An employee walks past fixing mechanisms for the painting "Ivan the Terrible and His Son Ivan on November 16, 1581" at the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow



Soccer Football - International Friendly - South Korea vs Honduras - Daegu Stadium, Daegu, South Korea - May 28, 2018 South Korea's Son Heung-Min celebrates scoring their first goal with team mates REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at Arlington National Cemetery as part of Memorial Day observance, Arlington, Virginia



## COMMUNITY

**HOUSTON** (May 15, 2018) - The American Heart Association and Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center will hold a free "Save a Life" CPR training seminar on June 2 at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Herman Park Dr. An infant CPR and choking relief training starts at 10 a.m., and hands-only CPR training will start at 11 a.m. A three-and-a-half hour CPR and AED certification training session will begin at 1 p.m.

"When a person is in cardiac arrest, survival depends on immediately getting timely and correct CPR from someone nearby," said Charudatta Bavare, M.D., F.A.C.S., a vascular surgeon with Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center. "CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival."

Approximately 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. Only 70 percent of Americans feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency because they either do not know how to administer CPR or their training has significantly lapsed.



Through short, interactive simulations and using American Heart Association's revolutionary CPR Anytime® kit, participants will learn the important, life-saving skills required to act quickly in the case of a cardiac emergency. The kits contain everything needed to learn basic CPR skills and guests will take it home for free upon completion of the training. Hands-only CPR training is not a certification course.

"This is the fifth year in a row that we've partnered with American Heart Association on Save a Life and we have trained hundreds of potential new life savers," Bayare said. "We believe this event gives people the tools they need to save the lives of sudden cardiac arrest victims in their communities.'

SAVE A LIFE: AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND HOUSTON METHODIST DEBAKEY HEART & VASCULAR CENTER TO TEACH HOUSTONIANS HOW TO SAVE LIVES

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



### Methodist **American** Heart DeBakey Heart Association® & Vascular Center®



All participants must be at least 12 years old. Training will be available in both English and Spanish. AHA and Houston Methodist staff will be on hand to share additional heart health education information. Upon completion, all participants will receive free admission (same day only) to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and a CPR Anytime®kit. Online registration is encouraged at www.houstonsavealife.com.

### **Event Overview**

WHAT: Free CPR training for Houstonians hosted by American Heart Association and Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center.

### WHEN: Saturday, June 2, 2018

9 a.m. - An Infant CPR and Choking Relief Training

10 a.m. - Free Hands-Only CPR (English and Spanish)

1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Certification training

WHERE: Houston Museum of

Natural Science 5555 Hermann Park Dr.

Houston, TX 77030

\* Free and metered parking is available throughout the area.

**REGISTER:** Online pre-registration

is encouraged at www.houstonsavealife.com. For more information, please call (832) 918-4062 or send an email to savealifehouston@heart.org.

SOCIAL: Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @ahahouston and join the conversation! #houstonsavealife

### About the American Heart Associa-

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. Our mission is to build healthier lives by preventing, treating and defeating these diseases - America's No. 1 and No. 5 killers. We fund cutting-edge research, conduct lifesaving public and professional educational programs and advocate to protect public health. To learn more or join us inhelping all Americans, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit www. heart.org.

### **About Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center**

Patients from around the world choose Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center for access to state-ofthe-art resources at Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center. The center is staffed by more than 125 heart specialists and 1,000 employees, and boasts 10 operating rooms, 9 catheterization labs, 176 acute-care beds, 58 ICU beds and 43 transplant beds. The center has more than 100 clinical trials currently underway. And, the Center is ranked No. 21 by U.S. News & World Report among the 694 best hospitals in the United States for cardiology and heart surgery.

1,000th heart transplant performed at Houston Methodist Hospital Hospital officials say recipient of



HOUSTON - More than 1,000 heart transplants have now been performed by physicians at Houston Methodist Hospital since Dr. Michael E. DeBakey completed the first one at the hospital 50 years ago, according to hospital officials.

The latest recipient was Tyler Wertz, a 23-year-old who was on a left ventricular assist device, or LVAD, for the past five years, officials said. Wertz and his younger brother have been on LVADs due to complications from Becker's muscular dystrophy, which is a disease that slowly weakens the arms and legs and damages the heart.

"This has been a long journey and a long struggle for me, and I now feel great," Wertz said. "I am looking forward to seeing what life is like with this new heart."

In the past five years, Wertz has gotten engaged and had two children, and now he has his new beginning, officials said. "I really want to become a football coach. I love the game and was never able to play because of my muscular dystrophy," Wertz said. "I also can't wait to watch my children grow up and live out their dreams. I am truly blessed."

Officials said the hospital joins an elite group of hospitals in the country that have performed more than 1,000 heart transplants.



### Dr. Michael E. DeBakey

Houston Methodist Hospital's first heart transplant in 1968 was part of the world's first multi-organ transplant that also included a lung and two kidneys from one donor to four recipients, officials said.

Dr. George P. Noon, a cardiovascular surgeon with Houston Methodist De-Bakey Heart & Vascular Center, was part of DeBakev's team and has been involved in more than 600 of the 1,000 heart transplants, officials said.

"A great amount of work went into performing that first transplant, and to see us reach 1,000 heart transplants is an incredible accomplishment for Houston Methodist," Noon said. "It's a great feeling to know that we have been able to save the lives of many people over the past 50 years."

Officials said the 1,000th heart transplant was also the 50th of the year, which is a new record for Houston Methodist.

"Consistently performing heart transplants with great results is a testament to the commitment of everyone involved on the team," said Dr. A. Osama Gaber, director of Houston Methodist J.C. Walter Jr. Transplant Center.

"The evolution and maturation of heart transplantation from the early stages 50 years ago to today when patients have excellent long-term outcomes is nothing short of remarkable," said Dr. Alan B. Lumsden, chief of cardiovascular surgery at Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center.



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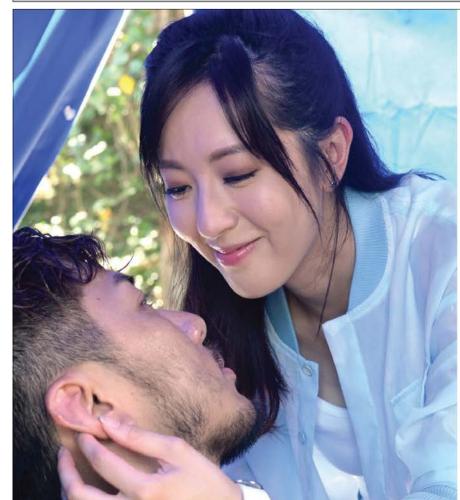


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## BUSINESS

Everyone's favorite on-again, off-again desert solar farm just passed through a ma-

This morning, (May 23, 2018) The Interior Department approved construction of the iconic Palen solar farm located on almost 4.000 acres of public lands in Riverside County near Joshua Tree National Park, in the open desert east of California's Coachella Valley, which has been on bureaucratic life support for years.

More importantly, it is the first big solar project on public land to get the go-ahead from Trump's Interior Department.

The 500-megawatt (MW) project, which has been in the works since 2009, will be among the largest solar projects in the country which could generate enough renewable energy to balance out the planet-warming emissions of 17,000 average homes in nearby Palm Spring with the potential to power about 130,000 homes.

But Palen has been criticized by some environmentalists, who say building a large industrial facility on the doorstep of the national park could have devastating impacts to natural ecosystems. They're especially concerned the project would interrupt a sand transport corridor that feeds the sanddune habitat of Mojave fringe-toed lizards, desert kit foxes and other species. Native American groups have criticized the proposed solar project as well, saying it would destroy ancient tribal artifacts and sacred



But short of a lawsuit, there's not much to stop the Trump administration from approving the project. The Interior Department released the final environmental impact analysis for Palen on Thursday, affirming a tentative decision from October to move forward with the solar farm. The public has until June 20 to submit written protests before the Bureau of Land Management, an Interior Department agency, issues a record of decision.

Palen is the first big solar project on public lands to get the go-ahead from Trump's Interior Department. The decision reflects a rare area of agreement between the Trump administration and the Obama administration, which approved 58 renewable energy facilities on public lands, although many of

### Government Plans Solar Farm Near Joshua Tree In California

### Trump Administration Hands Down Landmark Solar Approval

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Palen Dunes, Chuckwalla Valley, California

them still haven't been built.

"The BLM is committed to supporting responsible energy development that stabilizes the grid and strengthens the nation's energy infrastructure," Beth Ransel, manager of the federal agency's California Desert District, said in a written statement. "We welcome opportunities to help make public lands work for local communities.'



It's unclear when Palen's developer, San Diego-based EDF Renewable Energy, plans to start construction. The company has suggested it could build Palen at the same time as it builds Desert Harvest, a 150-megawatt solar project on public lands near Palen. Desert Harvest was approved by the Bureau of Land Management in 2013.

"We're really happy to see BLM put this out," said Ian Black, the EDF executive responsible for the firm's California solar portfolio. "We're happy to see movement out of D.C. on renewable energy. And we're really happy to work with this new

The lands south of Joshua Tree National Park and north of Interstate 10, in eastern Riverside County, have become a hotbed of solar development, thanks in part to the power lines that run along the freeway. In addition to Palen and Desert Harvest, the area is home to the 550-megawatt Desert Sunlight facility, which was built by Arizona-based First Solar and was briefly the world's largest solar farm when it opened in 2015.



Solar energy can power your car...Light and heat your home...Run factories... Propel cruise ships...It can even power the electrical grids of ENTIRE COUN-TRIES.

Environmentalists generally support renewable energy, since it displaces the coal and gas-fired power plants that contribute to global climate change. But on public lands in the California desert, conservationists have fought many of the big solar farms that have been proposed, saying they

degrade sensitive ecosystems. Some environmentalists are especially concerned about Palen, in part because it would be built eight miles from Joshua Tree National Park, one of the most beloved and iconic places in the desert.

Nonprofit groups including the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, the National Parks Conservation Association and the Sierra Club filed comments on the draft environmental analvsis released in October, arguing it didn't adequately address impacts to fringe-toed lizard and desert tortoise habitat, migrating birds that could crash into the solar panels, and views from the national park, among other issues. But the Trump administration moved ahead with its previous decision to approve a 3,100-acre version of the project, rather than the 4,200-acre version proposed by the developer.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), this fuel could soon become the #1 source of energy on the planet... surpassing oil, gas, and coal power.

Dr. Fatih Birol, the executive director of the IEA, said...

"What we are witnessing is the birth of a new era..."

- Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency

Conservationists have said the reduced-footprint version would avoid a large dry wash that runs through the project site. That could limit the damage to microphyll woodlands, where occasional bursts of water nourish vegetation that provides habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles. But the 3,100-acre configuration would extend further into a sand transport corridor that helps nourish Mojave fringe-toed lizard and desert kit fox habitat.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes, which have 4,400 members and a 300,000-acre reservation along the California-Arizona border, also submitted comments. In a letter to federal and Riverside County officials, tribal chair Dennis Patch said the tribe's ancestral homelands "extend far beyond the Reservation boundaries" and

would be harmed by Palen.



Solar panels like this will be built in California's Riverside County near Joshua Tree National Park, in the open desert east of California's Coachella Valley.

Significant portions of public and private lands in California, Arizona, and Nevada were occupied by the ancestors of the Tribes' Mohave and Chemehuevi members since time immemorial. These landscapes remain imbued with substantial cultural, spiritual, and religious significance for the Tribes' current members and future generations," Patch wrote. "For this reason, we urge BLM and the County to deny the proposed Project, which has the potential to transform this cultural landscape to an industrial one."

Palen isn't the only fight between environmentalists and the Trump administration over renewable energy in California. The Interior Department said earlier this year it would consider changes to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, a sweeping land-use strategy that protects millions of acres of public lands in the desert while setting aside a few hundred thousand acres for solar and wind farms. The Trump administration said the plan makes it too difficult to build renewable energy projects in California.

Many solar and wind developers agree, saying the desert plan could prevent California from meeting its ambitious goals for fighting climate change. But conservationists say the desert plan should remain in place. And they question whether the Trump administration is really interested in helping the solar and wind industry. given the well-known preference of Trump and many of his appointees for fossil fuels. The Desert Sun reported earlier this month that changes to the California desert plan could also help a small company with a well-connected lawyer build communications towers on public lands in the desert, improving cell service and internet access in remote areas. (Courtesy UC Riverside/ Palm Desert)

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