I think your confusion is between "Data Guard" - the "free", E.E. option - and "***Active***Data Guard" - the one you pay [extra] for.

* Data Guard gives you a Physical Standby database that you *can* fail over to, either manually or automatically, using an Observer.  When you do this, the current Primary becomes the new Physical Standby.
* *Active* Data Guard gives you all of that *and* allows you to open the Standby database and read from it.

Personally, if you want to "load-balance" *non-time-critical* read traffic (stuff that can be a few seconds out of date), I'd suggest using Data Guard to create a [number of] Logical Standby database[s].  These are a little slower to update than Physical Standbys (re-applying SQL to the Logical Standby, rather than shipping blocks or change vectors), but you can have any number of them open and readable at the same time.

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After configuring data guard / physical standby you can start the MRP when database is ruining in mount phase, this does not requires license .  
If you need this database to be opened in read only, you can open this database in read only (But your should not start MRP to apply archives), this does not requires license.if you want to apply, shutdown and startup mount and start MRP  
If you have requirement where your database should be in read only at the same time you need to apply archive, this feature called ACTIVE DATAGUARD   & this requires license.  
And For EE license you will have to include both primary and standby

--http://www.dba-oracle.com/t\_data\_guard\_licensing.htm

There has historically been a great deal of confusion about the licensing requirements for Oracle Data Guard.  Depending upon your implementation of Data Guard for standby database or failover database, the licensing rules may be different.

There is only one outstanding book dedicated to Oracle Data Guard, "[**Oracle Data Guard: Standby Database Failover Handbook**](http://www.rampant-books.com/book_2004_2_dataguard.htm)", a highly recommended reference for all possible Oracle Data Guard configurations.

**Oracle Data Guard licensing for Failover**

At one time, Data Guard "[failover](http://www.dba-oracle.com/oracle_tips_failover_prices.htm)" configurations that were used less than 10 days per year did not need to be licensed.  At one point, the following was posted in an Oracle online forum by an informed user:

"I was told if the second node is used less than 10 days a year, then no additional license was required."

**Oracle Data Guard licensing for Standby**

A common use of Data Guard is to create a "standby" Oracle server as protection against hardware failure. On March 16, 2006, the Oracle documentation noted that all standby databases had to be fully licensed if they might be used as production:

*"Standby - In this type of recovery, a copy of the primary database is maintained on a separate server at all times. These systems are configured for disaster recovery purposes. If the primary database fails, the standby database is activated to act as the new primary database.*

*In this environment, both the primary and the standby databases must be fully licensed."*

Oracle standby servers need to be fully licensed if they are ?hot standby? servers that can be used for production SQL queries.  Some sources said that cold standby servers used less than 10 days per year did not need to be licensed, but licensing requirements should always be verified with your Oracle representative or [the Oracle Store](http://oraclestore.oracle.com/).  In sum, current 2006 Oracle Data Guard licensing policies suggested that if Data Guard is installed for "standby" purposes, it required full licensing.

For a full current explanation of Oracle Data Guard licensing prices and policies, contact your Oracle Customer Support Representative (CSR).

Information on Oracle Pricing is available from [Oracle Corporation](http://www.oracle.com/corporate/pricing/sig.pdf).