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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 1, 2010

Lawrence Gottlieb
Chair

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4

Chris Essel
Vice-Chair

Re: Docket No. 09-ALT-1

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Barbara Halsey
Executive Director

RE: 2010-2011 Investment Plan (Docket #09-ALT-1)

The California Energy Commission (the Energy Commission) and the California Workforce Investment Board (State Board), including its special committee known as the California Green Collar Jobs Council (Council), have partnered to help create a sustainable green collar workforce for California. Energy Commission Chairman Karen Douglas is also a member of the Council. As Executive Director of the State Board, I wish to commend and thank the Energy Commission for its collaboration. The Energy Commission has been central to the accomplishments of the State Board and Council, which have been widely noted in our state and throughout the United States. The Energy Commission's *2010-2011 Investment Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program* (Draft Staff Report - January 2010) notes the following activities that the Energy Commission and State Board have engaged in:

- Clean Energy Workforce Training Program (CEWTP), which with the required matching funds amounted to well over \$50 million in training funds. Under the CEWTP, thirty-four local workforce development partnerships received \$26.75 million to train approximately 5,600 unemployed, underemployed, and new workforce entrants for occupations related to alternative and renewable transportation technologies, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy. (The State Board recommends that the Energy Commission's Investment Plan include an appendix that lists the grantees that provided training in alternative and renewable transportation technologies.)
- Regional Industry Cluster of Opportunity Grants (RICO), which provided an opportunity to leverage AB 118 funds and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding totaling \$2.5 million. (The State Board recommends that the Energy Commission's Investment Plan include an appendix that lists the grantees that received AB 118 funds.)

Additionally, these two efforts were leveraged to position California to receive \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor's State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) grants. These three efforts amounted to the Council's Green Workforce Strategy, which at its core, is to provide the catalyst for regional economic competitiveness initiatives.

This brings me to my comments to Energy Commission's Draft Staff Report. My Comments focus on the Market and Program Development section, specifically, subsections:

- Workforce Development and Training
- Program Marketing and Public Education and Outreach

Workforce Development and Training

The State Board encourages the Energy Commission to continue to fund training programs that will supply the current workforce needs of those industries which will "develop and deploy innovative technologies that will transform California's fuel and vehicle types to help attain the state's climate change policies", and those which will emerge as a result of sustainable growth opportunities in the market place. In addition, we encourage investment in the design of a compendium of workforce development strategies which will meet the needs of workers transitioning to new roles as industries green and clean practices and processes, and which can be relied upon to produce new workers to meet the needs of emerging industries as they develop from the from financial investments made by the Energy Commission.

The State Board would encourage the Energy Commission's long-term investment in the Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity grant project. Consistently implemented, the RICOG will provide regional economic and labor market analysis essential to understanding the needs of the businesses which will advance the introduction and growth of alternative and renewable fuels in California. Specifically, we encourage the Energy Commission to fund RICOG for PY 2010-2011, and recommend that funding be targeted for the 2009-10 RICOG grantees that identified substantial opportunities in alternative and renewable fuels and vehicle technologies. Future funding could be utilized to designing specific economic development and workforce development activities to meet the needs of this industry as well as support the implementation of specific regional action plans. These activities would fall into a range of workforce and economic development activities.

The State Board would encourage the Energy Commission to consider workforce investment strategies which align educational pathways available through a range of training methods to the career pathways represented in industries critical to the Commission's mission.

Program Marketing and Public Education and Outreach

At a recent meeting of the Council, one of its advisors stated "In order to facilitate the growth and adoption of new green technologies and products, there needs to be demand."

The State Board encourages the Energy Commission to bolster activities focused on marketing, education, and outreach to target small and medium size businesses that may take advantage of the full array of programs designed to advance the use of alternative and renewable fuels and diminish the use of fossil fuels. Statistically, small and medium sized businesses are recognized as those engaging in alternative and renewable fuels innovation, these investments could speed up the rollout of technological advances in clean fuels, which may provide California's economy with a much needed boost.

To assist in this effort, the State Board would offer to work with the Energy Commission and business services representatives in California's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funded One-Stop Delivery Service Centers to inform targeted businesses throughout the state of available goods and services provided by the advanced transportation technology sector. To this end, we recommend that the Energy Commission invests in the Business Services component of California's workforce development One-Stop Delivery System for the following purposes:

- Identifying existing businesses producing alternative and renewable fuels to assess roadblocks and opportunities for the expansion and/or sustainability of their operations.
- Informing logistics and transportation related companies of alternative and renewable fuels technologies and providing consultation regarding how these firms can diminish their usage of fossil fuels.
- Informing the business community of the full array of Energy Commission incentives, loan programs, and other programs that can assist meet its AB 118 and other related goals.

In closing, as the Energy Commission considers steps in ensuring the "growth of California's transportation workforce with the intention of developing workers for today's challenges and tomorrow's jobs" and its evaluation of "other areas for future potential funding", we would encourage a strategy that encompasses all types of workers- from PhD scientists and engineers to a variety of technicians on-the-job training. We recommend that strategies be tailored to address the needs of highly skilled incumbent workers in need of re-skilling and of unskilled workforce entrants with little or no prior work experience.

Thank you considering my comments. The State Board looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Energy Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Halsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and 'H'.

Barbara Halsey, Executive Director
California Workforce Investment Board