October 4, 2010

Mr. Craig Hoffman
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Mariposa Energy Project - Follow up Comments Docket #09-AFC-03

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

Contra Costa County would like to thank the California Energy Commission (CEC) for the opportunity to provide follow up comments on the proposed Mariposa Energy Power Plant project near the Contra Costa County south-eastern border. We have provided earlier remarks in a letter of April 13, 2010 and have since received voluminous information responsive to our concerns from the project applicant, County staff, as well as public input.

The County is now satisfied that the proposed project is compatible with the County's General Plan and the Byron Airport Master Plan.

Contra Costa County defers to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) on aeronautical safety issues. We have reviewed and acknowledge the FAA's Determinations of No Hazard to Air Navigation for the project as well as the 2006 FAA study on plume safety that indicates "power plant exhaust plumes do not present an immediate or critical increase in human mental or physical workload." The report further indicates that "the likelihood of an accident or incident caused by an over flight of an exhaust plume is acceptably small. We also understand that the FAA may be releasing additional information about plume safety in the future and look forward to understanding how the new information will inform future decisions.

We recognize that the project is located in Alameda County and, therefore, beyond the jurisdiction of Contra Costa County. We further note that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors has already determined that the project is compatible with its land use regulations. We respect and defer to Alameda County's determination. However, given the location of the Byron Airport in Contra Costa County and the various queries from Contra Costa stakeholders, we believe our review and evaluation of the project's impact on our County and its assets was prudent.
We acknowledge that the Contra Costa County Planning Commission and the Contra Costa County Byron Municipal Advisory Council has also reviewed the project and supports it as a way of attracting local, high wage jobs and increasing local purchasing in Contra Costa County.

Given that our questions have been satisfactorily addressed regarding potential impacts to the Byron Airport, and given that the County will receive economic benefits in the form of local spending, a community benefits package, and local high-wage jobs, Contra Costa County supports the Mariposa Energy Project.

Sincerely,

JOHN GIOIA
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Catherine Kutsuris, Director, Conservation and Development Dept.
Julie Bueren, Director, Public Works Department
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
David Twa, County Administrator
Keith Freitas, Director of Airports
Airport Sub-Committee of the Board of Supervisors
Aviation Advisory Committee
Byron Municipal Advisory Council