February 28, 2011

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Craig Hoffman, Project Manager

Re: Mariposa Energy Project Application for Certification No. 09-AFC-3
   (Alameda County Fire Chief Statement)

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The Alameda County Fire Department has reviewed the Mariposa Energy Project and finds that our Department is adequately staffed and funded to service this Project, and this Project will not have a significant impact on first responder services. We note that the Alameda County Fire Department is the first responder for the Mariposa Energy Project since it is located in an unincorporated Alameda County area.

The Project Applicant came to us early in the process and provided us copies of the fire suppression and hazardous materials planning and design. We find that the Project is well-designed and will require minimal services, if any, from local first responders. The Applicant continues to discuss the Project design with the Alameda County Fire Marshal.

Experience and data in the Project record shows that plants like Mariposa have very little need for first responder services. Furthermore, Mariposa has adequate fire suppression systems, as well as a dedicated fire water tank that is sufficient for a 2-hour fire.

The Applicant has called to our attention that the Tracy Fire Department has expressed concerns with the existing automatic and/or mutual aid protocols between our two departments, due to the existence of the Mariposa facility. Historically, the vast majority of automatic aid between Tracy Fire Department and Alameda County Fire Department has been to the Interstate 580 corridor and rural road used by commuters.
If the Tracy Fire Department has concerns regarding the mutual aid arrangements, or believes that they should be compensated because of mutual aid or other perceived inequities, then Tracy Fire Department should be bringing those concerns to the Alameda County Fire Department, not to the CEC or the Mariposa Energy Project, as any discussions regarding mutual aid must be in the broader context of the relationship between the two fire departments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheldon D. Gilbert  
Fire Chief

cc: Supervisor Scott Haggerty, County of Alameda  
Fire Chief Al Nero, Tracy Fire Department