

**DOCKETED**

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## **Remembering Dr James Walker - Item No 5**

I wish to submit the attached letter in remembrance of my friend Jim Walker to be included in Agenda Item #5 of the CEC's April 12, 2023 Business meeting.

Thank you,

Bob Hoffman  
Energy Dynamix Corporation

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

# Energy Dynamix

## Corporation

306 Vista del Mar, Suite F  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

April 10, 2023

California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, California, 95814

**RE: Remembering Jim Walker (Docket No 23-BUSMTG-01 – April 12, 2023 – Agenda Item #5)**

Dear Chairman Hochschild and Commissioners:

Jim Walker was a great friend and mentor to me early in my career in the utility and energy industries. I first met Jim in the early 1990s when I was a young developer for Edison Mission Energy and Jim was SCE's lobbyist in Sacramento. Jim helped me conceive and secure development rights for the Campbell Soup cogen project which Dave Freeman ultimately kidnapped and had built for SMUD. My friendship with Jim continued for many years, including bringing me on as a consultant at enXco for the Shiloh wind project and sharing ideas about other adventures after Jim moved on from enXco.

Jim was one of the CEC pioneers and prided himself in stopping the development of ten coal fired power plants planned for California in the 1970's. Ironically, PG&E's proposed 1,600 MW Montezuma coal fired power plant was to be sited where enXco's Shiloh Wind project sits, the Birds Landing Substation is where that coal fired plant's switchyard would have been. I think it would be fitting to re-name "Birds Landing Substation" as "Jim Walker Substation" in his memory.

Jim was one of the smartest and smoothest guys I have ever known. His soft spoke voice with often indirect advice mixed with humor caused you to listen carefully to his words. That was part of Jim's style to force the slow osmosis of his ideas.

Born of Philadelphia blue blood, Jim seemed to have three degrees of separation from anyone on the planet. When I told Jim I was going to work for AES, Jim casually mentioned that he worked with Roger Sant and Dennis Bakke at the Federal Energy Administration when they conceived the idea of forming Applied Energy Services (AES) shortly after PURPA passed in 1978. When I asked about what it was like to study Physics at Princeton, Jim humbly said it was great to study with famed Princeton Physicist Gerald O'Neill. I am sure if he were there 20 years earlier, Jim would have said he played back up piano to Einstein's violin. Seemed like Jim's life was an intellectual version of Forest Gump. Jim could speak about detailed facts on any topic from music to black holes and dark energy. I remember Jim talking about chaos theory, Fractal math and the Mandelbrot set which blew me away. And Jim loved his cars, from his red Corvette to his family owned 1960s Lincoln Continental.

Jim was an entrepreneur's entrepreneur from auto mall development in Roseville to figuring out how to take over Enron wind assets to form EnXco (now EDF Renewables). And he continued to dabble in a variety of technologies including fuel cells, low magnetic field cables, copper recovery, and mercury emissions to name a few. I was always flattered when Jim asked for my thoughts on ventures he was pursuing and would do anything I could to help Jim promote his innovative ideas.

Jim left his mark on me and will live on through everyone that was fortunate to cross his path and capture what he had to offer.

*Bob Hoffman*