

DOCKETED

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September 13, 2013

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-14
Docket No. 8-AFC-8A
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Submitted via mail and email to docket@energy.ca.gov

RE: Comments on Hydrogen Energy California Project's PSA/DEIS

California Energy Commissioner's and Staff:

On behalf of the Kern County Farm Bureau (KCFB), please accept these comments on the Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) Project's Preliminary Staff Assessment, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (PSA/DEIS).

Land Use – Agriculture and Forest – Proposed Conditions of Certification

KCFB supports strategy 2 as identified in mitigation measures **LAND-1** and **LAND-2**. As an additional stipulation to strategy 2, we would recommend prohibiting the use of the 653 acre buffer area as eligible land for such mitigation.

Due to the inherent conflict of interest, we do not support governmental agencies owning or operating mitigation banks when they have regulatory responsibilities over the private property or operator.

As an additional condition of certification, KCFB requests that the project owner enter into a bonding agreement to set aside funds to mitigate any potential damages to neighboring agricultural production. Typically, bonding is required at 10% the total cost of the project.

Water Supply – Industrial Water Supply

KCFB requests that the project use the least amount of the poorest quality water available, per Article X, Section II of the California Constitution.

County of Kern - Additional Mitigation Requests

KCFB supports the other additional mitigation requests as identified on page 7 by the Kern County Board of Supervisors in the attached Kern County Planning Department's PSA/DEIS comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Maniaci", with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Maniaci
President
Kern County Farm Bureau

cc: Ms. Lorelei Oviatt
Director
Kern County Planning and Community Development
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