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July 21, 2016

Mr. Brian Turner Via e-mail: <u>Brian.Turner@resources.ca.gov</u>

Dear Mr. Turner:

RE: PROPOSED BIOENERGY FACILITIES AND STATUS

On behalf of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), we are pleased to respond to your request for a letter detailing some of our knowledge regarding current and future plans to develop bioenergy facilities throughout the Sierra Nevada.

We are aware of a number of potential bioenergy sites at various levels of preparedness, but have only included the seven that we feel are furthest along in the process of becoming operational:

System Impact Study Completed:

- North Fork (2 MW)
- Wilseyville (2-3 MW)

System Impact Study in Progress:

- Hat Creek (3 MW)
- Crescent Mills (3 MW)

Completed Feasibility Study:

- Nevada County (3 MW)
- Camptonville (1.75 MW)
- Mariposa (1MW)

It is difficult to overstate the importance of bioenergy development to the Sierra: a region of California providing clean water, clean air, and recreation facilities to the rest of the state, but which is beset by economic, health, safety issues related to forest

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management. Making use of forest biomass to create clean power addresses all of these issues in addition to responding to the Governor's mandate for decreased emissions from power production and other sectors.

While these facilities will be small, they represent localized responses to local issues, building in-region self-sufficiency. The benefit to the state of this industry suggests that state investment would not be unreasonable. At the very least, ensuring that these facilities are able to effectively tie into the grid, at minimal cost, is an important first step.

Thank you for your interest in these comments. We welcome questions, and are also happy to put you in contact with individual project leads if you'd like more detailed information on any of the above.

Sincerely,

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Um Branham Executive Officer

