

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TED JAMES, AICP, Director

2700 "M" STREET, SUITE 100
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301-2323
Phone: (661) 862-8600
FAX: (661) 862-8601 TTY Relay 1-800-735-2929
E-Mail: planning@co.kern.ca.us
Web Address: www.co.kern.ca.us/planning



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DAVID PRICE III, RMA DIRECTOR
Community & Economic Development Department
Engineering & Survey Services Department
Environmental Health Services Department
Planning Department
Roads Department

August 20, 2007

Submitted by email

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS -4
Re: Docket No. 06-0II-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 06-0II-1	
DATE	AUG 20 2007
RECD.	AUG 21 2007

RE: Docket No. 06-0II-1 - Draft Statewide Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development [Publication No. CEC-700-2007-008-SD]

Dear Commissioners:

The Kern County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to provide additional comments on the proposed Draft California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development. Your leadership in assisting local government in implementing methods of mitigating the avian impacts of wind energy generation is appreciated.

The Commission has indicated their intention in creating a document that would be responsive to local conditions, new research and actual experience in siting and utilizing the guidelines. As a local government with extensive long-term experience in wind energy development, Kern County is pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the CEC for a scoping effort for Pilot testing of the applicability and effectiveness of approaches as recommended in the Wind Avian Guidelines contingent on the Guidelines being adopted. The intention of this effort would be to define options to tailor the guidelines to unique requirements for adoption, as appropriate, in Kern County. To provide a clear mandate in the Guidelines for this local approach the following is suggested language to be inserted at Line 198.

“ Local governments are encouraged to tailor the guidelines, based on biological information and research unique to their region, for their local area. These modified guidelines could then be adopted, through a public review process, by local agencies for use in siting and evaluating wind energy projects. “

Conclusion:

Kern County is committed to wind energy that is sited and operated in a manner that reduces mortality and minimizes impacts to birds and bats. The draft guidelines, as a science-based reference, will provide a needed resource to us as we continue to review and consider projects to meet the state goals for renewable energy. With the changes we have requested, we see the guidelines as useful and responsive to the needs of local government. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Original Signed

Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP
Division Chief

cc: Supervisor Maben
Supervisor McQuiston