



September 21, 2007

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DATE	SEP 21 2007
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California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 06-OII-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Support for California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development, CEC-700-2007-008-CTF

Dear Commissioners:

We write on behalf of our nearly two million members nationwide to urge the Commission to adopt the Renewable Committee's Final Draft *Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development*. The Committee's Final Draft Guidelines are the result of an extensive and meaningful public process, input from both stakeholders and experts, and compromise by all parties. We urge the Commission to adopt the Guidelines without delay to aide the development of wind power and the protection of wildlife in California and beyond.

Our organizations strongly support the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard and believe that the Guidelines will help California to achieve its RPS goals. When adopted, the Guidelines will provide certainty for wind developers and permitting agencies, reduce conflicts over new wind power developments, and help the wind industry to increase its environmental performance and public support. The development of the Guidelines has already helped to increase stakeholder and agency understanding of wind power and wildlife issues and has helped to foster a dialogue between many of the stakeholders that will help ensure successful implementation of the Guidelines.

Adopting the Guidelines will also help to protect birds and bats, which Californians strongly support and both state and federal laws require. California's wildlife is an important economic, recreational, aesthetic and environmental resource. California's nearly 4 million birders, as well as hunters and other wildlife enthusiasts, spend billions of dollars each year on birding, hunting and other wildlife

related recreation. Birds and bats also play an essential roll in pest control, crop propagation and other farm and ecosystem services. For these reasons and more, California has some of the strictest wildlife laws on record, and Californians expect those laws to be enforced. The Guidelines will help increase compliance with state and federal wildlife and environmental laws.

The Renewables Committee has led a truly meaningful public process, with numerous hearings and workshops, opportunities for public comment, and real dialogue between stakeholders, agency staff and outside experts. No guidelines will be perfect or satisfy all parties, but we believe that the Committee's Final Draft is thorough, well-balanced and practical. We also believe it is time to adopt the Guidelines and begin to implement them. Further delay will only make it harder to adopt and successfully implement guidelines in the future.

We thank the Renewables Committee for its leadership on this issue and urge the Commission to adopt the Final Draft Guidelines on September 26. We look forward to working with the Commission and other parties to implement the Guidelines.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Levin
National Audubon Society

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Carl Zichella
Sierra Club