



# Community Environmental Council

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>06-OII-1</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	_____
<b>RECD.</b>	SEP 26 2007

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California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
Dockets Office, MS-4

Re: Docket No. 06-OII-1, Developing Statewide Avian Guidelines

Dear Commissioners,

The Community Environmental Council, a non-profit organization founded in 1970 in Santa Barbara, has spent the last two years crafting a detailed blueprint showing how our county can wean itself from fossil fuels by 2030 or sooner, available at [www.fossilfreeby33.org](http://www.fossilfreeby33.org). It is our hope that this blueprint will become a model for cities and counties throughout California and will lead to a significant reduction in fossil fuel demand.

Our blueprint shows that wind power is a vital resource to reduce fossil fuel use in our county. Wind power can supply about 20 percent of the total energy needed to get our county off fossil fuels by 2030 because it is available today at competitive prices and will only become more cost-competitive as fossil fuel prices continue to rise. It is also capable of utility-scale generation, which is not the case today with other renewable energy technologies such as solar photovoltaics or waste-to-energy. As such, it is important that we establish standards that promote wind energy facilities in a timely fashion, while ensuring to the maximum extent possible that impacts are minimized and mitigated.

Finding alternatives to fossil fuels is important to our economy, our security, and our environment. By being a national leader in the renewable energy field, California can secure funding for research and development, as well as establish a workforce for manufacturing, installation, and sales of new technologies. Renewable energy also has security implications because it removes our dependence on energy from other countries and "localizes" energy production, with all the attendant economic benefits for our communities.

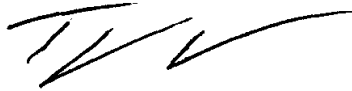
Last, while there is debate as to the timing and implications of global warming, there is a broad consensus that it is happening today and is "very likely" a result of human activities. One major ramification of global warming is decreased biodiversity -- an increase of 1.5-2.5°C increases the risk of extinction to 20-30 percent of all plant and animal species.<sup>1</sup>

We are in full support of well-designed wind energy projects in California as the most cost-effective and available renewable energy technology at this time for weaning us from fossil fuels. We also acknowledge the importance of using the best available science to mitigate potential environmental harms.

The underlying tension between renewable energy advocates and other environmental and community groups that focus on local wildlife protection is the issue of local versus regional or global environmental impacts. Many studies have found that climate change will likely lead to much more significant impacts on bird and bat populations than any localized impacts from wind farms, and groups like the National Audubon Society have recognized this fact. So the issue really is how to balance concerns about local environmental impacts versus broader environmental impacts.

Accordingly, we urge the CEC to fully consider the available science regarding the relationship between modern wind turbines and avian and bat impacts, while recognizing the need to find the correct balance between localized environmental impacts and broader environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TH', written over a horizontal line.

Tam Hunt  
Energy Program Director  
Community Environmental Council

**From:** "Tam Hunt" <thunt@cecmail.org>  
**To:** "Docket Optical System" <docket@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 9/26/2007 9:51 AM  
**Subject:** Docket No. 06-OII-1: Community Environmental Council comments on Developing Statewide Avian Guidelines  
**Attachments:** Letter to CEC re avian guidelines.doc

**CC:** "Dave Davis" <ddavis@cecmail.org>, <mbirney@cecmail.org>  
Please find attached the Community Environmental Council's comments on Developing Statewide Avian Guidelines.

Sincerely,

Tam Hunt  
Energy Program Director / Attorney  
Community Environmental Council  
Santa Barbara, CA  
(805) 963-0583, ext. 122  
thunt@cecmail.org <mailto:thunt@cecmail.org>