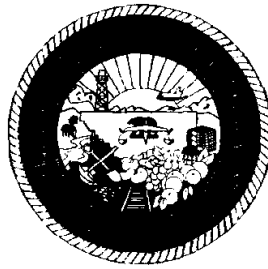


Please docket

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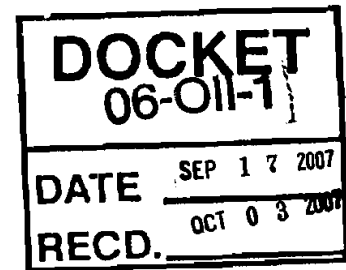


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MIKE MAGGARD
SUPERVISOR - THIRD DISTRICT

September 17, 2007

Commissioner John L. Geesman
Renewables Committee
California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket no. 06-011-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512



Dear Commissioner Geesman:

I am writing to request that the California Energy Commission set aside the Renewables Committee's final draft of the "California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development." Time is needed to modify the draft in a way that avoids imposing unjustified burdens and delays on wind energy development in California.

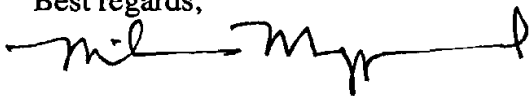
The Tehachapi-Mojave Wind Resource Area is an economic resource that is extremely valuable to Kern County. Wind Energy provides approximately 400 jobs in the communities of Bakersfield, Mojave, Rosamond, Tehachapi, and others. Additionally, the County of Kern receives \$1.6 million in annual collections from property tax assessments from the wind industry. It is clear that as the wind industry grows in Kern County the economic impacts will be exponentially significant.

As it stands, the proposed guidelines prescribe particular courses of study and methods at all wind generation sites across California, yet each site is distinctly unique and the guidelines do not take into account the terrain, local wildlife populations, knowledge base, or the experience of the lead agency in permitting wind projects. The draft guidelines should take into account approaches that would allow proper review based upon the specific circumstances that exist at the local level. Furthermore, local lead agencies need to have flexibility in implementing these guidelines to match these circumstances.

When the Legislature passed the RPS law, the goal was to accelerate renewable energy development within the context of California's existing land use and environmental laws. The draft in many cases goes beyond what is necessary to determine and mitigate impacts under CEQA, and will significantly increase the length of time and resources needed to permit wind projects. Without changes renewable wind projects will not speedily come to completion, and the cost impacts of permitting diminish the ability of providers to maximize renewable energy production.

In closing, I request that the commission review public comment on this item and go back to the drawing board to develop a document that is less prescriptive and is consistent with CEQA.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Maggard", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Maggard
Supervisor, 3rd District

Cc:

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