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DATE	REC 18 2007
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December 19, 2007

The Honorable Bob Dutton
Member of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Statewide Guidelines for Reducing Wildlife Impacts from Wind Development (Docket 06-011-1)**

Dear Senator Dutton:

Thank you for writing to the California Energy Commission about the *California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development (Guidelines)*. The Energy Commission approved these voluntary *Guidelines* on September 26, 2007 at their regularly scheduled Business Meeting. This approval culminated a 16-month effort that involved eight public workshops and hearings in Sacramento, Bakersfield, Riverside, and Livermore. More than 80 interested parties, including representatives from the wind industry, natural resource agencies, environmental groups and other non-governmental organizations, utilities, county planning departments and elected officials, universities and research institutes participated in these public events and/or submitted written comments on the *Guidelines*.

Based on the extensive public comments we received on the three draft versions of the *Guidelines*, we fully understand your concerns about the potential for prescriptive application of this document by lead agencies. In response to comments similar to yours, we have worked throughout this process to create a balanced document that is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the unique features of each wind resource area. The *Guidelines* explicitly recommend that local permitting agencies consider existing data and local conditions in developing pre-permitting and operations studies. The *Guidelines* are flexible, but also provide specifics on many of the recommended study methods because we believe delays and conflicts will be reduced if all parties have a common understanding of what constitutes a reasonable level of study effort for a proposed project.

We share your opinion about the importance of the Tehachapi-Mojave Wind Resource Area and appreciate the contributions that wind energy developers in your district have made in working towards California's renewable energy goals. It is our belief that these *Guidelines* will accelerate additional development of California's wind resources by providing a clear path through a complex regulatory process.

The Honorable Bob Dutton
Page 2

The *Guidelines* will be updated as new research findings and user feedback indicates that revisions are needed. We hope you will continue to provide your comments and input, which will help us with our revision process. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Michael Smith, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (916) 654-4942. Thank you again for writing to us with your concerns.

Sincerely,



JACKALYNE PFANNENSTIEL
Chairman

cc: Assembly Member Bill Maze
Mike Maggard, Kern County Supervisor

Enclosure