

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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August 12, 2008

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 08-ALT-1, AB 118 Regulations
Attn: Commissioners James D. Boyd and Karen Douglas

DOCKET	
08-ALT-1	
DATE	AUG 12 2008
RECD.	AUG 12 2008

Dear Commissioners Boyd and Douglas:

We understand that the California Energy Commission (CEC) is in the process of developing draft regulations for the purpose of implementing the provisions of Assembly Bill 118, The Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. We also are aware that an Advisory Committee has been formed for the purpose of providing stakeholder input into the rulemaking process. More recently, we were advised that a "Sustainability Working Group" will be formed and that some of the issues to be discussed will potentially include land use and cropping patterns.

Imperial County has considerable agricultural and other natural resources which will be critical in helping California meet its renewable fuel and greenhouse gas reduction objectives. We welcome the support and involvement of CEC in helping to identify and promote the use of those resources. However, we have some concerns as to how the AB 118 rules are being developed, and what the longer range implications those regulations will have on our County.

Specifically, we note that the first meeting of the Sustainability Working Group is to be held on August 15, 2008, and that draft regulations on AB 118 implementation are to be issued on August 25, 2008. Given the broad implications of the issues identified in the "Sustainability Concepts for AB 118" presentation given to CEC by Jim McKinney on July 24, 2008, we do not feel that this 10-day period is nearly adequate to fully evaluate and incorporate any comments received into the draft regulations being proposed. Second, and far more seriously, we have concerns that CEC regulations pertaining to production of biofuels may have impacts on future land use issues and farming practices in Imperial County.

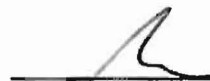
As referenced above, Imperial County is working with a number of proponents for sugar cane/ethanol and other biofuel projects. We view the potential benefits of such projects as an important means of expanding and diversifying our local economy. To the extent that any rules promulgated by CEC would negatively affect the ability of local farmers to grow crops necessary for this effort, or developers to build facilities to produce such fuels, we have concerns that this would be an unwise infringement on local decision-making prerogatives.

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We hereby request that CEC delay the issuance of any draft regulations for AB 118 implementation until the concerns we have identified are more fully understood by those local agencies, developers and farmers who will be most affected by those rules. We also suggest that CEC include representatives from those groups in any further deliberations on this important matter. Further, we also request that a representative from Imperial County be included in all future workgroup meetings. We would also propose that CEC consider holding at least one future workshop session in Southern California, perhaps here in Imperial County, in order to allow local participation and input.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we look forward to working with CEC in meeting the important objectives of AB 118.

Sincerely,



Ralph Cordova, Jr.
County Executive Officer

Cc: California State Association of Counties
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Ethanol and Power
California Renewable Energies, LLC
Imperial Bioresources, Inc.

S.Ralph. Letters 2008.AB118 Rulemaking