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Re: Dockets No. 09-IEP-1G and No. 03-RPS-1078 /2009 IEPR - Feed-in Tariffs 03-RPS-1078

December 9, 2008

Dear Energy Commission Members and Staff,

DOCKET

09-IEP-1G

DATE DEC 09 2008

RECD. DEC 10 2008

I am encouraged by the progress made by the Energy Commission in pushing forward a feed-in tariff mechanism that will help California achieve both its ambitious RPS and AB 32 goals for 2020 and 2050. As committee members have determined feed-in tariffs, a.k.a. Renewable Energy Payments, are an efficient and effective means of stimulating the market for renewable electric generators as has been witnessed in various European countries and in the US.

I fully support your efforts now to help the Public Utilities Commission as well as our legislators to implement a full schedule of feed in tariffs for both investor-owned and publicly-owned utilities throughout our state.

If I were to amend what you have already produced, I would suggest that you raise the cap on project size to 100 or 200 MW to stimulate the growth of the most cost-effective but still underfunded renewable energy technologies: solar thermal electric with storage and large scale wind farms. As we now stand in the US, with credit markets seized up and low fossil fuel prices, these larger projects also need secure credit instruments beyond the promised tax credits, to be implemented in sufficient quantities to reach our 2020 and 2050 goals. To truly tap into the most cost-effective means to shut down or limit fossil generation, these two technologies, large-scale wind and CSP/STE with storage, will require the help of the secured credit instrument of feed-in tariffs to bridge peaks and dips in electricity market pricing.

Please continue with the pioneering work you have been doing but add this element to help our IOUs and POUs turn from fossil to renewable sources in a timely fashion, helping California lead the US and the world in renewable energy and energy innovation once again.

Sincerely,

Michael Hoexter, Ph.D.
Renewable Energy Advocate
Terraverde Solutions