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Staff Workshop on Possible Changes to the Emerging Renewables Program Guidebook

Thank you for including Shasta Green Power in the Staff Workshop on July 21, 2009. Shasta Green Power is excited to continue to work with the Energy Commission's experienced and knowledgeable staff members in helping to create a guidebook that will stimulate sales and reduce cost for the small wind industry.

Shasta Green Power suggests few changes to the Guidebook to help achieve the vision of the program. When a consumer has options and choices enthusiasm is created and the market is driven. We have seen over the years that the number of installed small wind projects has dwindled. How can we, as contractors and State supported programs, increase the number of small wind projects to California consumers that have a proven demand? Firstly, we have seen that most of our customers that want small wind do not have the financial means to invest upfront cash for the project. With the increases of production, installations, and labor costs of small wind the consumer finds it hard to justify borrowing the funds with interest for an expected payback of five years or more. Shasta Green Power's suggestion to this issue would be to increase the incentive rate to \$3.00 for all watts for small wind. By increasing the incentive rate consumers can spend less out of pocket expense for the investment they are willing to make into small wind. This investment not only helps the consumer with their private residential needs but it helps California meet its objective of the Emerging Renewables Program.

Suggestions to the guidebook:

*Increase incentive

* Total cost of system should be exempt from property tax assessment creating an additional incentive for property owners in communities.

* Consumer awareness programs should be created to drive the market. Through education and awareness consumers will have more knowledge to make a better investment into the future and drive the growth of the small wind industry.

* Self installed systems should not have a 15% penalty. The penalty should be 0%. Why should a contractor be penalized for investing in the small wind industry for their personal residence?

* No additional testing of equipment should be required. These challenges and setbacks will only hurt the industry growth by incurring more costs to the small wind industry.

* Shasta Green Power has worked very well with county and city permitting processes in our territory of service which is Sacramento County north to the Oregon border. Although Shasta Green Power had one of the first wind permitted jobs in Shasta county the staff at the building department was willing to learn and share information with Shasta Green Power as we all worked together to obtain building permit approval. Challenges and hurdles were accepted with the growth of the small wind industry and the building department in Shasta County was very willing to work quickly to resolve the challenges. Tehama County also was a pleasure to work with. They had very little documentation requirements and I was able obtain a permit within two days from their jurisdiction for very little fees. Yuba county permitting process was made available via online. Having an online application made is very easy and feasible to obtain a permit quickly while reducing paperwork processing administration costs. The fee for the permit was around \$350.00. The only suggestion to the permitting issue that Shasta Green Power would make is to have a way of making all county and city building department requirements for small wind the same. A standard template for application and required supporting documents would allow the contractors to obtain permits faster and get more small wind turbines in the while satisfying our customer's needs.

*The California Energy Commissioners staff has been fantastic to work with. Reservations are processed in a very timely manner and payment of incentive is made approx. 5 weeks after final approval. This effort and willingness to help in any way the staff can has made it nice to work together to achieve the shared vision of the program.

Shasta Green Power is committed to being helpful in maintaining and updating the guidebook as the Energy Commission sees fit. If changes are to be made it should be in the best interest of the growth to the small wind industry.

Sincerely,

Heather Souder

Executive