CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
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Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

DOCKETED
02-REN-1038

TN # 66194

JUL 12 2012

In the matter of:)   Docket No. 02-REN-1038
)   Renewable Energy Program
Implementation of Renewable   )
Investment Plan Legislation   )   RE: Notice of Program Close Out
_____   )

Close Out of Emerging Renewables Program and Consumer Education Program

Please be advised that the Energy Commission is closing out the Emerging Renewables Program and Consumer Education Program in accordance with Senate Bill 1018 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 39, Statutes of 2012)[1]. Senate Bill 1018 was enacted into law on June 27, 2012, and took effect immediately. It repeals Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 25744 and 25746, which had authorized the Energy Commission to use moneys in the Renewable Resource Trust Fund (RRTF) to implement and fund its Emerging Renewables Program and Consumer Education Program. Senate Bill 1018 includes provisions related to the close out of these two programs and amends PRC Section 25751 to allow the Energy Commission to use RRTF funds for these programs as follows:

(1) To close out the award of incentives for emerging technologies in accordance with former PRC Section 25744, as this law existed prior to the enactment of the Budget Act of 2012, for which applications had been approved before the enactment of the Budget Act of 2012.

(2) To close out consumer education activities in accordance with former PRC Section 25746, as this law existed prior to the enactment of the Budget Act of 2012.

The amendments to PRC Section 25751 also authorize the Energy Commission to use RRTF funds to satisfy all contract and grant awards that were made by the Energy Commission pursuant to PRC Section 25744 and 25746, as these laws existed prior to the enactment of the Budget Act of 2012.[2]

In accordance with the changes to law under Senate Bill 1018, the Energy Commission is taking immediate steps to close out the Emerging Renewables Program. To this end, the Energy Commission will no longer accept new rebate

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[1] A copy of Senate Bill 1018 is available online at:
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_1001-1050/sb_1018_bill_20120627_chaptered.pdf
[2] The Budget Act of 2012 is set forth in Assembly Bill 1464 (Chapter 21, Statutes of 2012), which was enacted into law on June 27, 2012.

reservation applications for systems using small wind turbines or renewable fuel cells. Applications for rebate reservations that were received and approved by the Energy Commission on or before June 27, 2012, the enactment date of the Budget Act of 2012, were processed and issued rebate reservations. These applicants should have received a CEC-1038 R2 Payment Claim Form in the mail to confirm that funding has been reserved for their installation. Applications for rebate reservations that were received by the Energy Commission on or after June 28, 2012, will not be processed.

Rebate reservations issued by the Energy Commission will continue to be honored and funded according to the terms of the reservations and as specified in the Emerging Renewables Program Guidebook.

Similarly, activities under the Consumer Education Program that had funding approved by the Energy Commission on or before June 27, 2012, will continue unaffected. Contract and grant awards for consumer education activities approved on or before June 27, 2012, will continue to be honored and funded according to the terms of the contract and grant awards. No funding will be made available for new consumer education activities.

Funding previously earmarked for the Emerging Renewables Program and Consumer Education Program that is not utilized for these programs in accordance with Senate Bill 1018 will remain in the RRTF and be available for use as specified in the law.

The Energy Commission is aware of stakeholder interest to continue funding for small wind turbines and renewable fuel cell systems and is exploring options with the California Public Utilities Commission.

For technical questions or program-related questions, please contact Sarah Taheri at (916) 654-3929, or by e-mail at [sarah.taheri@energy.ca.gov]. Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov].

Electronic Mail Lists: RENEWABLE, GO SOLAR

Date: July 11, 2012