



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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December 18, 2012

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 12-GREP-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
12-GREP-1

TN # 68940

DEC 19 2012

Re: Request for Comments – Renewable Energy Planning Grants (12-GREP-1)

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for inviting our input into development of the grant solicitation for renewable energy planning grants. As you may be aware, Inyo County developed a Renewable Energy Ordinance and Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA), informed through our participation in the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative. We strongly believe that appropriate renewable energy development is compatible with our environmental goals and can provide a benefit to local communities, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Energy Commission on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and other planning initiatives in California and Nevada to meet State and national renewable energy goals.

Inyo County has a relatively small tax base, a large land base, and limited resources to allocate towards planning. Our County encompasses over 10,000 square miles, yet less than 200 square miles are privately held, and our population is only a little more than 18,000. We feel that this type of need should be taken into account in any grant solicitation.

As you may be aware, we were unable to implement our REGPA due to a lawsuit under the California Environmental Quality Act that we could not afford to litigate. Therefore, we suggest that the grant include as eligible planning tasks preparation of environmental documents, including environmental impact reports and related technical reports. We are considering applying for grant funds to complete work on our REGPA, and this support would be tremendously helpful.

Thank you again for continuing to include us in the Commission's renewable energy planning. We worked with many local, regional, State, and federal partners in development of our REGPA, and we plan to continue to do so if we proceed again. If you have any questions, please contact the County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or at kcarunchio@inyocounty.us.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Marty Fortney, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors