

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

11-RPS-01

TN 73986

NOV 13 2014

September 29th, 2014

Chairman Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D.
Commissioner Karen Douglas, J.D.
Commissioner David Hochschild
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
Commissioner Janea A. Scott
California Energy Commission
Media and Public Communications Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Friant Power Authority Hydro Certification

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to express our deep concern about how the hydro certification of an important renewable energy project in the San Joaquin Valley may be in jeopardy. More importantly, we look forward to working with you and the Administration to resolve this matter quickly so that this important project can move forward.

The Friant Power Authority has been working closely with CEC Commissioners and staff since June 2011 to obtain renewables portfolio standard (RPS) certification for a proposed 7 megawatt hydro facility. Despite extensive consultation, and precisely following the guidance and direction provided by the CEC staff, applications that would enable certification of the project have still not been processed and approved in a timely fashion. As a direct result of these delays and lack of action by the Commission, the certification of this project may now be in jeopardy, stranding over \$8 million in assets already invested in the project. Passage of last-minute legislation (AB 1478) at the end of this Legislative Session may unintentionally further complicate this matter by attempting to change the requirements for certification retroactively. While we understand that AB 1478 was intended to ensure the integrity of the RPS program, it should not be interpreted and implemented to the detriment of positive renewable hydro projects such as this one.

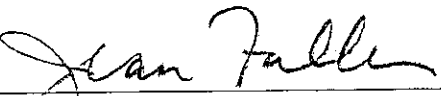
There should be no question as to the positive nature of the proposed new 7 megawatt project at Friant Dam. This new project adds to and compliments the existing renewable energy projects already certified by the CEC as renewable RPS eligible. The new project is necessary in light of changing operations of the Friant system under the San Joaquin River Settlement Agreement. The proposed new project seeks to ensure that the renewable energy benefits of increased fresh water releases to the San Joaquin River under

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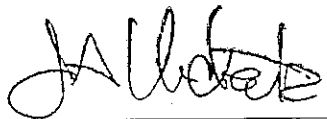
the settlement are fully utilized. The project has fully completed CEQA requirements, obtained 401 certification, received a FERC license and negotiated a power purchase agreement. In addition, significant investment in the project has already been made based on assurances by CEC staff that this project met the requirements for certification as prescribed in the current RPS Eligibility Guidebook.

Recognizing this situation, we look forward to working with you and your staff to find a satisfactory resolution to this matter. We must not allow such a positive project to be wasted and look for your guidance on next steps to get this project certified under existing requirements.

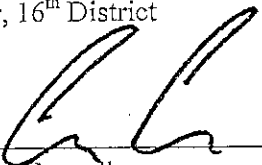
Sincerely,



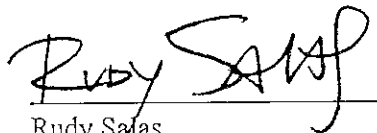
Jean Fuller
Senator, 18th District



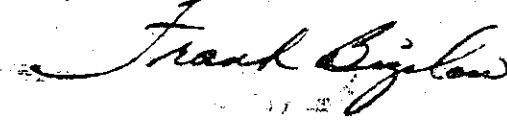
Andy Vidak
Senator, 16th District




Anthony Cannella
Senator, 12th District



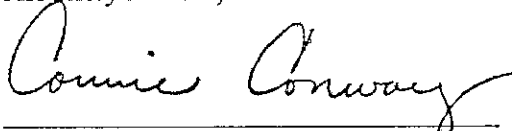
Rudy Salas,
Assemblymember, 32nd District




Frank Bigelow
Assemblymember, 5th District




Jim Patterson
Assemblymember, 23rd District



Connie Conway
Assemblymember, 26th District



Adam Gray
Assemblymember, 21st District



Henry Perea
Assemblymember, 31st District

CC:

Kip Lipper, Office of Senate President Pro Tempore Steinberg
Lawrence Lingbloom, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Janelle Beland, Undersecretary California Natural Resources Agency
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Office of the Governor
Jay Dickenson, CEC Director of Governmental Affairs