

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact:**

Nancy Rader, CalWEA - (510) 845-5077

### **Wind Association Releases Scientific Review of California Bird & Bat Study Guidelines for Wind Energy**

January 26, 2009 -- The California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) today released a scientific review of guidelines adopted in 2007 by the California Energy Commission and California Department of Fish & Game to reduce impacts to birds and bats from wind energy development. Recognizing the need to strengthen the scientific foundation of the Guidelines, the California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) commissioned the scientific review to evaluate and document the major bases for the pre- and post-construction citing studies and mitigation measures that are recommended in the Guidelines. The review identified three major categories where the Guidelines require more documentation and research to support the recommended methods and metrics. The major foundational areas are in study design methodology, bird and bat interactions with wind turbines, and mitigation strategies. The expert review identified a number of research activities to generate the information necessary to develop broadly applicable study methods and procedures.

“Our scientific review found that much work remains to be done before guidelines can be soundly developed and applied for consistent application across all wind project sites,” said Nancy Rader, Executive Director of CalWEA. “Until then, while the state’s voluntary guidelines should be consulted and considered by project developers, it is important that the studies actually conducted be determined by professional biologists’ best judgment about what studies and methods are needed for each site.”

“The review points to the reality that the state of the science of assessing and predicting the effects of wind development on birds and bats has not kept pace with wind industry growth,” Rader said. “CalWEA and its member companies are prepared to lead efforts to improve the state of the science to improve the efficiency and accuracy of pre-permitting studies in predicting the impacts of project development on birds and bats, focusing on California.”

The “Scientific Review of California Guidelines for Reducing Impacts to Birds and Bats from Wind Energy Development” was prepared for CalWEA by Dr. William Warren Hicks, an environmental statistician at EcoStat, Inc. with expertise in risk assessment in air, water and terrestrial environments, and Dr. James Newman, a wildlife biologist with expertise in avian biology and principal biologist at Pandion Systems, Inc. The review is available at [http://www.calwea.org/pdfs/2009/Scientific\\_Review\\_of\\_the\\_CEC\\_Guidelines-Final\\_Report\\_Dec\\_2008.pdf](http://www.calwea.org/pdfs/2009/Scientific_Review_of_the_CEC_Guidelines-Final_Report_Dec_2008.pdf).

“With very limited exceptions, the impacts of U.S. wind farms on birds are low relative to many other human activities, and wind energy represents one of the nation’s best options to reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, water pollution, acid deposition, and climate change, which pose far greater threats to America’s wildlife,” said Rader. “Still, the wind industry is committed to taking all reasonable measures to avoid environmental impacts from our facilities, which is why we commissioned this review and why we plan to participate in bolstering the state of the science in this area.”