



California Wind Energy Association

November 24, 2009

President Michael R. Peevey
Assigned Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich
Commissioner John A. Bohn
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, A.07-06-031 – Public Comments

Dear President Peevey and Commissioners,

The California Wind Energy Association wishes to submit in writing, and to clarify, the comments we made Friday at the En Banc hearing on the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project.

CalWEA is a trade organization comprised of over 20 wind industry members, including several with project interests in the Tehachapi Wind Resource Area. The TRTP, which is critically needed to connect wind energy projects to load centers, is obviously of keen interest to us. Our primary concern is that the project proceed in a timely fashion, which will enable the state to achieve its 20%-by-2010 renewable energy goal, albeit a few years late.

CalWEA previously stated, in comments filed on the draft EIR, that Alternative 4CM, developed by the City of Chino Hills, is a reasonable routing compromise, since it avoids siting the project in a residential neighborhood and provides net benefits to Chino Hills State Park, including a net reduction in transmission lines, which has garnered the support of local park users and advocates. Because of this unique set of circumstances, we urge the California Department of Parks and Recreation (“State Parks”) to consider supporting alternative 4CM.

We recognize, however, that there is a broader policy question involved in allowing the construction of facilities in a State park, notwithstanding the net benefits and the limited scope of construction in this particular situation. We recognize as well that this is a decision within the discretion of the CPUC and State Parks, and that State Parks has discretionary approval over the activities within the Chino Hills State Park necessary to implement alternative 4CM.

Therefore, despite CalWEA’s favorable view of Alternative 4CM, ***if State Parks’ opposition remains, we do not recommend that the CPUC adopt Alternative 4CM, given the impasse that could result. Instead, we recommend approval of Southern California Edison’s Alternative 2 as set forth in the Proposed Decision.***

In any case, we encourage the Commission to prepare for litigation regardless of the direction it takes, since litigation appears likely either way. In particular, a thorough administrative record supporting the decision will be important. We urge the Commission to take all available steps to minimize potential delays in the prompt completion of this Project in furtherance of the state's important renewable energy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Rader". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Rader
Executive Director