



## California Wind Energy Association

February 15, 2011

Mr. Iain Fisher, CPUC  
Mr. Greg Thomsen, BLM  
c/o Dudek  
605 Third Street  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Sent via email: [ecosub@dudek.com](mailto:ecosub@dudek.com)

Dear Mssrs. Fisher and Thomsen,

Wind energy is an important part of our state's energy portfolio. In addition to playing a significant role in reducing pollution and carbon emissions, wind makes our electricity system more reliable and decreases our dependence on fossil fuels.

In 2008, California wind projects generated 5,724 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity -- 2.7% of all power generated within California and enough to supply a city the size of San Francisco. In the same year, out-of-state wind projects generated 1,607 GWh of electricity for California, representing 1.6% of total power imports. Combined, wind projects supplied 7,331 GWh -- 2.4% of California's total electricity supply, enough for all homes in San Diego County. With the expected completion of new transmission facilities, CalWEA expects wind energy to serve 5% of California's electricity supply by 2013.

Our state has enormous wind energy potential, with many wind energy projects under development in the San Diego region and throughout the state. CalWEA believes that wind energy could cost-effectively produce 10% to 20% of the state's electricity supply by 2020, helping California to achieve its ambitious 33%-by-2020 renewable energy goal which, in turn, will be a cornerstone in achieving the state's AB 32 greenhouse-gas-reduction goals. The primary constraint in achieving these wind energy goals is insufficient transmission capacity.

The three projects included in the DEIR/DEIS -- the ECO Substation upgrade in eastern San Diego County, development of a generation interconnection line from Energia Sierra Juarez in Mexico and Pacific Wind Development's Tule Wind Project -- are important steps forward in increasing electric reliability in the region and enabling the delivery of renewable energy. The planned wind projects for the East County region -- including the Tule Wind Project, Energia Sierra Juarez project, Campo Wind Project, Manzanita Wind Project and Jewel Valley Wind Project -- all demonstrate the potential for wind energy to provide a significant contribution to the state's clean electricity goals. But to successfully plan, permit, interconnect and operate these projects will require a commitment to the infrastructure upgrades contemplated in this Environmental Impact Report.

CalWEA urges consideration of the state's renewable energy and greenhouse-gas reduction goals which will bring substantial environmental benefits, and which cannot be realized without the development of electricity infrastructure connecting renewable energy resource areas to load centers.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

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

Nancy Rader  
Executive Director