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Contact: Nancy Rader
nrader@calwea.org / 510-919-6358

Wind Energy Industry Reacts to LA County Supervisor Proposal to Ban Wind Energy

Berkeley CA – In response to reports that Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich may propose a ban on wind turbines in the unincorporated portions of the Antelope Valley under Los Angeles County's jurisdiction during a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow, the California Wind Energy Association offered the following perspective.

“The area in question contains some of the best wind resources in all of California which could lead to substantial economic benefits for Los Angeles County,” said Nancy Rader, Executive Director of the California Wind Energy Association. “Across California, wind energy is delivering \$70 million in property tax revenue annually to counties, along with \$27 million in payments to rural landowners. An outright ban would stop these benefits cold for LA County. Rather than an all-or-nothing approach, leaving the door open would allow specific project proposals to move forward on a case-by-case basis when compatible with local interests.”

“California is on a path to achieve ambitious climate change goals, which is critically important to all Angelenos. In fact, the state’s Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan depends upon LA County, along with six other counties, to contribute to the achievement of the state’s renewable energy development goals,” she said. “We hope that LA County will keep its options open so that it can contribute to these goals as well as reap the associated economic benefits.”

Rader noted that wind energy, now supplying over eight percent of the state’s electricity, helps support 21 wind-related manufacturing facilities in the state, located mostly in Southern California. Wind energy emits no pollutants, uses no water to produce electricity and, as one of the lowest-cost forms of renewable energy, helps keep electricity rates affordable. Since wind’s “fuel” is free, electric grid operators use wind power to displace an equal amount of energy from the most expensive operating power plant, which is almost always the least efficient fossil-fired power plant. That allows wind power in California to avoid 7.8 million metric tons a year of carbon dioxide emissions (equivalent to 1.7 million

cars' worth of carbon emissions). By displacing thermal generation, wind energy produced in California saves 3.4 billion gallons a year of fresh water (equivalent to 25.6 billion bottles of water).

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