



**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

Office of the President

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED**

**12-EPIC-01**

TN # 66768

**AUG 17 2012**

August 17, 2012

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01

It is my pleasure, as President of Humboldt State University (HSU), to provide this letter of support to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on the development of the First Triennial Investment Plan for the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program. I fully endorse the comments provided to you under separate cover by the California State University (CSU) Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST). HSU is a very active member of COAST. In addition to my role as a representative to the 22 other Presidents in the CSU, Dr. Rhea L. Williamson, HSU's Dean of Research and Sponsored Programs, serves on the COAST Executive Committee, and we support two COAST faculty representatives from the College of Natural Resources and Sciences at Humboldt State University. HSU is well positioned to play a central role in CEC-EPIC program efforts to develop marine or other energy related projects in Northern California. Our region is in great need of energy redundancy projects. We are a low economic rural region, with a wealth of natural resources, and a lot of poor and under-employed residents. Finding ways to support our community needs while utilizing the human capital and resources of HSU is a win-win for all stakeholders.

HSU is the home of the Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC), an institutional entity working to establish clean and renewable energy technologies in our society. Its scientists and engineers specialize in research related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and hydrogen energy systems. Their work involves research and development, technology demonstration, project development, energy systems analysis, and education and training. In addition, SERC performs feasibility studies, resource assessments, and energy planning studies. SERC has developed and installed fuel cell test stations at five major research universities and has considerable experience in the design, installation and operation of data acquisition and control systems and analysis of data collected using such systems. They have also installed, operated, analyzed, and optimized performance of biomass gasification and torrefaction systems. SERC's work does not stop when the installation of energy systems is complete: its engineers go on to provide system testing and startup, technology transfer, operations and maintenance manuals, training services, and technical support and troubleshooting to its project clients.

1 Harpst Street • Arcata, California 95521-8299 • 707.826.3311 • fax 707.826.3505 •  
[www.humboldt.edu](http://www.humboldt.edu)

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HSU is also the home of the Telonicher Marine Laboratory, one of the seven waterfront facilities described in the CSU-COAST letter. The laboratory was established to provide a center for marine and environmental science teaching and research. Located on a bluff that overlooks the Pacific Ocean in Trinidad, the HSU Telonicher Marine Laboratory provides ready access to the local marine environments of rocky shorelines, sandy beach and offshore kelp beds. The lab is well equipped to support research on marine life and the ocean environments. The laboratory has a circulating seawater system, lecture rooms, and labs for biological oceanography, chemical oceanography, geological oceanography, marine biological sciences, mariculture and fisheries instruction and research. Its research vessel, the *R.V. Coral Sea*, is available for research use by HSU faculty. It can also be chartered for use in research; NOAA and USGS, for example, currently use the *R.V. Coral Sea* in a range of marine research efforts.

HSU is also a highly recognized institution, with award winning programs in engineering, forestry, wildland science, marine sciences and oceanography. We have experts in GIS, global networking, and energy. Our faculty experts collaborate with engineers and scientists from R1 institutions across the country. We are also embedded in our regional community, working hand in hand with industry and agency representatives to address regional economy and workforce development needs.

In closing, I support and value the contributions that the EPIC program could make in addressing energy needs, and in particular those related to marine energy projects. Such efforts would have an incredible impact on this rural and isolated Northern California community. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Rollin C. Richmond  
President