



October 2, 2012

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

12-EPIC-1

TN #67487

OCT. 02 2012

Re: Comments on the proposed EPIC investment plan

Dear CEC Commissioners and Staff,

The Schatz Energy Research Center is a research institute located at Humboldt State University. Over the past several years we have worked closely with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, a local joint powers authority, to develop a strategic plan for the development of renewable energy resources in Humboldt County. This work has been funded under the Renewable Energy Secure Community (RESCO) program, part of the CEC's PIER program.

Informed by the local planning work we have been engaged in, we have the following comments on the CEC's Electric Program Investment Charge Proposed 2012-2014 Triennial Investment Plan.

We congratulate you on a job well done; you have put together a comprehensive plan that addresses many research, development and deployment needs to help California meet its sustainable energy and climate protection goals. A particular investment area in the plan that we support is bioenergy. As noted, biomass is an important renewable energy resource in California that can provide reliable baseload generation. In addition, the use of biomass waste streams for energy production can provide many co-benefits, including job creation, effective waste management strategies, and fire reduction and forest management benefits. Through our work on the RESCO plan, we have identified biomass as a very important renewable energy resource for Humboldt County.

We applaud your support for biomass energy in the areas of research and development (Strategic Objective S3.2), as well as for demonstration, deployment and assessment of pre-commercial technologies (Strategic Objective S12.1). We also think your focus on biopower (biomass-to-electricity) is well placed, given that federal research dollars are currently emphasizing biofuel production. Finally, we think your support for RD&D of advanced biomass-to-energy conversion technologies and improved biomass handling, processing and transport systems are the proper emphasis. These areas are in definite need of technological and/or process

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breakthroughs to enable full development of the state's biomass energy resources for both distributed generation and utility scale applications.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EPIC Investment Plan. We look forward to continued work to move California toward a sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Lehman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Peter Lehman
Founding Director