

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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June 27, 2006

The Honorable Jim Battin,
Senator
State Capitol, Room 3067
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Docket 06-Oil-1**

DOCKET
06-011-1
DATE JUN 27 2006
RECD JUL 10 2006

Dear Senator Battin:

Thank you for writing to the Energy Commission with your concerns about the Renewable Committee's proceeding designed to develop statewide avian guidelines. The purpose of this proceeding is to work with the California Department of Fish and Game, local governments, wind developers, and environmentalists to develop statewide voluntary guidelines to help reduce the impacts of wind development on birds and bats. Our goal is to encourage wind energy in the state while minimizing the impacts to avian wildlife, as wind resources in California are likely to play an important role in meeting California's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Please be assured that it is not our intention or desire to duplicate any current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutes, but rather to augment existing guidance with consistent, science-based methods for assessing and mitigating impacts. This proceeding is a collaborative process designed to create workable standards, such as pre- and post-monitoring protocols, and suggested mitigation strategies that can be implemented at the local level. These voluntary guidelines will be flexible to accommodate local concerns and site-specific biological resources, and will not reflect a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

The Renewables Committee held its first hearing on June 9, 2006. Energy Commission staff will be holding a series of workshops this summer and fall to address specific issues. We invite you and your staff to join us whenever possible. The project manager, Susan Sanders, would be happy to talk with you further. She can be reached at (530) 477-7415. Once again, we appreciate your continued input.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. GEESMAN
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Renewables Committee

JACKALYNE PFANNENSTIEL
Chairman and Associate Member
Renewables Committee