



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

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May 1, 2012

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 09-reneweo-1
DATE 5-01-12
RECD. 5-11-12

**Re: Preliminary Development Scenarios for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
Docket No. 09-RENEW EO-01**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, thank you for the continued opportunity to participate in development of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). Inyo County has a long history of providing renewable energy generation for California and the nation, and we are proud that our County possesses the resources necessary for future renewable energy production. The Inyo County Board of Supervisors has consistently expressed its support of appropriate renewable energy development, and we hope that Inyo County will be able to participate in DRECP implementation.

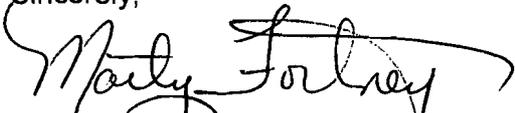
We have reviewed the preliminary development scenarios prepared by the DRECP for Inyo County, and are pleased that consideration is being given to a range of potential development here. As you may be aware, the County undertook a comprehensive planning effort to identify areas where renewable wind and solar energy development might be appropriate, based on site-specific studies, and the preliminary development scenarios identify areas similar to many of those that we considered. Noteworthy from our planning effort, we encourage the DRECP to consider potential aesthetic impacts east of Highway 395 north of Owens Lake. Also, although hydrological issues are present County-wide, we believe that they are especially acute in the vicinity of Death Valley junction.

As previously indicated, we have concerns about the DRECP's inconsistencies with the County General Plan and other County policies, including the potential loss of lands for biology-related mitigation; agricultural resources; impacts to public services, utilities, and infrastructure; demand for housing; impeded recreational access; and, the society, culture, and economy of the County. We are reassured that the DRECP is considering providing mitigation for renewable energy development on public lands, since less than two percent of our County remains in private ownership, and we look forward to this evolving discussion, including approaches to restore degraded public lands classified as Wilderness. However, we remain deeply concerned about the potential direct economic impacts from renewable energy development on County services, programs, and infrastructure. We hope that these issues can be resolved through our ongoing coordination, and encourage DRECP staff to maintain contact with County staff to work on addressing our concerns.

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Thank you again for the continuing opportunity to participate in development of the DRECP. If you have any questions, please contact County's Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292 or by email at kcarunchio@inyocounty.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marty Fortney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Supervisor Marty Fortney, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

cc: Kevin Carunchio, CAO
Randy Keller, County Counsel
Joshua Hart, Planning Director
Governor Brown
Secretary Salazar, DOI
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Ren Lohefener, USFWS
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