



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF INYO

P. O. BOX N • INDEPENDENCE, CALIFORNIA 93526
TELEPHONE (760) 878-0373 • FAX (760) 878-2241
e-mail: pgunsolley@inyocounty.us

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March 2, 2010

The Honorable Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Renewable Energy Projects

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 17, 2010 regarding renewable energy projects in Inyo County. On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I wish to relay to you our support for renewable energy development in Inyo County, and our belief that you will be hard-pressed to find a Board of Supervisors anywhere in our State that is more committed to the appropriate development of large-scale renewable energy projects. We share your commitment to expediting renewable energy projects to help California meet its mutual goals of economic development and environmental protection.

It is both ironic and concerning that Inyo County actually wants to expand the size and number of areas identified or otherwise designated for renewable energy development in our jurisdiction and that our County's efforts are being opposed by the very agencies that you have charged with championing renewable energy development in our State. Inyo County is one of the best locations in the world for solar energy development, and also provides excellent geothermal and potential wind energy resources. We have been working with the California Energy Commission and other interested parties to identify areas in Inyo County for potential renewable energy development through the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI), as well as the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). However, to date, Inyo County's efforts to expand the number of California Renewable Energy Zones (CREZs) located in our county have been largely ignored (see attachment). While we have had difficulty making our voice heard, we have and will continue to provide input into these processes. We ask that you encourage the Energy Commission and other participating agencies to integrally include local agencies, such as Inyo County, in the planning process to a greater degree and take our view points into account.

While we support renewable energy development in general, we also support clarifying the ability of local governments to exercise local land use authority, and seek reasonable impact fees and taxes from the development of such facilities. We hope and expect that any impacts resulting from renewable energy development will be addressed through the DRECP, or entitlements for specific projects. Potential impacts of concern include increased demand for County programs and services, increased stress on public infrastructure including road, water and sewer systems, the need to expand public utilities and public facilities, and the need for additional housing, as well as aesthetic impacts.

Thank you for your correspondence and interest in renewable energy development in Inyo County. We look forward to working with you as we move forward with the DRECP and other renewable energy planning processes. If you have any questions, please contact the County Administrative Officer, Kevin Carunchio, at (760) 878-0292.

Sincerely,



Richard Cervantes
Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors
Kevin Carunchio, CAO
Randy Keller, County Counsel
Doug Wilson, Willdan
Regional Council of Rural Counties
California State Association of Counties
California Energy Commission
California Department of Fish and Game
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service