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California State Senate

SENATOR
ANTHONY CANNELLA
TWELFTH SENATE DISTRICT

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California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
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TN # 75624
APR 14 2015

April 9, 2015

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern:

I am proud to be the author of Senate Bill 591 (2013) that is being discussed today. This law passed out of both houses of the state legislature without a single vote in opposition before being signed by the governor. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the implementation of this law.

The community of Merced, and its local public utility, the Merced Irrigation District, faces unique and special circumstances. This public utility serves one of the most impoverished communities not only in the state, but in the entire country. MID has a combination of physical and operational constraints on its system that affect its ability to comply with RPS.

The communities of Needles, San Francisco, and Donner all received recognition of their unique and special circumstances at the time the state developed its most current codes sections pertaining to the RPS program. Merced is seeking the same consideration.

The interpretation being proposed today does not meet the stated provisions contained in Section 399.30 (k). The legislature intended that this publicly owned electric utility that receives greater than 50% of its "annual" retail sales from its own hydroelectric generation shall not be required to procure excess additional renewable energy resources. Senate Bill 591 was intended to assist a single public utility in a small town, not a large investor-owned utility seeking to increase its profits. These issues were vetted through both the Assembly and the Senate, in hearing after hearing. The legislative intent was to help this community.

I strongly request you consider the intent of the Legislature as you work to implement SB 591. This bill was intended to provide real and consistent relief on an annual basis when Merced Irrigation District meets the required threshold. The California Energy Commission should follow this intent. I look forward to continuing this dialogue as the process progresses.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cannella
Senator, 12th District

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