



California Energy Commission  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

Commissioner McAllister,

We are writing you in strong support of research centers such as the Western Cooling Efficiency Center (WCEC) at UC Davis, an applied research, development, and demonstrations partnership founded in large part based on CEC funding. The WCEC grew out of a close collaboration between the HVAC industry (companies large and small), California's investor-owned utilities, and the California Energy Commission, to encompass a broad research, demonstration, education and training portfolio.

We have collaborated with the WCEC on a range of projects. In particular, the WCEC's research, funded by its multi-year interagency agreement with the Energy Commission, has been extremely useful in helping the evaporative cooling industry, including my company, to better understand how water chemistry affects the components and efficiency of evaporative air conditioning systems. Their research has impacted our recommendations to installers, which will both help drive the installation of these energy efficient systems in California while also saving valuable water resources. This research was not something that could have been done under competitive solicitations; rather, the WCEC used its interagency funding from the CEC and, with CEC and WCEC Steering Committee support, conducted research that is already impacting the marketplace. Moreover, the relationships formed during our work with the WCEC has enabled us to collaborate on a range of other related projects...all of which would have been more problematic without its CEC interagency funding.

The WCEC is very effective in addressing and resolving building conditioning-related inefficiencies that, if left unaddressed, will prevent the state from meeting its ambitious energy efficiency goals. A significant part of the WCEC's success has been due to its ability to quickly bring resources to bear on a challenge, and then either abandon it if a solution proves to be ineffective, or (more often) continue to pursue that solution with CEC funding or transition project support to other sponsors. Examples of WCEC success under center support from the CEC include its aerosol envelope sealing technology, which has since gathered both private and federal research support and is now nearing market introduction. Another is the program formerly known as the Western Cooling Challenge, which started under CEC auspices and then attracted California IOU funding. We strongly believe the nimbleness associated with funding research centers or programs (rather than only specific projects) are essential to achieving the state's efficiency targets in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Investing in the WCEC and similar research centers with flexible, multi-year funds presents the opportunity to effectively integrate and address long-term energy efficiency issues that cannot be obtained through individual project solicitations in specific activity areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Wylie

President, Beutler Corporation