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Clare Laufenberg Gallardo
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments Regarding RETI Phase 2B Report Update

Ms. Laufenberg Gallardo:

Thank you for the opportunity to again provide input regarding California's Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI). I wish to also thank you personally for your efforts to include the County in this planning process.

I am sure that others in the County share my appreciation that the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) recommended by the Board of Supervisors (refer to attached) were considered by the Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) and the Working Group. In particular, it is promising that the Owens Valley CREZ has been expanded by about 3,000 megawatts. I hope that the other CREZs recommended by the Board will be considered further in continuing RETI and other renewable energy planning efforts. In particular, we believe that the proposed Charleston View CREZ in southeast Inyo County should be incorporated.

While I am not an expert, I would also like to point out that the transmission cost rankings for Inyo County appear high, given that existing transmission lines pass through the County that can be relatively easily upgraded, and out-of-State resources are being routed through the County. Additional study of actual transmission costs based on known rates and estimated line upgrade costs is recommended to better quantify relative transmission costs.

In regards to the updated maps, please consider the following:

- The designation overlain on Charleston View in southeast Inyo County should be clarified. In previous maps this area was identified as disturbed lands. In the updated map, the designation overlain in this area does not appear in the key.
- As previously conveyed by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, proposed wilderness areas, citizen wilderness areas, and other land use restrictions not enacted or defined by statute must be eliminated from the RETI maps. To allow areas outside of officially

designated wilderness to be referred to as such misrepresents the current status of such areas as it exists within Inyo County under the law.

- The updated graphics appear to illustrate a new transmission corridor through the Owens Valley. An investigation of collocation with existing transmission and/or upgrading existing transmission should be undertaken before entirely new transmission corridors are proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the updated Phase 2B Report. Please call Joshua Hart at (760) 878-0263 or email him at jhart@inyocounty.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Conklin
Planning Department Director

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors; Kevin Carunchio, CAO; County Counsel; Doug Wilson, Willdan; Greg James; Andy Horne, California State Association of Counties, Member of RETI SSC; Joe Bertotti, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Member of RETI SSC; file