



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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
LINDA ARCULARIUS
SUSAN CASH
BEVERLY BROWN
MARTY FORTNEY
RICHARD CERVANTES

KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board

PATRICIA GUNSOLLEY
Assistant Clerk of the Board

October 20, 2009

Andy Horne, California State Association of Counties
c/o Imperial County
940 Main Street
EL Centro, CA 92243

Joe Bertotti, Regional Council of Rural Counties
c/o Lassen County
707 Nevada Street, Suite 5
Susanville, CA 96130

RE: Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (Final Phase 2A Report)

Dear Mr. Horne and Mr. Bertotti:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, please convey this correspondence to the Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) for the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI). As I have previously indicated, our Board recognizes the importance of renewable energy to the future of California and the nation, and supports the Energy Commission's efforts to more rapidly and effectively move toward renewable energy resources. However, the Board is concerned that local input into the process is being neglected.

With this in mind, Inyo County requests that you submit the following comments and requests to the SSC regarding the RETI Final Phase 2A Report:

- Inyo County reiterates its previous requests for membership on the SSC, in order that we may more effectively participate in land use planning issues relating to the RETI. Local governments should be better represented on the Committee, since they represent areas that will be most affected by renewable energy development.
- 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. Attached is a graphic accurately portraying existing wilderness areas in Inyo County.

- Inyo County provides superior renewable energy resources and existing transmission facilities that connect to the transmission grid. Numerous areas of the County provide excellent locations for solar energy development, including in the Owens Valley, Searles Valley, Indian Wells Valley, Amargosa Valley, Fish Lake Valley, and in the vicinity of Charleston View,¹ and the RETI maps should be updated accordingly. Solar energy generation facilities may also be appropriate in electrical transmission rights-of-way. Geothermal resources are located throughout the County, and existing geothermal energy is generated at the Coso Power Plant east of Coso Junction. Attached is a graphic illustrating potential locations for Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ) in the County. Please note that these are not exhaustive, and that many other locations throughout the County may be appropriate for renewable energy development. For example, the County is aware of discussions regarding wind and additional geothermal energy development in southwestern portions of the County.

Inyo County values the many environmental resources that combine to make it such a unique place, while also valuing the abundant natural resources of the County, such as solar and geothermal. Such resources allow the County to play an important part in moving California toward renewables and greater energy self-sufficiency and, as a result, we look forward to being included as an active participant in the RETI process.

Sincerely



Supervisor Beverly A. Brown, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attachment

cc: Board of Supervisors
Kevin Carunchio, County CAO
Randy Keller, County Counsel
Doug Wilson, Willdan Associates
Clare Laufenberg Gallardo, California Energy Commission

¹ Transmission facilities lie in close proximity to Inyo County's eastern border in Nevada – refer to the State of Nevada's renewable energy effort at <http://www.retaac.org/>. Refer also the BLM's Solar PEIS project, which illustrates solar development potential along the County's eastern border, at <http://www.solareis.anl.gov/index.cfm>.