

March 26, 2008

RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee
Sacramento, California

Dear Stakeholder Steering Committee:

I am surprised and very concerned that the March 2008 draft report by Black & Veatch, *Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative Phase 1A*, gives so little attention to the environmental impact of the production and transmission of renewable energy. Environmental considerations must be given the same emphasis as economic factors in all planning under the RETI process as, simply put, cost-effectiveness does not trump protection of environmentally sensitive areas. Environmental considerations must be incorporated at this point into the assumptions and methodology to be used throughout the Initiative lest they be overlooked at later stages.

I recognize that Section 3.5 seems to evidence concern for the environmental impact of the production and transmission of renewable energy. Yet the standards suggested in that Section 3.5 are too general, with specific factors to be considered only in the next stage of the process. Detailed criteria for the environmental screening of resource areas should be completed now, before the RETI moves into Phase IB. The formulation of detailed environmental-screening standards early in the process (Phase 1A) will help to ensure that environmental considerations are given equal weight with economic factors.

Sincerely,

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