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April 8, 2013

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101-2471

RE: Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan

On behalf of CleanTECH San Diego, I would like to express our concern for the recent request by Supervisor Jacob to direct the Chief Administrative Office of the County of San Diego to research and develop options for a comprehensive renewable energy plan. While a renewable energy plan could be valuable to the County, at this time we view this comprehensive planning approach as a way to stall and/or deliberately stop all utility scale renewable energy projects including wind and solar in the unincorporated portions of San Diego County.

CleanTECH San Diego is a nonprofit association focused on accelerating the greater San Diego region's transition to a clean energy economy. Our mission is to stimulate innovation and advance the adoption of clean technologies and sustainable industry practices for the economic, environmental and social benefit of the greater San Diego region. Utility scale renewable energy, in addition to distributed generation, is an important part of achieving this goal.

Over the past several years, the County of San Diego has either adopted ordinances or directed staff to create a new ordinance that would regulate both distributed and utility scale wind and solar energy. This includes the adoption of a zoning ordinance amendment that allows for meteorological testing (MET) for large scale and distributed generation solar and the creation of a 2-tiered approach to large and small scale wind energy paired with the creation of a renewable energy section in the zoning ordinance. The adoption of any additional renewable energy plan at this time would inevitably slow down permitting and or delay all renewable projects currently in the process.

As you know, the Jewel Valley Wind Project recently withdrew their development of two large-scale wind energy projects in Boulevard because of the uncertainty surrounding the County's wind ordinance. Moving forward with a comprehensive energy strategy at this time will only ensure our region continues to see these types of projects disappear, creating missed opportunities for the County to receive millions of dollars in property and sales tax revenue, in addition to jobs.

We respectfully ask the board to deny this request and move forward with supporting the development of utility scale renewable energy projects in San Diego County, including moving forward with the two-tiered wind ordinance on May 8, 2013. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Waring