



February 9, 2012

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Dr. Robert Weisenmiller
Chairman
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **CEC grant solicitation #PON-11-601, Biofuels Production Facilities**

Dear Chairman Weisenmiller:

On behalf of CleanTECH San Diego, I am pleased to express my support for the San Diego Center for Algae Biotechnology's (SD-CAB) submission to the California Energy Commission's recent released grant solicitation on biofuel production facilities.

CleanTECH San Diego is a nonprofit association focused on accelerating the greater San Diego region's transition to a clean energy economy. We have a broad and diverse membership that includes private sector companies like Sapphire Energy, Synthetic Genomics and Bank of America, as well as local governments, nongovernmental agencies and universities and research institutions.

As you know, San Diego is considered one of the world's leaders in biofuels research and development. A recent analysis by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) found that the algae R&D enterprise in the San Diego region has generated almost 500 jobs to date, and more than \$80 million annually in direct economic activity.

SD-CAB has proposed to construct an Algae BioEnergy Pilot Facility on dedicated UC San Diego property. This facility will include operations for algal growth, harvesting, biomass processing and fuel extraction and conversion. Furthermore, this facility will also be available for use by other academic institutions and the commercial sector. Technology startups that have developed a potential breakthrough in one aspect of the process, but lack the resources or facilities to test this improvement in an entire operation unit can utilize the facility in order to expedite the lab-to-market potential. Allowing other bioenergy stakeholders access to this facility will be beneficial to the creation of new intellectual property and related economic development, and will also foster a high level of collaboration and open exchange of ideas.

Finally, the proposed facility will further leverage the already successful EDGE biofuels training program, which is devoted to workforce development and job training in the biofuels industry in California, from production workers to post-graduate laboratory jobs.

I look forward to the results of the competition and thank you in advance for your consideration of SD-CAB's application. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Anderson".

Jason Anderson

cc:
CEC Commissioner Douglas
CEC Commissioner Peterman