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Assembly California Legislature



LORI SALDAÑA
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CHAIR, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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VETERANS AFFAIRS

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CHAIR, BASE CLOSURE AND
REDEVELOPMENT

A0004

February 25, 2008

Commissioner Michael Peevey
President, Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioner Peevey:

I am writing to express my support for the in-basin generation alternatives in the Draft EIR issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Because these alternatives reflect state and the regional energy priorities, I believe they are a better fit for San Diego's energy future than the transmission option offered by SDG&E.

The State of California has shifted its energy policy in the direction of low-emission, renewable, distributed energy generation and increased energy efficiency. To this end, the Legislature has passed a number of measures that require or encourage these approaches, including AB 32 (The Global Warming Solutions Act) and SB 1 (The Solar Roofs Initiative).

I think it should be clear that the Legislature's intent in requiring increased use of renewables would also demand the development environmentally responsible generation proposals before considering the sacrifice of state park land, open space or other natural resources.

Now that viable alternatives have been developed and evaluated by the CPUC and BLM, we should seize this opportunity to explore the preferred options more fully.

I believe that these in-area alternatives offer San Diego a more independent, reliable and environmentally responsible energy future.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to require the utility to pursue alternatives to this proposal with greater regard for conserving the state's natural resources, increasing local renewable energy generation capacity, and assuring ratepayer benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Saldaña".

Lori Saldaña
Assembly Member, 76th District