

FEB 28 2011

# MEBA

## Mountain Empire Business Association

Boulevard • Campo • Descanso • Guatay • Jacumba • Lake Morena • Pine Valley • Potrero

February 17, 2011

Iain Fisher, CPUC/Greg Thomsen, BLM  
c/o Dudek  
605 Third Street  
Encinitas, CA 92024

**Subj: Comment on ECO Substation and Tule Wind Projects**

Dear Mr. Fisher and Mr. Thomsen,

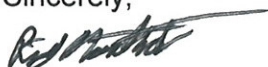
The Mountain Empire Business Association is a coalition, more than 80 strong, of businesses, community organizations, ranches and churches dedicated to promoting economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in east San Diego County communities. Together, we work to sustain and enhance the rural character of each community, increase citizen involvement and establish a regional awareness that the Mountain Empire area is still "Just Country."

In December 2010, Mountain Empire Business Association endorsed the ECO Substation and Tule Wind Projects for three reasons: jobs, jobs and jobs. Although there is much to be proud of in the backcountry, we lack an economic engine to improve the quality of life and provide the kinds of opportunities for our young people to live and work in our communities. We believe that responsible renewable energy development, enabled by the ECO Substation Project, can become that catalyst.

Additionally, the ECO Substation Project will provide improved electric reliability and much needed economic stimulus to the Mountain Empire region.

The Mountain Empire is rich in potential for renewable energy. We should not squander the opportunity to tap wind and solar energy in our backcountry to benefit the greater good. We were pleased to see that the recommended project in the environmental review endorses under grounding the connector lines through the community of Boulevard. We were also pleased to see that the wind turbines have been placed ample distance from residences, schools and other places where people congregate. We trust that the environmental process will resolve these and other issues so that these projects can become an economic engine without compromising the livability of our region.

Sincerely,



Rick Northcote  
President  
Mountain Empire Business Association