

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Smelser [mailto:swantine@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:07 PM

To: John Porteous

Cc: Rica Nitka

Subject: Tule Wind Power Project - support letter

Dear Mr. Porteous,

I was told that I could send my letter of support for the Tule Wind Power Project to you, even though I have addressed it to Iain Fisher of the CPUC and Greg Thomsen of BLM. I am not certain of the correct protocol and I hope this will be acceptable. I understand that Dudek Environmental Consultants will be handling all of the correspondence and will forward our letters to all appropriate people. Is that correct? Please let me know if I should proceed in a different way.

Please see the attachment for my letter to Mr. Fisher and Mr. Thomsen in which I express my support for the Tule Wind Power Project. I feel that the opposing "vocal minority" has raised such a fuss that the quiet majority must finally speak up!

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,
Diane Smelser
(858) 279-4370
swantine@gmail.com

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Diane Smelser

*10655 Porto Court
San Diego, CA 92124*

February 7, 2011

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

REGARDING: Tule Wind Power Project

Gentlemen:

For many years I have been following media reports about renewable energy projects in San Diego County. During the scandalous Enron years, through the hardship of being evacuated from our home when wildfires spread to our community and through countless other controversies, I continued to hope for a day when we would have accessible, clean, safe energy for our county. I understand that you are currently in the process of evaluating the Tule Wind Power Project in San Diego County and I wish to express my complete support of this wonderful project!

Although there are many successful wind power projects around the world, the technology and implementation is still being refined. It takes true pioneer spirit to step into areas of our country that are just starting up wind and other renewables. Often it is stepping into the unknown, even as certain as the developers are that the product and service will be top-notch.

Besides the obvious future benefits of clean energy, the Tule Wind Power Project will boost the local economy, creating jobs, help in the funding of other county projects and services and will help California meet its renewable energy goals.

Even though I have pondered the opposing arguments, I do not completely understand people who protest this change. I believe that the majority of people in the community are in support of clean energy and this new technology as evidenced by polls and the voters during elections. They are a quiet majority and they rarely go to public meetings. The far more vocal opposing parties are the ones you often hear at the public meetings. They are the vocal minority. I think much of their angst is based in fear. For some of them, it may simply add excitement to their boring lives. I would ask opponents this question: How can our situation be any worse? We must do something soon. We are using up and running out of fossil fuel, which was never a clean source to begin with. It pollutes the air and

the water table and it certainly costs too much. The wildfires that frequently occur in our 'chaparral' and tumble-weed filled backcountry, often bring controversy over the causes of the fires (and the vocal minority comes out for this, too) and whether the old, existing power lines contribute to the devastation. With the new technology and equipment that comes with wind power, those controversies would fade away and the vocal minority will have to find new issues to oppose.

A reasonable person must realize that we will have energy no matter what. Do we want to stay with the old ways of generating and sending energy out to the community, even though we know it is becoming scarce, can be dangerous and pollutes our environment, or do we want to seize this opportunity to advance to a new level of technology while we have the opportunity with such a responsible, stalwart developer as Iberdrola? I say this is an opportunity we should not let pass. I encourage you to do what is right. Please approve the Tule Wind Power Project.

Thank you for considering my comments as we all look forward to a cleaner and greener California.

Very truly yours,

Diane Smelser