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Subject: Fwd: San Bruno & CEC

This is additional information Re: CEC and San Bruno

Thank you for any information you can provide to myself or Mr. Sarvey in this regard.

Michael E. Boyd President
CALifornians for Renewable Energy, Inc.

(CARE)

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Redacted

Date: Thu, Mar 17, 2011 at 12:02 PM
Subject: (no subject)
To: Redacted

COMMISSIONER WEISENMILLER: I wanted to make
16 sure everyone was
focusing on, in terms of the San
17 Bruno context, that obviously NTSB had
its hearings
18 last week, but I think one of the key things coming up
19
is on the 15th, PG&E is going to make a filing at the
20 PUC on its
efforts to go through its records, identify
21 what it knows about pipelines,
what it doesn't know,
22 and some of the vulnerabilities. I think there was
an
23 article in one of the San Francisco papers indicating
24 that the
PUC, I guess Clanon was very clear that PG&E
25 has to make that filing,
and everyone is looking
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1 forward to seeing what that
means. We could have
2 substantial reductions in operating pressure on
3
segments of the pipeline system coming out of that. I
4 think, prior to –
PG&E has had a massive effort to try
5 to enhance its records, but at
this point, I think –
6 because they've certainly been quoted as
potentially
7 30 percent of the pipe, high consequence areas, may
8 have
unknown characteristics. So, again, it could
9 have pretty significant
operational impacts, so
10 certainly when that comes in on the 15th, I think
the
11 staff has to really be prepared to dig into that and
12 figure out
what it means for the State of California.

13 Obviously, our digging in is in
support of or helping
14 the PUC, which is really on the front lines on
this.
15 VICE CHAIR BOYD: Mr. Chairman, since you
16 broached the subject
of where the Siting Committee has
17 spent some time looking at this issue,
and I'm
18 wondering if the Siting Committee has any policy
19
recommendations to the full Commission as it relates
20 to our review of
power plant siting in the future, or
21 whether the Committee would hold back
any
22 recommendations to the full Commission until the 15th
23
event.

24 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: I committed to
25 Senator Alquist that we
would look at these issues in
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1 the siting case, you
know, in terms of the public
2 safety part. Now, obviously, so I think we
have to be
3 prepared on the siting cases, particularly if some of
4 the
unknown pipe, or unknown quality pipe is something
5 that is affecting some
of the service of either plants
6 before us, or potentially other power
plants because,
7 again, we could be looking at a summer where,
8
depending on how much pipe and where, and the type of
9 testing requirements,
we could have some operational
10 challenges. So, I think starting to look at
that in
11 the siting cases is important and I think, actually,
12 it's
happened in Mariposa – do you want to talk about
13 that?

14 COMMISSIONER
DOUGLAS: I'll just say briefly
15 that in the Mariposa Energy Project siting
process, we
16 did take evidence on pipeline, particularly the
17
interconnection between the plant, the proposed
18 project, and the pipeline,

any physical impacts that
19 the project could have on the pipeline. And to
some
20 degree, evidence was brought in on the pipeline
21 itself, and so
we're still reviewing the evidence and
22 considering what of all of that we
would think is
23 relevant in the project review, but we did let it in,
24
and we did have some hearings on the topic – or a
25 hearing which covered
the topic.

48

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1 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Yeah. I would
hope,
2 at least in the cases that we have pending, that we
3 get
something in the record on whether there is
4 anything from the 15th filing
that indicates there
5 might be issues here or, in fact, if everything
is
6 clean, that makes everything a lot better, but at
7 least have
something in the record to reflect that
8 tidal wave. I think Senator Alquist
certainly pushed
9 me, just every public official in California has to
10
think about what San Bruno means for the operation of
11 their public
body.

12 VICE CHAIR BOYD: So, is this Commission by
13 virtue of this
discussion giving guidance to the staff
14 to include this subject in their
review of siting
15 cases and as they make recommendations to the
Siting
16 Committees? I think it would be good – I'm aware that
17 our
Policy Siting Committee has looked at this and
18 traditionally makes
recommendations to this Commission
19 and the Commission, in turn, gives
guidance to the
20 staff, and it sounds to me like this is an issue
that
21 at least the Siting Committee, since it constitutes
22 the two of
you, is on top of this issue and is
23 incorporating it into at least one

siting case that
24 you're involved in. Others of us are involved in
25
other cases and it might be wise to give policy
49
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1
direction now to the staff to include this as a
2 consideration in the
materials they prepare, as we go
3 on and hold hearings certainly in advance
of any
4 evidentiary hearing.
5 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Yeah, exactly.
I
6 think at this point, particularly, I think, with the
7 four of us, I
guess, this actually let's everyone
8 speak, that I think one of the most
fundamental
9 aspects of regulation is dealing with public safety
10 and
reliability, I mean, those really go to the heart
11 of regulation. A lot of
times we look at the
12 environment, we look at economic issues, but
certainly
13 safety and reliability are really key parts of what
14
regulators have to deal with, so certainly I would
15 personally be
encouraging the staff and would
16 certainly appreciate the opportunity for
more of a
17 dialogue among the four of us now, to really make sure
18
that we've addressed the safety implications of all of
19 our plants, but
particularly now that we need to
20 assure the public we've looked at it in
the context of
21 the gas plants we're siting.

22 VICE CHAIR BOYD: Mr.
Ward, do you find it
23 appropriate for us in this dialogue to have
given
24 enough direction to the staff of the Commission for
25 them to
follow those guidelines with regard to future
50
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1 and

current siting cases and to bring to the
2 individual Siting Committees the
information on this
3 subject?
4 MR. WARD: I do, but it still might
be
5 useful in the individual siting hearings to bring it
6 up again, as
well, to reinforce it.
7 VICE CHAIR BOYD: Thank you.
8 COMMISSIONER
PETERMAN: Just echo the
9 sentiment that gas pipeline safety is a very
important
10 issue, and I do appreciate the additional guidance
11 that's
been offered today in this meeting for those of
12 us involved in various
cases. Thank you.
13 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Item 14. So, any
14 Chief
Counsel's Report?
15 MR. WARD: None today, thank you.
16 CHAIRMAN
WEISENMILLER: Item 15. Executive
17 Director's Report?
18 MS.
GARFIELD-JONES: None today,
19 Commissioners, thank you.
20 CHAIRMAN
WEISENMILLER: Item 16. Public
21 Advisor's Report?
22 MS. JENNINGS: Yes,
just on that last topic
23 with regard to the pipeline safety, there is
pending
24 before the Mariposa Committee a request, a motion by
25 an
Intervener to subpoena a PG&E representative. I
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1 think that we found at the hearing that our staff
2 really has
to rely on the CPUC Regulations and the
3 PG&E representations that they
followed the
4 Regulations with regard to pipeline safety, so I think
5
that this is an issue that certainly is a major
6 concern on the Mariposa
case and I think it would be
7 much appreciated if the Commission would have
some

8 standard response in not just that case, but in the
9 other cases
that are coming before it.
10 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: That's very good.
I
11 must say, I'm disappointed. I had talked very early
12 on after San
Bruno to, actually, Tom Bottorff at PG&E
13 to express the concern that
these issues were going to
14 come up in our siting cases and offer PG&E
the
15 opportunity to use our forums to reassure the public
16 on these
questions. And as I know these issues have
17 come up, I think PG&E has
had more hesitation.
18 Obviously, they are sort of involved in a number
of
19 different forums that impact these issues, and
20 certainly
encourage them to try to find a way to
21 participate in our process, again,
to help us get a
22 better record, but also help really reassure the
23
public that, in fact, these projects are safe.
24 MS. JENNINGS: Thank
you.
25 CHAIRMAN WEISENMILLER: Item 17. Any public
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1 comment? Hearing none, the meeting is adjourned.
2 (Whereupon,
at 11:09 a.m., the business meeting was
3
adjourned.)