

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Continue  
Implementation and Administration of California  
Renewables Portfolio Standard Program

Rulemaking 11-05-005  
(Filed May 5, 2011)

**MOTION OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA  
FOR PARTY STATUS**

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October 12, 2011

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of	)	Rulemaking 11-05-005
	)	
ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING TO	)	(Filed May 5, 2011)
CONTINUE RULEMAKING 11-05-005	)	
IMPLEMENTATION AND	)	
ADMINISTRATION OF CALIFORNIA	)	
RENEWABLES PORTFOLIO STANDARD	)	
PROGRAM	)	
_____	)	

**MOTION OF MADERA COUNTY FOR PARTY STATUS**

Pursuant to Rules 1.4 and 11.1 of the California Public Utilities Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure, and the Commission's May 5, 2011 Order Instituting Rulemaking in this proceeding, Madera County ("County") submits this motion requesting party status.

**I. DESCRIPTION OF MADERA COUNTY**

Madera County is a political subdivision of the State of California with responsibility for the health, welfare, and economic prosperity of its residents.

**II. STATEMENT OF INTEREST**

The eastern portions of Madera County includes a significant portion of forested land (over 500,000 acres), most of which is at significant risk of wildfire. These forests (like many in California) are stocked with unnaturally dense vegetation that is highly susceptible to catastrophic wildfire. In the last ten (10) years alone, the County has experienced two major wildfires. These fires are expensive to fight, cause widespread environmental damage, and release tons of harmful emissions into the air.

The County is working with the U.S. Forest Service (which manages most of the forested areas) and other public and private partners to implement projects that reduce hazardous forest fuels, and transport and process excess forest biomass material such as limbs, tops and brush into clean energy. These projects have been demonstrated to significantly improve air and watershed quality, protect soil productivity, and lower fire suppression costs. In addition, they can provide economic development and jobs for communities that have been devastated by the closure of timber mills and the subsequent loss of jobs. Unfortunately, the costs to treat hazardous fuels are significant. Public funding to support these treatments is dropping and will likely cause many projects to be significantly curtailed or outright eliminated.

An alternative market-based opportunity to generate funding to support these beneficial projects is the utilization of woody biomass generated as a byproduct of sustainable forest management, hazardous forest fuels reduction, and ecological restoration activities. Strategic and sustainable expansion of the bio-power sector in California, by locating small-scale bio-power facilities adjacent to at-risk forest regions, could provide a revenue source to support continued forest fuels reduction activities while delivering a suite of societal benefits and public good. Entities within the County have been actively pursuing the siting of such facilities in appropriate locations. Recent studies related to these efforts have shown that the market price which is received for the power generated by these facilities is a major factor in their economic feasibility.

The County is the appropriate agency to comment on market price issues discussed within this proceeding because it has a unique perspective related to how small power generating facilities can mitigate wildfire risks, local economic health, and

emissions impacts. The methodology to determine market price will significantly affect the success or failure of these facilities and will in turn impact the fire safety, economic prosperity and air quality within Madera County and other adjacent areas.

**III. SERVICE**

Service of notices, orders, and other communications and correspondence in this proceeding should be directed to the following:

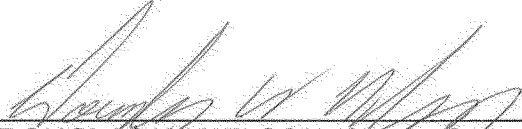
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**IV. CONCLUSION**

MADERA COUNTY has a unique interest in this proceeding that cannot be represented by any other party. For the reasons stated above, MADERA COUNTY respectfully requests the Commission grant this Motion for Party Status.

DATED: October 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

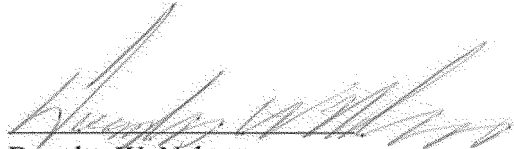
  
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**VERIFICATION**

I, Douglas W. Nelson, am County Counsel for the County of Madera and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I do hereby verify that the information contained in the foregoing Motion is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I verify that the foregoing is true under penalty of perjury.

Executed on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 at Madera, California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Nelson", written over a horizontal line.

Douglas W. Nelson  
County Counsel  
County of Madera