

County of Fresno

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPERVISOR HENRY PEREA – DISTRICT THREE

August 20, 2012

Fong Wan, Senior Vice President, Energy Procurement PG&E <u>Fxw1@pge.com</u>

Re: Power Purchase Agreement with Westlands Solar Farms, LLC

Dear Mr. Wan:

As you know, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the cancellation of a Williamson Act contract in August 2011 in order to enable Westlands Solar Farms ("WSF") to construct an 18MW Solar PV project on water-challenged farmland. As part of our ongoing dialogue with the WSF team, I recently learned the project faces potential default under the subject contract with PG&E as a result of the ongoing California Farm Bureau Federation's ("CFBF") lawsuit. I am concerned that the timing of the legal and possible appeals process will cause the project to fail given the upcoming critical financing and construction milestones. Therefore, I am writing to strongly encourage PG&E to support WSF in any way possible in order to allow the project to be successfully completed in Fresno County.

I have been outspoken in our continued support of this project over the past year. The WSF project will benefit Fresno County by creating jobs and tax revenue in the face of economic uncertainty and drought conditions which have negatively impacted large segments of the local community. Fresno County also supports the local generation of renewable energy and recognizes that this project is both located near a PG&E substation and would generate enough electricity to power as many as 7,500 homes. Fresno County has additionally invested considerable resources to accommodate the processing of solar CUPs and CEQA documents to enable projects to meet PG&E's needs.

To ensure the success of the project, I understand that WSF has requested the option of changing the project location to another site located 5 ½ miles west on Jayne Avenue while maintaining the same point of interconnection as the original site. Given the proximity of these sites to one another and the fact that the local benefits to Fresno County remain the same at both sites, I would like to express my strong support for this minor change and for further advancement of the WSF project. In addition, I know that the PG&E UOG Program has chosen to locate multiple projects in Fresno County and has shifted its own project locations on

occasion. As such, it is important to Fresno County that PG&E provide WSF with the same flexibility to address project issues, particularly those caused by third parties.

While we fully expect the WSF team to continue its efforts to defend itself against the CFBF lawsuit, I believe it is more important to enable WSF to successfully complete this project in Fresno County and to deliver on the local benefits to residents that was fundamental to our initial approval and support of the project. Therefore, I request that PG&E agree to allow WSF to relocate the project site to a new location in the immediate vicinity of the existing site.

Respectfully,

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Henry Perea Vice Chairman Fresno County Board of Supervisors