

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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James Caruso
San Luis Obispo County
County Government Center, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040
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May 21, 2014

RE: Renewable Energy Streamlining Program (ED13-196); SCH#2014041090

Dear Mr. Caruso:

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) would like to issue brief comment on the Renewable Energy Streamlining Program (ED13-196) Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The Board's Range Management Advisory Committee encourages the County to thoroughly examine in the EIR the impact the revision to the Williamson Act Rules of Procedure would have on the net amount of productive rangeland in the county. The contents of the EIR should consider mitigations that address the biological constraints that may prevent land from being returned to range use after the electrical-generating plants are out of use, as well as promote options that allow for multiple-benefit land uses, such as land that generates solar power and simultaneously allows for grazing.

The Range Management Advisory Committee suggests that the allowance of electrical generating uses be conditional based on the involvement/approval of a Certified Range Manager, or that permit approval is conditional based on the inclusion of mitigations to avoid the permanent loss of productive rangeland.

Thank you for your consideration,

Edith Hannigan
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CC: Environmental Coordinator, San Luis Obispo
Dale Hutchinson, Southern Region Chief
Chris Browder, Deputy Chief Environmental Protection
State Clearinghouse