

County of Lassen

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County Administration Office
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8333
Fax: 530-251-2663

March 17, 2020

Chief Thom Porter, Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1300 U Street
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Support for HHZ Definition Expansion

Dear Chief Porter,

On behalf of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our support for Honey Lake Power's request to you to expand the definition of High Hazard Zones to boost dead and dying tree removals for feedstock the Biofuel Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) program. The BioRAM program is in response to California Governor Jerry Brown's October 30, 2015 Proclamation of a State of Emergency to remove dead and dying trees throughout California forests.

In 2016, we wrote and urgently appealed to Governor Brown to intervene and help resolve the issue of expired power purchase agreements to help deal with disposing of 66 million dead trees in the Sierras. I have attached a copy of one of those letters for your information and use.

It is imperative that Calfire work to address what we understand to be an 'policy' constraint preventing the removal of hazardous fuels throughout California, and utilization of harvested materials by biomass BioRAM biomass facilities, such as Honey Lake Power. Please work to make the necessary policy changes to allow BioRAM facilities to fully utilize their capacity to accept dead and dying trees throughout California, because not all of our vegetation management activities fall within HHZ boundaries.

While Governor Brown's Proclamation was a step in the right direction, Calfire's HHZ definition by is an impediment to the Governor's request. It is our understanding that the requested change is a policy decision that is within your purview of CalFire's Director. We respectfully request your full consideration of Honey Lake Power's request to add feedstock received from Extreme, Very High and High fire threat areas to the definition of HHZ for the purposes of BioRAM.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance to this matter.

Sincerely,

DAVID TEETER, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Assemblymember Megan Dahle
Senator Brian Dahle
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
City of Susanville

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August 22, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Administration Office
221 S. Roop Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130
Phone: 530-251-8333
Fax: 530-251-2663

Dear Governor Brown:

We appreciate that you have your hands full dealing with disposing of 66 million dead trees in the Sierras, forest fires raging in these historic drought conditions across the State, and thousands of displaced individuals, families and businesses from the devastation left in the wake of those fires. We also appreciate the importance and leadership you have directed by issuing an emergency proclamation on tree mortality last October. Those crises are to the point of why the Lassen County Board of Supervisors has urgently appealed to you to intervene and help resolve the issue of the expired power purchase agreement for woody biomass generated electricity from Honey Lake Power Company.

At issue is an expired power purchase agreement for woody biomass generated electricity involves the California PUC, PG&E and HL Power Company, who has stopped receiving shipments of forest biomass, and the facility is reportedly winding down its operations for closure – this expired agreement and closure puts 94,000 acres of forest and watershed restoration projects at risk.

The expired agreement provided for PG&E to purchase electricity at pricing that paid HL Power for **the public benefit** of disposing dead trees, brush and wood waste from the forest to generate electricity vs PG&E purchasing electricity at the cost of generating electricity from lower cost natural gas.

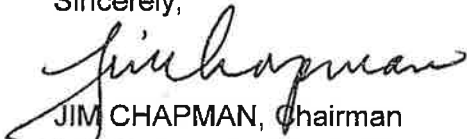
PG&E and Sierra Pacific Industries have recently amended their power purchase agreement to generate electricity to use forest biomass, but that agreement offers little or no capacity to

handle the 94,000+ acres of public and Lassen County Fire Safe Council projects that are now at risk. These projects are dependent, due to logistics, on HL Power, and to some extent Burney Forest Power, taking their removed material.

HL Power Company is strategically located in this region of the State to dispose of wood waste from forest and watershed improvement projects in an environmentally sound manner. Based on information assembled by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, forest and watershed restoration efforts on over 94,000 acres in the Upper Sacramento River Basin are now at risk of moving forward, and some have been stopped in their tracks, because of fuel purchase curtailments.

In closing, we request you to issue an administrative directive before September 1, 2016, to the CPUC, CalFIRE, and CalOES to assist PG&E and other utilities to buy biomass generated electricity from HL Power. It is one thing to create electricity from alternative energy sources, but biomass energy facilities are the only type of renewable energy that creates **a public benefit** of cleaning up our forests, protecting watersheds, and the implementation of your Emergency Proclamation to aid in the removal of the hazards now facing our communities.

Sincerely,



JIM CHAPMAN, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Assemblyman Brian Dahle
State Senator Ted Gaines
Congressman Doug LaMalfa
U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
City of Susanville Mayor Kathie Garnier
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Susanville City Council
Modoc County Board of Supervisors
Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
USFS Region 5, Regional Forester
USFS Lassen National Forest, Supervisor
Lassen County Fire Safe Council
HL Power Company
Lassen County Times
Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

JC:RE:ts