

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

JAMES S. MITRISIN
Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JOHN HIDAHL
District I
SHIVA FRENTZEN
District II
BRIAN K. VEERKAMP
District III
MICHAEL RANALLI
District IV
SUE NOVASEL
District V

April 25, 2017

The Honorable Robert Weisenmiller, Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Additional EPIC Funding for Forest Biomass Projects

Dear Chair Weisenmiller,

The County of El Dorado Board of Supervisors respectfully urges the California Energy Commission (CEC) to allocate additional Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funding so as to fully fund all of the forest bioenergy project applications that passed the scoring screen process in the recent CEC EPIC Grant Funding Opportunity (GFO) 15-325.

We understand that of the numerous project applications submitted in response to GFO 15-325, only ten projects passed the initial screening, and just five passed the secondary screening. Each of these five projects received a very high score with all five projects separated by just a few points. Due to limited EPIC funding, only two of these five projects received funding and can now move forward. One of the projects that passed this process, but did not receive funding, is the All Power Labs 600 kW biomass gasification energy generating facility proposed for the Sierra Pacific Industries site in Camino, El Dorado County.

Forest biomass projects, including the projects submitted and considered in response to GFO 15-325, not only advance the development of community scale biomass power programs in the State of California under SB 1122 (Energy: renewable bioenergy projects. Chapter 612, Statutes of 2012), but also serve to accomplish other important public safety and ecological health matters.

The County of El Dorado is one of many counties impacted by the tree mortality crisis in California that prompted Governor Brown to declare a State of Emergency. The Governor's Emergency Order included direction to the CEC to prioritize EPIC funding for forest BioMAT projects that take biomass from high wildfire hazard zones. The State of California has designated ten counties, including the County of El Dorado, as "high hazard" areas for tree mortality. As a member of the State Tree

Chair Weisenmiller
April 25, 2017
Page 2

Mortality Task Force, our County supports efforts to identify and fund projects that will allow for the responsible disposal of the trees affected by the drought and bark beetle infestation; projects that are consistent with our County's efforts to identify critical resources and opportunities to aid in the efforts to assist private and public landowners impacted by the current tree mortality crisis. Additionally, All Power Labs' 600 kW biomass gasification energy generating facility can be crucial to our efforts to establish a long-term resilient forest that can prevent or diminish the next tree mortality crisis.

We respectfully urge the CEC to allocate additional EPIC funding for forest BioMAT projects that will be critical to reduce the threat of wildfire and will protect our communities and resources.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: The Honorable Rob Oglesby, Executive Director, CEC
The Honorable Ted Gaines, California State Senate
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, California State Assembly
Mr. Saul Gomez, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown/California Tree Mortality Task Force