

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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October 25, 2022

California Department of Conservation
715 P Street, MS 1900
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SMUD-Mote Hydrogen Forest Biomass to Carbon-Negative Biofuels Pilot Program

To Whom It May Concern:

El Dorado County is committed to wildfire resilience and forest health projects that reduce the risk of catastrophic fires, restore forest and watershed health, improve air quality and provide for the conversion of forest biomass to forest byproducts such as biofuels. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Mote Hydrogen Forest Biomass to Carbon-Negative Biofuels project will establish a first-of-its-kind biomass-to-carbon-negative hydrogen facility in the greater Sacramento region. Additionally, this facility will help to create several hundred jobs across the construction, forestry, engineering and clean energy industries.

The industrial facility will produce 60 metric tons of hydrogen per day which will create a substantial source of clean fuel while providing desirable financial returns for project investors looking to transition to alternative fuels. By sequestering the carbon, Mote Hydrogen's facility offers a 95% reduction in emissions to traditional biomass-to-energy power plants creating a cleaner environment for generations to come. Additionally, using hydrogen in the transportation sector provides additional reduction of fossil fuel emissions.

In July 2020, the SMUD Board of Directors adopted a resolution calling for SMUD to take significant and consequential actions to become carbon neutral (net zero carbon) by 2030. SMUD's 2030 Zero Carbon Plan provides the strategy to achieve this goal by rapidly advancing clean energy technology and using a collaborative and inclusive approach to carbon reduction. Eliminating carbon emissions will deliver far-reaching environmental, social and economic benefits. This ambitious goal puts the Sacramento Region on the map as an example to follow and establishes the region as a place where innovative, climate-friendly businesses will want to be located.

Given that these project objectives are well aligned with El Dorado County's overarching biomass utilization strategy, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors supports SMUD and Mote Hydrogen as they seek funding to further this effort.

Sincerely,

Lori Parlin
Chair, Board of Supervisors