

August 24, 2009

Ms. Catherine Zoi
Office of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Mail Stop EE-1
Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Dear Ms. Zoi:

I am pleased to support the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) as it applies for funding through the Department of Energy's Community Renewable Energy Deployment program. SMUD and its partners – the California Department of Transportation, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, New Hope Dairy, Van Warmerdam Dairy, and Garden Highway Foods – are pursuing an integrated approach to renewable energy that will help our nation progress towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.

SMUD is the nation's sixth-largest consumer-owned electric utility, serving nearly 600,000 customers in the Sacramento region. With over 60 years of experience providing reliable and affordable electricity to the Sacramento region, SMUD has built a reputation throughout the energy industry as an innovator, particularly with respect to energy efficiency and renewable resources. SMUD's customers have ranked their public utility first in California in customer service each of the last eight years.

Funding through this grant would help SMUD and its partners turn freeway right-of-ways into solar power generation sites and waste biomass into sources of biogas energy. Implementation of these renewable energy technologies will establish examples of practical renewable technologies that can be replicated across the country and world. Moreover, the type of projects SMUD and its partners are developing will create jobs, allow our communities and states to meet ambitious renewable energy mandates, increase our nation's energy independence, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I am pleased with the leadership and work of SMUD, and support it as it applies for funding through the Department of Energy's Community Renewable Energy Deployment program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress