

October 20, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE: UC Davis West Village Renewable Energy Deployment Project (FOA 122)  
UC Davis West Village Smart Grid Demonstration Project (FOA 36)**

Dear Secretary Chu:

We strongly support UC Davis's application for the Department's FOA 122 and FOA 36 grants for their West Village Energy Initiative.

The FOA 122 would help support the Community Renewable Energy Project which is an integral part of West Village, the university's 205-acre Zero Net Energy (ZNE) community, designed to provide affordable on-campus housing for thousands of students, staff and faculty. The planned community's design features a variety of sustainability innovations and promises to serve as a blueprint for future energy-wise developments nationwide. The emphasis on walking, bicycling and public transportation will reduce emissions commonly associated with new housing projects.

In addition to assets such as smart meters and solar installations, the West Village Community Renewable Energy Project will include an advanced on-site waste-to-renewable-energy (WTRE) system. The WTRE system will be constructed within a Community Energy Park where it will be combined with other energy-saving technologies to augment and amplify its effectiveness. The generation of renewable energy on site will provide increased power reliability and quality at a competitive cost. It will drastically reduce both peak demand on the grid and greenhouse gas emissions.

The California Energy Commission has provided \$2 million in funding under the renewable based energy secure community (RESCO) grant program and private sector partners are engaged as well. We hope the Department can help fund waste-to-energy components of the West Village Community Renewable Project.

The FOA 36 grant would support the UC Davis West Village Energy Initiative: Smart Grid Demonstration Project. This ground-breaking, shovel-ready and innovative project will

integrate a variety of cutting-edge energy conservation technologies within a new, mixed-use Zero Net Energy (ZNE) community.

At a time when government, the private sector, and consumers are actively searching for ways to incorporate energy conservation practices and technologies into daily life, the West Village Smart Grid Demonstration Project will provide a wealth of data related to how energy saving strategies and technologies perform in the field. The West Village Energy Initiative will serve as an ongoing “living laboratory” providing relevant feedback for energy analysts and agencies assigned the task of making energy conservation a key focus of research.

The West Village Smart Grid Demonstration Project will rely on on-site renewable energy generation from a number of renewable sources to meet 100% of the energy demand on an annual basis. On-site renewable energy generation will help safeguard the project from the conventional interruptions and shortfalls commonly characterized by imported energy. Security measures designed to protect the grid from cyber-related threats will be a key feature of the demonstration project.

The project will emphasize reduced energy consumption, 100% clean energy generation, dramatically reduced transportation emissions and traffic congestion models, as well as reduced water usage, and waste conversion into energy. The development will serve as a model for other communities, and will provide a cleaner, more sustainable and healthier way of life for its residents.

Energy conservation is becoming a key component of economic development with the clear potential to spur and sustain economic growth. The participation of major private sector partners makes bringing energy-saving policies, practices, and technologies to the marketplace a fundamental benefit of the West Village Energy Initiative. The West Village Smart Grid Demonstration Project will provide the nation with arguably its first truly ZNE community and enjoys substantial local and regional support.

Thank you for your consideration of both of these important projects. Please contact our staffs if you have any questions, Jonathan Birdsong with Rep. Thompson at [jonathan.birdsong@mail.house.gov](mailto:jonathan.birdsong@mail.house.gov) and Rob Mosher with Rep. Matsui at [rob.mosher@mail.house.gov](mailto:rob.mosher@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

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**MIKE THOMPSON**  
Member of Congress

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**DORIS O. MATSUI**  
Member of Congress