

Response to the 2030 Regional Energy Infrastructure Study
By Ken Smokoska Air Quality Chair

“The Sierra Club reaffirms its urgent call for the United States to move to a clean economy, greater conservation and the use of renewable sources of energy.”

The 2030 Energy Study provides a very superficial plan of action to implement renewable sources of energy. We find the sections 5.5 to 5.15 deficient in addressing options to implement renewable energy technologies for the San Diego Region. More attention was given to 5.16 Disadvantages of DG to the San Diego Region. The only disadvantage is inaction that will lead to a greater dependency on foreign oil interests and out of state power companies.

4.5 Electricity Transmission

We disagree with the conclusions that additional out of area transmission lines are needed. We feel the study is flawed in the potential for renewable energy total megawatts for the region. In addition to generating electricity from substandard power plants in Mexico. Our regional air quality will be severely impacted if we generate additional electricity from Mexico.

5.5.4 Photovoltaics

In the fall of 2001 74% of the voters in the City of San Francisco voted “yes” to issue revenue bonds in the amount of over \$100,000,000 for the purchase and installation of energy efficiency, wind and photovoltaics. I was in San Francisco on November 21, 2002 for the dedication of the solar roof for Moscone convention center. Why not San Diego? The report should have outlined a plan of action for the region due to the attractive economics and clean technology. We suggest a Solar contest with the City of San Francisco, Major Willie Brown has challenged us, are we up to the challenge?

5.6 Fuel Cells

This study gave very little consideration to this technology.

- With the U.S. Navy testing up to 19.5-kW Plug Power fuel cells, close attention

participating in the Regional Energy Infrastructure Study, a major conflict of interest is apparent. Installation of fuel cells would negatively impact Sempra's current investments in power plants.

- Stuart Energy Systems Corporation, www.stuartenergy.com. This company is a prominent member of the prestigious California Fuel Cell Partnership (CaFCP). They were recently successful in signing a \$600 million letter of intent with Cheung Kong Infrastructure holdings (CKI) and joint venture to develop a hydrogen fuel infrastructure throughout South and East Asia and Australasia. CKI anticipates minimum purchases of 2,750 hydrogen-generating systems of Stuart Energy. Stuart's hydrogen-generating electrolysis units are designed to run on household current and tap water.

In closing we encourage full support to feasibility study funding to provide a blueprint for clean renewable technologies for the future.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Smokoska
Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter
Air Quality Chair