

**Subject:** SunZia  
**From:** Michael Picker <Michael.Picker@GOV.CA.GOV>  
**Date:** 6/14/2012 11:35 AM  
**To:** nmeader@cox.net <nmeader@cox.net>

I was surprised to get your letter regarding SunZia, and the suggestion that the purpose of the power line might be to sell power into California. That seems like a risky business bet.

Most California utilities report that they are already oversubscribed for renewable power generation (see, for example, the article in Renewablesbiz on the link below). Although there's no requirement that they share all their business relationships with me, I'm not aware that any of the California utilities have contracts for power from renewable generators in New Mexico.

<http://www.renewablesbiz.com/article/12/05/pge-says-it-will-meet-california-s-renewable-energy-goals>

In fact, the California Public Utilities Commission reports that the state's investor-owned utilities have enough contracts from renewable power projects to supply 40% of the state's electricity needs. Much of that will come from the 151 projects, representing some 16 GW of wind, solar and geothermal that were permitted within California during 2010 and 2011.

In fact, California has become an exporter of renewable power to neighboring states. The Hudson Ranch 1 geothermal plant in California's Imperial County recently completed construction and has begun selling power to the Salt River Project.

We've made this point to regional transmission bodies in the past, urging caution on planning regional transmission solely for bulk power sales of renewables to help meet California's 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard. See my letter to WECC of August 3, 2011, which is also attached.

Please feel free to check in if you have further questions.

Michael Picker  
Senior Advisor to the Governor for Renewable Energy Facilities  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-7665  
Michael.Picker@gov.ca.gov

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Attachments:

Final WECC letter 6-21-11.pdf 1.5 MB