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**California State
 Parks Foundation**

Fax

To: Julia Souder, Office of Electricity Delivery **From:**
 and Energy Reliability

Fax: (202) 586-1472

Pages: Cover + 2

Phone:

Date: July 10, 2006

Re: Comments on preliminary energy corridor **CC:**
 map

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Re**

Dear Ms. Souder:

I have attached written comments regarding the preliminary draft map of potential energy corridors on federal lands.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Traci Verardo, Legislative and Policy Director at 916-442-2119.

Thank You,

Linsey Fredenburg
 Legislative Coordinator
 916-442-2119



**CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS
FOUNDATION**

*The Voice for
California's
State Parks*

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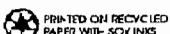
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July 10, 2006

Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Delivered via facsimile and U.S. Mail

RE: Comments on West-wide Energy Corridor Preliminary Maps

On behalf of the California State Parks Foundation and our 75,000 members statewide, I am writing to comment on the preliminary energy corridor maps released as part of the West-wide Energy Corridor Project. The California State Parks Foundation is the only statewide non-profit organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California's magnificent state parks. Working with citizens, lawmakers, and community and business leaders, we advocate for adequate funding and protection of the resources that help our parks thrive. As the only statewide organization dedicated to preserving California's state parks, the Foundation supports environmental education, wildlife and habitat preservation, volunteerism, and sound park policy. Since our founding in 1969, the Foundation has contributed more than \$116 million to benefit our state parks.

California's state park system contains 278 state parks encompassing more than 1.5 million acres. State parks in California are home to more than 2 million archeological artifacts, as well as 280 miles of coastline, 13,000 campsites and 3,800 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails.

While we recognize that the West-wide Energy Corridor Project is focused on designating energy corridors on federal lands, we have strong concerns about potential impacts to our state park system. California's network of protected lands includes state-managed and federally-managed lands adjacent to, and in many cases, overlapping one another. The need to protect valuable public land for habitat, cultural, recreational and natural resource purposes does not cease once one crosses from a state park border into federal lands. Indeed, the magnitude of protected lands in California is itself a testament to the value that our residents and policymakers place on preserving and protecting California's natural environment.

Unfortunately, the lack of specificity on the June 2006 preliminary California map makes it virtually impossible to provide detailed comments or suggestions regarding potential corridors. The map suggests corridors at the most general level possible, and does not contain important details such as an overlay of state park locations and other state lands of significance. Based on a review of the maps as provided, it is possible that more than a dozen state parks may be in proximity to the proposed new energy corridors. State parks on the North Coast near Humboldt County, in the stretch from Yuba to Sierra Counties, near the Cascade Range in Shasta County, and in the Inland

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*California State Parks Foundation Comments on the
West-wide Energy Corridor Project
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Empire in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties all appear likely to be in the path of the proposed corridors. Additionally, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego and Imperial Counties, the largest state park in California, appears likely to be impacted by the corridor plans, given its adjacency to Bureau of Land Management lands. Though the corridors themselves may be located on federal lands, development of new energy transmission on federal lands adjacent to or near state parks may create pressures on the state park for future access or expansion of those corridors. Construction of facilities and transmission along new federally-designated corridors also has the potential to be disruptive to the state's watersheds and wildlife corridors, which are supported by the preservation of lands within the state park system.

It is important to recognize that the state park system in California is a growing one, where new acquisitions to increase habitat connectivity, expand recreational opportunities and preserve unique species are constantly under consideration. Annually, over 80 million visitors spend time in California's state parks and generate significant economic benefit to local and state economies. We urge the West-wide Energy Corridor Project to consult with the California Department of Parks and Recreation regarding their planning process for new acquisitions that may be impacted by the designation of new energy corridors.

The California State Parks Foundation is committed to the preservation, protection and enjoyment of California's state park system. In order to continue to allow access to state park resources for future generations, we must take steps today to protect the integrity of our state parks and ensure they do not become the "path of least resistance" for development projects. We strongly urge the West-wide Energy Corridor Project to develop more specific maps to allow meaningful public comment in advance of preparing the Environmental Impact Statement. The current maps are impractical and preclude a thorough and significant review by stakeholders. As the Department of Energy pursues implementation of the Federal Energy Act of 2005, we look forward to receiving new state-level maps with sufficient detail for appropriate review. If I may answer any questions regarding the Foundation's position on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-442-2219.

Sincerely,



Traci Verardo
Director, Legislation and Policy

CC: California Energy Commission
Director Ruth Coleman, California Department of Parks and Recreation