



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

August 1, 2023

David Crane  
Director, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

**Re: Support Letter for West Biofuels Application to the Rural Community Bioenergy Facilities for Energy Resiliency and Forest Climate Adaptation (DE-FOA-0002970) Program**

Dear Mr. Crane:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we support West Biofuels and its application to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rural Community Bioenergy Facilities for Energy Resiliency and Forest Climate Adaptation Program. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each member county.

West Biofuels, in collaboration with Hat Creek Bioenergy, Mariposa Bioenergy, Mariposa Biomass Project, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District, Mammoth Bioenergy, Whitebark Institute, Momentum, and others, proposes to complete the shovel-ready deployment of 3 MW forest bioenergy production facilities in three rural California forest communities. Each facility will: 1) Execute BioMAT contracts with public utilities to deliver power to the rural grid; 2) Produce 3 MW (23,650 MWh/yr) of reliable/renewable/distributed/baseload electricity; 3) Utilize 28,000-35,000 dry tons/yr of residuals from sustainable forest management; 4) Produce additional revenue and carbon sequestration from 5,600 tons/yr of biochar; and 5) Create 15.5 permanent new well-paying jobs in these communities.

The proposal will allow West Biofuels to aggregate administration and technical support for the three facilities, resulting in greatly improved cost-effectiveness and, as a result, improved leverage of DOE funding to support DOE's program goals. The development and, ultimately, the deployment of three proposed facilities—all located within RCRC member counties—will address critical economic and technological barriers to forest fuels reduction and forest health projects across the Sierra Nevada Region. Fuels reduction in these high fire risk areas is of paramount importance to RCRC and its members, as are the economic benefits resulting from the jobs created by these facilities.

For these reasons, RCRC strongly encourages DOE to award full funding to the West Biofuels team. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sheaton@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sheaton@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,

STACI HEATON  
Senior Policy Advocate

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