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January 31, 2020

Gregg Hart, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu St. 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Dear Chair Hart and Board Members,

Per previous direction provided to me by the Santa Barbara County Counsel, I write your Board to request a conflict waiver from Santa Barbara County to represent the California Native Plant Society (“CNPS”) regarding the Strauss Wind Energy Project, located near Lompoc, CA. Such representation could include advice and representation in any administrative or court proceedings.

I was employed by Santa Barbara County Counsel from 2007 to 2012. A previous project at a similar location was previously approved and litigated by Santa Barbara County in 2009. I did not work on nor was I involved in any part of that project, including the administrative or litigation aspects, nor did I communicate with any project planning or review staff at Santa Barbara County regarding that project.

I have not worked on nor had any contact with any part of the current Strauss Wind Energy Project.

Therefore, my representation of CNPS would not be a case of me representing a client “in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a public official or employee” (See Cal. Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.11(a)(2)) nor are any matters “the same or substantially related” to any I worked on while employed by Santa Barbara County (See Cal. Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.9.)

However, I believe it would be helpful to both parties if your Board provided informed written consent of my representation of CNPS per Cal. Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.9(b). Therefore, I request such informed written consent as set out in the signature block below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edward Yates

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County consents to Edward Yates' legal representation of California Native Plant Society regarding the Strauss Wind Energy Project.

Dated 2-11-20

By:



Gregg Hart, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara