



COUNTY OF INYO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOTIFICATION FROM THE MEETING OF August 25, 2015
OF THE INYO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: File

Planning/CEC and
CPUC Renewable
Energy Initiative 2.0

The Board and staff reviewed and discussed the correspondence from the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission regarding the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0., in detail and at length.

Attest: *KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO*
Clerk of the Board

by: *Patricia Gunsolley*
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant



AGENDA REQUEST FORM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO

For Clerk's Use Only:
AGENDA NUMBER
13

- Consent Departmental Correspondence Action Public Hearing
 Scheduled Time for Closed Session Informational

FROM: Inyo County Planning Department

FOR THE BOARD MEETING OF: August 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION: Review correspondence from the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission regarding the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0

SUMMARY DISCUSSION: Attached is a joint letter from California Energy Commission (CEC) Chair Weisenmiller and California Public Utilities (CPUC) President Picker to California Independent System Operator (CalISO) President and CEO Berberich noting the establishment the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0. According to CEC staff, this new planning effort is intended to help achieve the State's current climate and policy goals, a variety of legislative proposals, and the Governor's recent Executive Order, B-30-15, which calls for a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2030. One element to achieve these goals will be producing 50 percent of the State's electricity from renewable resources, which in turn will require new investments in transmission.

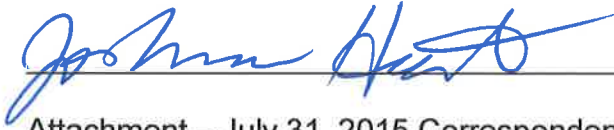
OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: Numerous potentially affected agencies and stakeholders, such as the CEC, CPUC, CalISO, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, National Park Service, other counties, and other interested individuals and organizations.

FINANCING: General funds are utilized to monitor State planning efforts.

APPROVALS

COUNTY COUNSEL:	AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS AND ORDINANCES AND CLOSED SESSION AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by county counsel prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
AUDITOR/CONTROLLER:	ACCOUNTING/FINANCE AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the auditor-controller prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>
PERSONNEL DIRECTOR:	PERSONNEL AND RELATED ITEMS <i>(Must be reviewed and approved by the director of personnel services prior to submission to the board clerk.)</i>

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:
(Not to be signed until all approvals are received)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 8/17/15

Attachment – July 31, 2015 Correspondence from CEC and CPUC to CallSO



California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
Main website: www.cpuc.ca.gov

July 31, 2015

Stephen Berberich
President and Chief Executive Officer
California Independent System Operator
P.O. Box 639014
Folsom, California 95763-9014

Dear Steve:

The Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 commits California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and a variety of legislative proposals (particularly SB 350 and SB 32) to ratify this commitment into law. It is time for the CEC, CPUC and CAISO to launch a new transmission planning initiative.

Our two agencies will establish a Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0 initiative to establish the relative potential associated with various renewable locations in California, and we request that the CAISO participate in this new process to help map out the associated transmission infrastructure. Given the implications of both 111(d) and PacifiCorp's interest in joining the CAISO, this effort will need to consider regional renewable opportunities as well.

Since the goal for California is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, an important pillar of that goal is to produce 50% of our electricity from renewable power generation.

We have a proven model to ensure climate goals from clean electricity and renewable power are met. For example, California saw record numbers of renewable projects permitted during the period from 2009 to 2013. Many of those permitted projects are now in full operation, and there are over 11,000 MW of renewable projects in the pipeline that have received their environmental permits allowing construction. California now has over 21,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable capacity installed within its borders, but also relies on renewable power from outside of our state.

This project was successful because it was supported by a proactive transmission planning effort going back to 2008, becoming the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative and the California Transmission Planning Group (CTPG). Through these stakeholder efforts, the best concentrations of the renewable resources were identified. Using the science-driven findings and the broad consensus that resulted, the CAISO identified the new transmission lines that were needed to interconnect the high quality renewable projects with the load basins.

One example of successful policy planning and stakeholder involvement is the Sunrise Powerlink. Within one year of initial energization, the line was fully utilized by new wind, solar, and geothermal projects from the east. The Sunrise Powerlink allows for over 1,300 MW of renewable energy from the Imperial Valley to be delivered to the San Diego load center. The Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project is another example. Initially designed to deliver one of the best wind resources in California to customer demand in the LA metropolitan region, it also helps to deliver power from new solar projects when the wind isn't blowing. The Tehachapi Renewable Transmission

Stephen Berberich
California Independent System Operator
July 31, 2015
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Project will allow 4,500 MW of wind and solar generation to be delivered to the Los Angeles area. By diversifying the resources California depends on, the existing and new transmission system is becoming more efficient.

Many of the transmission lines identified to get California to 33 percent renewable have long interconnection queues and are likely to have a lengthy permitting process, but once constructed they will be fully utilized. If California plans to deliver on its promise to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector, and also support cleaner buildings and transportation, we must begin to map our plans. Careful consideration must be paid to existing transmission capacity that may be freed up as older, less efficient conventional power plants decommission, and allow for additional low-carbon options to take their place. However, new transmission is inevitable to meet the needs of an increasingly carbon-free California economy, and it must be methodically thought through with stakeholders in the most transparent and prudent manner.

We envision this process beginning over the next year so that the CEC and CPUC will send policy recommendations for the 2030 renewable portfolios in fall of 2016.

We invite participation by regional stakeholders, but will obviously respect the authority of the regulators throughout the west. EPA's pending regulations (111(d)) will encourage greater communication across the west. This presents many opportunities to take advantage of resource diversity as well as regional balancing of electricity. For example, through the Energy Imbalance Market, the CAISO has been able to sell cheap, low-carbon, excess power to other states in the west, which has resulted in lower greenhouse gas emissions for those states and reduced the need to curtail the resource in our state.

For many states in the west (due to when the sun sets), their electricity consumption typically peaks two hours earlier than California does, through a regional market that can be taken advantage of and California can deliver clean solar power that is in excess to them. There are similar advantages in the western wind industry. Much of the Midwest and Great Plains wind resources tend to have the highest production during the 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm PST range, which is when load is greatest for California. California could take advantage of the low-cost, renewable energy with a more interconnected regional market in the West.

While this project will be challenging, it is also a great opportunity for the western United States to set an example for the rest of the United States and even the world (Europe especially) to show that regional integration can actually lead to lower priced electricity and great reductions in greenhouse gas reductions.

We look forward to working together to develop the portfolios needed for the CAISO's transmission plan, and to ensure the greenhouse gas reduction goals identified by our Governor are met.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Weisenmiller
Chair
California Energy Commission



Michael Picker
President
California Public Utilities Commission

cc: Rob Oglesby, Executive Director, California Energy Commission
Tim Sullivan, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission
Karen Edson, California Independent System Operator