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Comment Received From: Los Angeles/Orange County Building & Construction Trades Council

Submitted On: 7/25/2025

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Affirming the Strength and Readiness of California's Skilled Workforce

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

1626 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90026-5784
Phone (213) 483-4222
(714) 827-6791
Fax (213) 483-4419



May 20th, 2025

Eric Knight, Manager
California Energy Commission
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division
Siting & Environmental Branch
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Affirming the Strength and Readiness of California's Skilled Workforce

Dear Mr. Knight:

On behalf of the Los Angeles/Orange County Building and Construction Trades Council and the over 160,000 skilled tradespeople we proudly represent across Los Angeles and Orange counties, we stand in strong support of the Prairie Song Reliability Project and affirm the unmatched strength and readiness of our Union workforce to build it.

The LA/OC Building Trades Council is the leading advocate for construction workers in the region, representing 48 affiliated unions committed to advancing fair wages, jobsite safety, and the highest construction standards. Our members, including electricians, operating engineers, ironworkers, laborers, and many others—play a vital role in building and maintaining California's critical infrastructure. We have long supported projects and policies that create high-road, family-sustaining jobs while helping the State meet its clean energy and climate goals.

Los Angeles and Orange counties are home to one of the most highly trained and job-ready construction workforces in the country. Our joint labor-management apprenticeship programs are nationally recognized for producing top-tier talent across every craft, with strong local participation and pathways for historically underrepresented communities. We have approximately 23,000 apprentices in our two-county jurisdiction, and that is more apprentices than any other state in the country. About one fourth of those 23,000, graduate into becoming journey level professionals each year. As California's energy infrastructure needs expand, we are more than ready to meet that challenge with a skilled labor force prepared to build safely, efficiently, and at scale.

The Prairie Song Reliability Project is exactly the kind of job-rich, forward-looking investment that California needs. With over thousands of union tradespeople currently available for dispatch, there is no shortage of skilled labor. These are the men and women who are ready today to build this project—trained, experienced, and proud to put their skills to work delivering the infrastructure that will power California's continued leadership in the clean energy economy.

Sincerely,

Ernesto Medrano
Executive Secretary