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Comment Received From: Enrique Huerta

Submitted On: 12/10/2025

Docket Number: 25-OPT-02

SUPPORT - Prairie Song Reliability Project (Docket No 25-OPT-02)

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Prairie Song Reliability Project (PSRP). This project aligns with our goal to strengthen communities against extreme heat. It enhances grid stability, enabling renewable energy integration, and providing critical power reserves, all of which are essential for protecting communities during heat events. Extreme heat causes a dramatic surge in air conditioning demand, straining the grid, reducing its efficiency, and leading to instability. This often results in rolling blackouts—which disproportionately affect low-income communities—that utilities impose to prevent a widespread system collapse.

Our organization has been a leading voice in advocating for the State of California to comprehensively prepare for rising extreme heat threats, resulting in the successful update and adoption of the California Extreme Heat Action Plan. This battery storage project is a critical component of the state's mandated strategy to protect public health and essential services against climate impacts. It directly supports Action Track C of that Plan, which is dedicated to Increasing the Resilience of the Built Environment. This large-scale battery-energy storage system (BESS) will act as a peaker plant alternative, discharging stored power during peak demand hours, thereby reducing stress on transmission and distribution infrastructure. By adding this essential capacity and stability, the BESS helps fulfill the state's goal of strengthening critical energy infrastructure to withstand escalating climate hazards, which is critical for keeping essential cooling systems operational.

A modernized, resilient grid is vital for long-term regional economic stability, benefiting the reliability of the entire CAISO service area. By acting as a non-fossil fuel peaker plant, the BESS reduces reliance on activating expensive, high-emission gas plants during critical peak hours. This function helps stabilize and potentially lower overall utility system operational costs. These efficiencies are crucial mechanisms to support long-term energy affordability across the region. We view the Prairie Song Reliability Project as a critical step toward an energy future that is fundamentally resilient, reliable, and inherently more affordable for all Californians.

For these reasons and more, we support the PSRP. This project is a tangible investment in climate adaptation infrastructure and directly supports the safety and resilience of LA-area communities against the primary threat of extreme heat.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

December 10, 2025

California Energy Commission
715 P Street Sacramento
CA 95814

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Sincerely,



Jonathan Parfrey
Executive Director