October 23, 2013

To: California Energy Commission

From: John Drauer
    Workforce and Economic Development Director
    California Federation of Labor
    600 Grand Avenue, Suite 410
    Oakland, CA 94610

Docket Number 13-CCEJA-1
Comments on Proposition 39

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Proposition 39: California Clean Energy Jobs Act - 2013 Program Implementation Draft Guidelines.

In particular, I wish to provide some personal experience in support of the Commission instituting measures necessary for successful program implementation related to data on jobs and workforce outcomes from Proposition 39 investments.

SB 73 directs the state to track and report job creation and training outcomes resulting from Proposition 39 investments. The tracking and reporting will provide critical data to measure progress toward the Proposition’s goal to “create good-paying energy efficiency and clean energy jobs in California” and will help implementers evaluate program outcomes and improve program performance. In particular, I strongly urge you to ensure accountability and good quality jobs and workforce data by requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to track and report metrics for job quantity and job quality, along with the demographic and geographic distribution of workers.

At minimum, LEAs should require contractors to report data based on certified payroll records for each worker employed on a project that receives Proposition 39 funds, including:
- Job classification by trade, craft, and prevailing wage category;
- Job classification by journey level or apprentice level;
- Hourly rate of pay;
- Number of hours worked per week; and
- Zip code of worker residence.

This information above should be linked to a description of work performed (scope of work) so that the job outcomes can be evaluated on a project-by-project basis.
For six years, while serving as the executive director of a community-based organization in Oakland, I chaired the Port of Oakland’s local-hire committee. The local hire committee brought together community-based organizations, labor, the Port, and contractors to ensure many similar accountability outcomes, utilizing all of the workforce data highlighted above.

During that time, the Port made use of several different online labor compliance reporting systems to ensure accurate and consistent data. Meeting monthly, the requirement of an electronic certified payroll system enabled Port staff to receive accurate data and to provide reports in a timely manner.

The data and reports included all of the information suggested above for your inclusion. The reporting of certified payrolls electronically became standard practice for the contractors engaged in the work at the Port, and enabled Port Agency staff to report true workforce outcomes. Port staff was able to generate comprehensive reports for the local hire committee, Port Commissioners and other stakeholders involved in complex, maritime and aviation construction projects for the better part of a decade.

Implementation of these reporting requirements is necessary for the ongoing investment of energy related funds in California, both project dollars and workforce dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Guidelines and I look forward to reviewing the final draft.

Sincerely,

John Brauer
WED Director
California Labor Federation