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Sierra Club support for Prairie Song Reliability Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



September 11, 2026

California Energy Commission

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Whom It May Concern at the California Energy Commission,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 130,000 members and supporters in California, I am writing in support of the Prairie Song Reliability Project, a proposed 1,150-megawatt battery energy storage project in the Antelope Valley. The project represents an important opportunity to strengthen California's electric grid while accelerating the transition away from fossil fuel generation and toward a clean, reliable energy system, especially in some of the most polluted communities in Los Angeles County.

As California experiences increased electric demand, while also aiming to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045, battery storage projects have become ever more critical. Battery energy storage is an essential part of the clean energy transition because it can store excess renewable electricity generated during the day and deliver that energy when demand is highest.

The Prairie Song Reliability Project, with approximately 9,200 megawatt-hours of energy storage capacity, can provide significant reliability benefits to the California grid. By storing clean electricity and dispatching it during periods of peak demand, the project can help reduce reliance on local gas-fired power plants that are frequently called upon during the evening and other periods of system stress.

The project is particularly important as California works to build sufficient clean energy resources to replace aging fossil fuel generation. Well-sited battery storage can provide the flexibility and reliability needed to retire gas plants while maintaining dependable electricity service for Californians. Projects like Prairie Song can therefore play an important role in advancing the state's clean energy and climate goals.

Sierra Club also supports the responsible development of battery storage projects that incorporate strong community protections and environmental safeguards. Large-scale storage should be developed in locations that minimize impacts to communities and sensitive environmental resources, while maintaining robust standards for fire safety, emergency response, and project operations. We encourage the Prairie Song project developers to continue working closely with local communities, emergency responders, and relevant agencies to ensure these protections remain a priority throughout the project's development and operation.

The transition to a clean electric grid must deliver benefits to communities while improving reliability and reducing pollution. Battery storage can help achieve both objectives by enabling greater deployment of renewable energy and reducing the need to operate fossil fuel power plants during periods of high demand. The proximity of this project to the Los Angeles Basin, one of the most polluted air basins in the country, makes this project even more valuable to reducing gas plant operations in some of the most overburdened frontline communities in the state.

For these reasons, Sierra Club supports the Prairie Song Reliability Project and its contribution to building a cleaner, more reliable, and more resilient California electric grid. We appreciate the project's role in advancing California's transition to a 100% clean electricity system and encourage its continued development with strong environmental, safety, and community protections. We also greatly appreciate the California Energy Commission's role in reviewing and advancing this project.

Sincerely,

Zack Waterman
Campaign Manager
Sierra Club

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