

## DOCKETED

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0
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<b>Document Title:</b>	Workshop Notice for RETI 2.0 Environmental and Land Use Technical Group
<b>Description:</b>	Workshop Notice for November 23, 2015
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**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

In the matter of:	)	Docket No. 15-RETI-02
	)	
<i>Renewable Energy Transmission</i>	)	NOTICE OF WORKSHOP RE:
<i>Initiative 2.0</i>	)	Renewable Energy Transmission
_____	)	Initiative 2.0

## Notice of Staff Workshop on the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group for the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0

California Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop for the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group from the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) 2.0 process to explore the available statewide environmental data and discuss various approaches to using the data to assess and compare areas for potential renewable energy generation. Based on the workshop discussion, the Environmental and Land Use Technical Group will work to identify recommended data, identify and provide new sources of data that will be useful for statewide energy planning, and identify and discuss data gaps in available and important data. Stakeholders will also discuss how best to use available and recommended data to inform various agency energy and transmission planning processes, and help define the RETI 2.0 Environmental and Land Use Technical Group process to ensure available environmental data is considered in the RETI 2.0 initiative. The workshop will be held:

**Monday, November 23, 2015**

10:00 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room

Sacramento, California

Wheelchair Accessible

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### Background

California is currently on a solid trajectory to meet the state's 33 percent renewable energy mandate by 2020 and the Assembly Bill 32 goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In April 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a new statewide intermediate target to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, in order to guide policy and maintain momentum to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

An important part of meeting California's greenhouse gas reduction goals is moving toward de-carbonizing the electricity sector, through energy efficiency, renewable electricity, regional diversity of resources, and increased coordination of supply and demand across the electric grid. To meet these goals, California's Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015) was signed into law on October 7, 2015, which establishes targets to increase retail sales of qualified renewable electricity to at least 50 percent by 2030 and double the energy efficiency savings in electricity and natural gas end uses by 2030. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's pending regulations (Clean Air Act Section 111(d)) will encourage discussions 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 California Independent System Operator (California ISO) has been able to sell cheap, low-carbon, excess power to other states in the West, which has resulted in lower GHG emissions for those states and reduced the need to curtail the resource in our state. Developing the transmission needed to support increasing amounts of renewable resources will be critical to meeting these goals and will require planning and coordination across the West.

California faced similar challenges in 2007, as the state implemented a renewable energy target of 20 percent while looking forward to a 33 percent goal. The 2008 Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, a non-regulatory statewide planning process, was established to identify the transmission projects needed to support the renewable generation required to meet the 33 percent target. The 2008 Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative was a collaborative, analytical effort that assessed the need for new transmission to connect renewable resource areas to California consumers.

In addition to the 2008 Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, state, federal, and local agencies have collaborated on other landscape planning processes to identify the most appropriate locations for renewable energy development, including the [Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan](#) (DRECP) and the San Joaquin Valley Least-Conflict Lands for Solar stakeholder exercise. RETI 2.0 will incorporate and build off of the science, data, and analyses from these efforts.

To facilitate this coordination and planning, the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and California ISO have initiated the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0. RETI 2.0 is an open, public process that will explore the abundant renewable energy resources in California and throughout the West, consider critical land use and environmental constraints, and identify potential transmission opportunities that could access and integrate renewable energy with the most environmental, economic, and community benefits.

An introductory workshop was held on September 10, 2015 to present and receive public input on the purpose for RETI 2.0. Comments submitted on the initiative recommended a number of topics to consider for infrastructure planning and expressed interest in participating in the related analytical activities to advance transmission planning processes.

A second workshop was held on November 2, 2015 to discuss and receive public comment on the proposed organization structure and work plan for the RETI 2.0 process. Comments are due November 16, 2015.

## **Agenda**

The Environmental and Land Use Technical Group stakeholders and agency technical staff will review available data and discuss approaches to data use in recent and ongoing renewable energy planning processes, including the DRECP and the San Joaquin Valley Least-Conflict Lands for Solar stakeholder exercise, and other stakeholder lead energy planning efforts. The Environmental and Land Use Technical Group will also examine and discuss similar environmental data available for the Western Electricity Coordinating Council west-wide interconnection and efforts to use that data in energy and transmission planning.

A specific agenda will be posted prior to the workshop. Topics on the agenda will include, but not limited to:

- Available statewide and west-wide environmental data
- Approaches to using data
- Public Process
- Public Comment

## **Public Comment**

**Oral comments:** The Energy Commission will accept oral comments during the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes and will become part of the public record for this stakeholder process.

**Written comments should be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on December 7, 2015.** Please submit comments to the Energy Commission using the Energy Commission's e-commenting feature by going to the RETI 2.0 webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/> and click on the "Submit eComment" link. A full name, e-mail address, comment title, and either a comment or an attached document (.doc, docx, or .pdf format) is mandatory. After a challenge-response test used by the system to ensure that responses are generated by a human user and not a computer, click on the "Agree & Submit Your Comment" button to submit the comment to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit.

Please note that written comments, attachments, and associated contact information included within the written comments and attachments (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the viewable public record.

You are encouraged to use the electronic commenting system, described above, to submit comments. If you are unable to submit comments electronically, a paper copy of your comments may be sent to:

Docket Unit  
California Energy Commission  
Dockets No. 15-RETI-02  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Or e-mail them to: [DOCKET@energy.ca.gov](mailto:DOCKET@energy.ca.gov)

If you choose not to use the electronic filing system, please include the Docket Number 15-RETI-02 on any e-mailed or written comments. Written comments will also be accepted at the workshop. However, the agencies may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the workshop.

## **Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts**

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, by e-mail at [PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4489 (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz by e-mail at [Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Lou.Quiroz@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance of the meeting.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact Scott Flint by e-mail at [Scott.Flint@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Flint@energy.ca.gov) or (916) 651-3774.

The service list for the stakeholder process is handled electronically. Notices and documents for this proceeding are posted to the Energy Commission website. When new information is posted, an e-mail will be sent to those on the RETI e-mail list server. We encourage those who are interested in receiving these notices to sign up for the list server through the website at [www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/).

## Remote Attendance

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If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at (866) 229-3239.

## Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/>

DATE: November 13, 2015

Original signed by

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ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER, Chair  
California Energy Commission

Original signed by

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KAREN DOUGLAS, Commissioner  
California Energy Commission

List Servs: energy policy, transmission, renewables, DRECP, RETI, electricity