

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	15-RETI-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0
<b>TN #:</b>	206635
<b>Document Title:</b>	TransCanyon Comments: RETI 2.0 Organization and Work Plan
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
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*Comment Received From: TransCanyon*

*Submitted On: 11/16/2015*

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## **RETI 2.0 Organization and Work Plan**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



# TRANSCANYON

JASON R. SMITH  
President

November 16, 2015

Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D.  
Chair  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: 15-RETI-02 (Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative)

Dear Chair Weisenmiller:

TransCanyon, LLC (TransCanyon) appreciates the proactive efforts of the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the California ISO (CAISO) related to achieving the State's ambitious renewable and greenhouse gas goals through the initiation of the RETI 2.0 process.

TransCanyon strongly supports the RETI 2.0 process. We believe that additional transmission will be important in meeting California's renewable energy goals. Based on the meetings held to date, TransCanyon offers the following recommendations for consideration:

1. Given the long lead time nature of transmission, the estimated four to five years that it would take to competitively award any policy driven transmission coming out of the RETI 2.0 process, and the fact that energy plays an important role in achieving the state's long term greenhouse gas goals, TransCanyon recommends that the RETI 2.0 process looks beyond 2030.
2. Given California's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals, the 50% RPS threshold should be considered a floor and the RETI 2.0 team should include plans that assume renewable energy penetration exceeds 50%, in order to identify potential resource areas and transmission that will need to be developed to meet potentially more expansive greenhouse gas reduction goals.

TransCanyon is also generally supportive of the proposed organizational structure and work plan for this process. We stand ready to bring our expertise and commit resources to actively lead or participate, as appropriate, in committees and working groups formed as part of the RETI 2.0 initiative. We look forward to actively participating in, and contributing to the Plenary and Environmental and Land Use Technical Groups.

TransCanyon, a joint venture between Berkshire Hathaway Energy's subsidiary, BHE U.S. Transmission and Pinnacle West Capital Corporation's subsidiary, Bright Canyon Energy, is an independent developer of electric transmission infrastructure for the western United States. TransCanyon has been an active participant in WestConnect, where Bob Smith currently serves

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as Vice Chairman of the Planning Management Committee, and the California ISO transmission planning process. Our team has a keen understanding of the unique challenges California faces in meeting its renewable and greenhouse gas emission goals. Although TransCanyon is a newly formed entity, our team has successfully developed ten major high voltage transmission lines representing \$3.7 billion of investment in the western United States in the last five years.

Again, TransCanyon appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments and looks forward to continued participation and engagement in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jason R. Smith